

Healthy Development Adelaide

A Research & Innovation Cluster in South Australia

RESEARCH DAY - Friday 23 May 2008 Union Building - level 4, University of Adelaide

9.45 - 10.45	REGISTRATION & MORNING TEA - Equinox Room	
10.45 - 10.50	WELCOME by Professor Robert Norman, HDA Co-Convenor - Equinox Room	
11.00 - 12.30	Morning Sessions	
Parallel Session 1 – Margaret Murray Room PERICONCEPTIONAL INFLUENCES ON HEALTH Chair: A/Professor Jeremy Thompson: Research Centre for Reproductive Health, University of Adelaide		Parallel Session 2 – Harry Medlin North Room INDIGENOUS RESEARCH Chair: Professor Roger Thomas: Centre for Australian Indigenous Research & Studies, University of Adelaide
Dr Kelton Tremellen Sperm DNA damage and its reproductive consequences Repromed + Research Centre for Reproductive Health, University of Adelaide		Mr Alwin Chong Engaging aboriginal communities through maternal health Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia
Dr Karen Kind Environmental influences on preimplantation embryo development Discipline of Agricultural & Animal Science, University of Adelaide		Ms Kim O'Donnell Ngangkitta Ngartodli Karpandi (supporting mums and babies): Evaluation of the southern aboriginal maternity care project Department of Health Management, Flinders University
Dr Janna Morrison Small babies and cardiovascular health: mechanisms leading to increased cardiovascular disease risk School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, University of South Australia		Ms Karen Glover Reducing infant mortality in at risk groups Aboriginal Health, Children Youth & Women's Health Service
Dr Peter Coyle Exposure to endotoxin in the first few weeks of pregnancy causes anxiety-like behaviour in adult offspring Hanson Institute, Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science (IMVS)		Ms Katherine Baldock Making the most of population surveys: measuring Indigenous health outcomes Population Research & Outcome Studies Unit, Department of Health
12.30 - 1.25	LUNCH – Equinox Room	
1.30 - 3.00	Afternoon Sessions	
Parallel Session 1 – Margaret Murray Room INHERITED DISORDERS Chair: Professor Eric Haan: Department of Genetic Medicine, Women's and Children's Hospital		Parallel Session 2 – Harry Medlin North Room HEALTH DEMOGRAPHY Chair: Dr Dianne Rudd: Department of Geographical and Environmental Studies, University of Adelaide
Professor Hamish Scott Turner and Leigh syndrome mouse models caused by hypermutation in male mice with a defect in DNA methylation Division of Molecular Pathology, Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science (IMVS), Hanson Institute		Professor John Lynch Life course effects on health at the individual and population levels School of Health Sciences, University of South Australia
Dr Graeme Suthers Genes in practice: turning genetic research into cancer care and prevention Familial Cancer Unit, Children's Youth and Women's Health Service		Dr Gour Dasvarma Recent fertility trends in Australia School of Geography, Population and Environmental Management, Flinders University
A/Professor Robert Richards Huntington's disease and Fragile X syndrome: use of animal models to understand pathogenic pathways in human genetic diseases School of Molecular and Biomedical Science, University of Adelaide		Ms Julie Franzon Overweight children: where and why? Department of Geographical and Environmental Studies, University of Adelaide
Professor Doug Brooks Detection and treatment of lysosomal storage disorder patients School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, University of South Australia		A/Professor Anne Taylor Making the most of population surveys: measuring child health outcomes Population Research & Outcome Studies Unit, Department of Health
3.00	CLOSE	

RSVP to SESSIONS by Friday 16 May

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or

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HDA RESEARCH DAY
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PERICONCEPTIONAL INFLUENCES ON HEALTH

Chair



A/Professor Jeremy Thompson is Head of the Early Development Group within the Research Centre for Reproductive Health at the University of Adelaide. Jeremy began working within the Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology in 1999 and has since had numerous responsibilities as Director of Clinical Embryology and Chair, Laboratory Services within the Discipline. During his time he has overseen the growth of the Research Embryology Laboratory into a cohesive team that is proving to be extremely productive in quality of research. Past journal papers have focussed on unravelling environmental and oocyte/embryo interactions and how this can improve oocyte maturation and embryo culture techniques. The commercial implications of his research stretch wide and are aimed at improving clinical infertility treatment, perinatal and adult health and reproductive technologies for animal biotechnology.

Speakers



Dr Kelton Tremellen is the Deputy Medical Director at Repromed, The Adelaide Fertility Centre. Kelton is a member of the Fertility Society of Australia and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine and is the author of several journal articles, three book chapters and an inventor on three patents. Kelton's principal research interests include developing novel therapies for recurrent miscarriage and male infertility. Kelton is focused on the development of ties between basic science and commercial applications and is the inventor of two recent innovations in the field of reproductive medicine; the "Egg Timer" and the male fertility pill "Menevit". The Egg Timer has become a routine investigation for all women attending Repromed's fertility clinic and Menevit is a male fertility pill developed in collaboration with Bayer Australia.



Dr Karen Kind is a Lecturer in the Discipline of Agricultural and Animal Science within the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine at the University of Adelaide and a member of the Research Centre for Reproductive Health. Her current research is focussed on the mechanisms through which the pre-implantation embryo detects and responds to perturbations of its environment, and the impact of these perturbations on subsequent development. This research is conducted in collaboration with colleagues in the Oocyte and Early Development Group within the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Adelaide.



Dr Janna Morrison is a National Heart Foundation Research Fellow within the School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, Sansom Institute at the University of South Australia. With a PhD in fetal physiology from the University of British Columbia, Janna's first research studied antidepressant use by pregnant mothers and its impact on fetal development. She then took a post-doctoral position investigating therapeutic treatments for obstructive sleep apnoea. In 2002, Janna came to Adelaide to study the correlation of low birth weight and cardiovascular development. Janna's research centres on the development of fetal behavioural states, including neural, respiratory and cardiovascular parameters. Current work focuses on fetal adaptations to a low oxygen environment and the effects of fetal growth restriction. After being awarded her second National Heart Foundation Research Fellowship, she joined UniSA's Sansom Institute in 2006 to continue her research. An enthusiastic science communicator, Janna won a Tall Poppy Science Award in 2006.



Dr Peter Coyle is the Chief Operating Officer of the Hanson Institute and a Senior Affiliate Lecturer within the Discipline of Pathology, University of Adelaide. Peter has over thirty years experience as a clinical biochemist at the IMVS and has worked in both general diagnostic and research areas. Interests include carbohydrate metabolism, nutrition and cancer, heavy metal toxicity and metabolism of essential trace elements. Peter's research focuses on the mechanisms by which various stressors during pregnancy can lead to birth abnormalities and cognitive problems in their offspring. These insults include infections, psychological shocks or exposure to toxicants such as alcohol.

INDIGENOUS RESEARCH

Chair



Professor Roger Thomas is currently the Professor of Indigenous Engagement and Director of the Centre for Australian Indigenous Research and Studies – Wilto Yerlo/CASM at the University of Adelaide. He has held this position for the past nine years. Roger Thomas is an Aboriginal man whose parents came from Port Augusta and Ceduna and is from the Wirungu/Kookatha clans of South Australia. He has over twenty three years experience of working in the State Public Service in South Australia, including past Departments of Community Welfare and TAFE. Since leaving the Public Sector he has continued to work in the Aboriginal Higher Education Sector, including being the Managing Director of Pundalmurra TAFE College in Western Australia. He is the Chairman of the Federal Governments Ministerial Advisory Council on Indigenous Higher Education and also a member of the World Indigenous Higher Education Committee whose agendas deal with Indigenous higher education on a global basis. Roger has extensive experience in Community Development, Community and Organisational Planning, Business Planning and Workshop facilitation. He was a member of the South Australian State Government's Social Inclusion Board from 2003 to 2006. He presented numerous papers on Australian Indigenous issues at conferences throughout Australia and Internationally.

Speakers



Mr Alwin Chong is the Senior Research and Ethics Officer for the Aboriginal Health Council of SA. Alwin is a Wakamin descendent from Far North Queensland who grew up in Mt Isa (Qld) before travelling and working extensively throughout Australia. Alwin's primary role is to monitor and promote appropriate research and research practices for the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector and to also manage and coordinate the Aboriginal Health Research and Ethics Committee (AHREC). Alwin came to South Australia in 1988 to study at the University of South Australia where he was recruited to teach in the School of Aboriginal and Islander Studies, which he did for six years before moving back into research with the Aboriginal Research Institute at the University of South Australia. After nine years with the University of South Australia, Alwin joined AHCSA in 2001, just prior to the restructure and is now the organisation's longest serving staff member.



Ms Kim O'Donnell is a Paakantji woman from western NSW who lives and works in Adelaide in the Department of Health Management at Flinders University. Kim is the Research Associate of the Overburden Project, where the aim is to design and test better ways of funding Primary Health Care services for Aboriginal people. Kim has also worked as a teacher at Peppimenarti, an Aboriginal community controlled cattle station in NT and has taught English in Japan. In 2006 Kim graduated from Flinders University with a Master of Primary Health Care. Kim is the Chairperson of Mutawintji National Park Board of Management. Mutawintji is the first national park in NSW to be returned to its original owners.



Ms Karen Glover is the Director of Aboriginal Health at the Children, Youth & Women's Health Service. Karen Glover comes with a wealth of experience in the area of Aboriginal health and community services. Karen previously managed the Health Improvement Team for the Department of Health's Aboriginal Health Division. She was responsible for statewide programs and building capacity and leadership in communities. Karen has a particular passion for maternal and infant health, having also led the development of frameworks to improve culturally appropriate antenatal services and birthing.



Ms Katherine Baldock is an Epidemiologist in the Population Research and Outcome Studies Unit within the SA Department of Health. The PROS Unit provides timely, comprehensive epidemiological information about chronic conditions and their impact on the community to direct policy and program development to improve health outcomes. Katherine is a Health Sciences graduate with Honours in Psychology and postgraduate qualifications in Public Health. To date, her wider work context has included epidemiological studies and reporting of population data covering many health related issues and trends, including diabetes, health-related quality of life, patient satisfaction with health services, and Indigenous health, and resulting in several publications and presentations.

INHERITED DISORDERS

Chair



Professor Eric Haan is Head of the Department of Genetic Medicine and the South Australian Clinical Genetics Service at the Women's and Children's Hospital within the Children Youth & Women's Health Service (CYWHS). Prof Haan's research interests include the epidemiology of birth defects and cerebral palsy; birth defects following assisted reproductive technology; thrombophilias and cerebral palsy; and array technology for the detection of chromosomal imbalance.

Speakers



Professor Hamish Scott has recently commenced as Deputy Head of the Division of Molecular Pathology at the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science (IMVS), member of the Hanson Institute and Affiliate Professor in School of Medicine at the University of Adelaide. In 1992, Hamish did his PhD and first post-doc at the Women's & Children's Hospital and University of Adelaide and led the discovery of 3 human disease genes. In 1995, he moved to Division of Medical Genetics at University of Geneva Medical School to work on genetics and genomics of diseases that mapped to human chromosome 21, and Down syndrome. Hamish led international collaborations in the positional cloning of human genes causing deafness (TMPRSS3) and autoimmunity (AIRE) focussing on role of transcription factors and transcriptional regulation in disease. In 2000, Hamish relocated to Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research where his lab identified 2 additional deafness genes (TMPRSS1 & 5) and identified novel mechanisms of RUNX1 mutations in familial predisposition to leukaemia. He has also characterized the role of Dnmt3L, a gene that controls methylation of DNA, in epigenetic genomic reprogramming, a process that happens as gametes are formed and early embryo development. This is the process that is shortcut in cloning and can also be defective in IVF.



Dr Graeme Suthers is the Deputy Head of the South Australian Clinical Genetics Service, Program Director of the State's Familial Cancer Service, senior visiting consultant in clinical genetics to a number of teaching hospitals in Adelaide, and consultant genetic pathologist to a major public sector laboratory. Dr Suthers trained in clinical and laboratory genetics in Sydney, Adelaide, and Oxford and has sat on a variety of local and national committees, including committees of both the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia. Graeme has academic appointments to both the University of Adelaide and Flinders University of South Australia. His main professional and research interests involve making current research knowledge useful for families and simplifying the management of genetic data for both clinical and laboratory services.



A/Professor Robert Richards is Director of the ARC Special Research Centre for the Molecular Genetics of Development (CMGD) and Convenor of the national ARC/NHMRC Network in Genes and Environment in Development (NGED) both based within the School of Molecular and Biomedical Science at the University of Adelaide. Rob's research interests cover the molecular basis for dynamic mutations - normal and disease causing roles for repeat sequences; comparative molecular analysis of chromosomal fragile sites and their roles in human disease; role of human genes in disease - molecular pathway from genotype to phenotype; and identification and application of genetic markers in management of human disease.



Professor Doug Brooks is the Molecular Medicine Sector Leader for the Sansom Institute in the School of Pharmacy and Medical Science at the University of South Australia. Doug has over 25 years experience in medical research and is an NHMRC Senior Research Fellow and Research Professor in Molecular Medicine. For 24 years, Doug worked in the Lysosomal Diseases Research Unit at the Women's and Children's Hospital, on a group of genetic diseases called lysosomal storage disorders. This Unit has been responsible for significant health outcomes for this group of disorders with development of strategies for early screening, diagnosis and treatment. The new Molecular Medicine Sector covers research themes involving basic medical research on genetic disease, early origins of adult health, infection and immunity, autism, ion channels, together with more applied research on experimental therapeutics and clinical pharmacogenomics.

HEALTH DEMOGRAPHY

Chair



Dr Dianne Rudd is Head of the Department of Geographical and Environmental Studies at the University of Adelaide. Di is a Senior Lecturer involved in teaching undergraduate courses in population and co-ordinating the postgraduate program. Research interests include migration, with specific interest in women engaging in internal migration within Australia and in the international context, population ageing, changing family structures, and gender and policy issues associated with the migration of rural youth in Australia.

Speakers



Professor John Lynch has recently joined as Research Chair in Epidemiology within the School of Health Sciences at the University of South Australia. John was trained in Australia and the US and received his PhD in epidemiology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1995. From 1997-2005, John worked in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Most recently, John was Professor of Epidemiology and Canada Research Chair in Population Health at McGill University in Canada. John's research interests include methods for monitoring trends in health inequalities, and the relative roles of social determinants of health and risk factors in the etiology of health inequalities. John has worked in both Europe and North America, and has become an international expert in developing and understanding differences in health outcomes between these two countries.



Dr Gour Dasvarma is a population and development specialist. He is a Senior Lecturer within the School of Geography, Population and Environmental Management at Flinders University. Gour's research interests include population and development, fertility and family planning, mortality and population projections. Gour has provided long and short term consultancies to various organisations including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), the State Planning Department of South Australia, and to other international agencies such as the Ford Foundation and the Population Council. His most recent consultancy was with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Papua New Guinea, where he worked with his colleagues to produce the Human Development report of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. He has worked in various countries including India, Indonesia, Cambodia and Papua New Guinea.



Ms Julie Franzon is currently undertaking PhD studies at the University of Adelaide in the Department of Geographical and Environmental Studies. Formerly a Registered General Nurse, she completed a Graduate Diploma in Spatial Information Science in 2002 and has most recently worked for the Office for Recreation and Sport and other agencies providing digital mapping and analysis support for various projects. Julie's role with the NOBLE project is to analyse the spatial distribution and correlates of overweight and obesity in South Australian four-year-old children since 1994. She is using socio-economic and environmental data sets in a Geographical Information Systems environment to investigate relationships between these factors and rates of overweight/obesity at a small area level, and will therefore inform policy and intervention efforts.



A/Professor Anne Taylor is the Manager of the Population Research & Outcome Studies Unit within the Department of Health. Anne is qualified as a behavioural epidemiologist, with over twenty years experience in the field of chronic disease, particularly the epidemiological and statistical analysis of large population databases. A specialist in population surveillance methods, Anne contributes substantially to the design of population survey methods and has managed many large-scale population studies over the last decade. Establishing the efficacy of different approaches to population studies, especially telephone survey methodologies, Anne has been at the cutting edge of research. She has expertise in both the population perspective of chronic disease, as well as risk factor monitoring and surveillance.