Upcoming Events...

- **15 - 19 March**
  23rd International Childhood Education Symposium - Oxford, England

- **18 - 21 March**
  16th World Congress on Human Reproduction - Berlin, Germany

- **25 - 28 March**
  Society for Reproductive Investigation Annual Meeting - San Francisco, USA

- **15 - 18 April**
  8th International Diabetes, Hypertension, Metabolic Syndrome and Pregnancy Symposium - Berlin, Germany

- **19 - 22 April**
  19th annual PSANZ Conference - Melbourne, Australia

- **17 - 19 May**
  9th Congress of the International Society of Nutrigenetics and Nutrigenomics - Chapel Hill, NC, USA

- **6 - 10 June**
  SLEEP 2015 - Seattle, USA

Further information at
www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/events

To unsubscribe from our mailing list for event and news notifications email
anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu.au

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**LATEST NEWS**

**Opportunities for Research Members!!**

Would you like to be eligible for HDA Travel Grants and PhD top-up Scholarships?

All PhD students and early career researchers from the University of Adelaide, UniSA and Flinders University can be eligible (you must be a member of HDA for at least 3 months before receiving any benefits)

Senior Researchers are also encouraged to join and encourage their current and new students to join HDA to receive the benefits

No cost to join. Visit the HDA website for further info and our background document or contact

anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu.au

Become a HDA Research Member today!!

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**.... Our Partners ....**

Healthy Development Adelaide (HDA)
A Research & Innovation Cluster in South Australia

Anne Jurisevic, HDA Executive Officer:
📞 (08) 8313 8222
e-mail: anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu.au
I completed my PhD in Psychology at The University of Adelaide in 2011, and I am currently a postdoctoral researcher in the Neuromotor Plasticity and Development (NeuroPAD) group at the Robinson Research Institute.

My research is focused on neurodevelopment, with a particular interest in outcomes after preterm birth. My work in this area has focused on neuromotor and cognitive development in former preterm children and adolescents, having worked with Dr. Julia Pitcher on her large NHMRC funded PREMOCODE study. I played a key role in the collection and analysis of the cognitive and neurophysiologic data for this study, and have published findings in leading journals, including the Journal of Physiology, Journal of Pediatrics, and Clinical Neurophysiology.

This work is now entering an exciting new phase. With a recent NHMRC project grant, we are currently extending our previous findings to provide a more complete picture of the neurodevelopmental consequences of preterm birth. Data collection has progressed very rapidly, and we hope to have the first manuscripts out later this year.

In addition to my work on the PREMOCODE study, I have conducted other basic neurophysiologic studies, including studies investigating inhibitory and excitatory neural circuitry in healthy term-born children, adolescents, and adults. I have also enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate with other members of the Robinson Research Institute. For example, I collected cognitive and behavioural data from the children of women who participated in Prof. Jodie Dodd’s LIMIT clinical trial, which aimed to limit gestational weight gain in overweight and obese women via a diet and lifestyle intervention. With the study’s three year follow-up nearing completion, I have the opportunity to assess the neurodevelopmental outcomes of this diverse cohort.

In addition to my research work, I have a particular interest in child behaviour and have this year commenced a part-time Master of Psychology (Clinical) degree at the University of Adelaide. In the future, I would like to integrate my research skills with my clinical psychology training, to further explore the impact of preterm birth across childhood and adolescence.

Dr Luke SCHNEIDER. Post-Doc Research Officer, Neuromotor Plasticity and Development (NeuroPAD), Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide. Focus - Psychology (preterm birth/neurodevelopment)

The following Early Career Researchers and PhD students have been awarded HDA Travel Grants for 2015.

Dr Lucy BELL. Discipline of Nutrition and Dietetics, Flinders University. International Conference on Diet and Activity Methods

Mr Sam BUCKBERRY (HDA Scholar). Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide. International Federation of Placenta Associations

Ms Kristin CARSON. Respiratory Medicine, Queen Elizabeth Hospital / University of Adelaide. ResHealth: 1st International Respiratory and Sleep Medicine Conference

Mr James DOIDGE. School of Population Health, UniSA. BASP-CAN Congress: New Directions in Child Protection and Wellbeing

Ms Lucy FARRELL (HDA Scholar). Discipline of Public Health, University of Adelaide. British Sociological Association Medical Sociology Annual Conference

Ms Angela GIALAMAS (HDA Scholar). School of Population Health, University of Adelaide. Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting

Ms Macarena Bermudez GONZALEZ. Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide. 18th Frontiers in Reproduction Symposium

Ms Jessica LAURENCE. Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide. International Federation of Placenta Associations

Ms Erin McGILLICK. Sansom Institute for Health Research, School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, UniSA. Society for Reproductive Investigation

Dr Carly MOORES. Discipline of Nutrition and Dietetics, Flinders University. Biennial Joint Annual Scientific Meeting of the Nutrition Societies of Australia and New Zealand

Ms Emer VAN RYSWYK. Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide. Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand

Ms Amy WOOLDRIDGE (HDA Scholar). Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide. Developmental Origins of Health and Disease

Dr Richard HARRIS. Post-Doc Research Officer, Neuromotor Plasticity and Development (NeuroPAD), Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide. Focus - Paediatrics (plasticity/brain development)

Dr Luke SCHNEIDER. Post-Doc Research Officer, Neuromotor Plasticity and Development (NeuroPAD), Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide. Focus - Psychology (preterm birth/neurodevelopment)
Vol 11, Issue 1

Raising children - and lifting up communities

Media Release - 9 January, Flinders University

All childcare centres do valuable things, but not many can say they have single-handedly prevented an empowered community from becoming a disempowered one for 14 years. Clare Valley Children’s Centre, which recently won a Brand South Australia Flinders University Sponsored Education award, is one of the few.

“If we weren’t here there wouldn’t have been an option for childcare for lots of our families,” said Centre Director Amanda Narroway. Before us, there wasn’t any childcare, and people would have had to travel to another town, or stay at home with their children. That means the majority of our mums are now able to work, while others study, and a few come for respite. The majority of our families come from the town of Clare but a few travel in, especially if they work here. Some of the children are on the bus for 40 minutes.

“Listening to Ms Narroway speak, it’s clear that she and her team have a passion for their local community that goes far beyond simply providing a service. We’ve been open for around 14 years and everyone thinks we are a big family,” she said.

“All of our parents get the chance to know the staff well, to have a chat and to feel secure.

“We do have another childcare place in the area, which was established fairly recently, but we are the only not for profit, and all of the money we raise goes back into the centre. Our biggest focus is on building our relationships. These are really important to us, and our families are really important to us.

“I think we also have a sense of stability because we’re at capacity and because we’ve been here for 14 years. That means we’ve had time to cultivate a really nice feel about the place. A full integrated facility including Childcare, Kindergarten, Play group, Learning Together at Home and a Toy Library, the centre also has a Healthy Families program on site.

“Before we had Healthy Families on our site, our families had to go up to the hospital, then to us for kindy and childcare,” said Ms Narroway. It’s also clear that, beyond creating a generally useful, family friendly space, a high priority is placed on the quality of the learning experience itself. We’ve done lots of research on brain development and play,” she said.

“Our facility, particularly our outdoor area, has been made into a beautiful place that children want to explore and make memories in.

“We have a wide range of trees and proper seasons because of the region we’re in, so that’s really lovely. Winning the Brand South Australia Education Award and being recognised for it in their local community has, Ms Narroway says, inspired her staff to work even harder.

“We were extremely proud to win, and it was lovely that Brand South Australia held the awards here in Clare Valley,” she said. There were a lot of people in the audience who knew us and it was great for morale for the next few weeks. We had ten staff at the awards.

“Brand South Australia coming and recognising people locally in our own community, with the local newspaper people there, made it a big community event.

“I wouldn’t have been about to take as many people with me if it had been in Adelaide. She also said the award was particularly prized because of the Flinders University sponsorship. Some of us have come from Flinders, and we also have some Flinders students who come through from the University, so that made it extra special,” she said.

Professor Graeme Hugo : In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that one of the University of Adelaide’s leading research academics, Professor Graeme Hugo passed away in January after a short illness.

Professor Hugo was a director of the University’s Australian Migration and Population Research Centre and an internationally respected demographer. In 2012 he was named an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to population research, particularly the study of international migration, population geography and mobility, and through leadership roles with national and international organisations.

Graeme was a valued member and a long term supporter of HDA. He will be missed.
**Meal planning creates most stress for working mums**

**Media Release - 3 February, Flinders University**

What’s for dinner mum? A seemingly harmless question asked by millions of children every day is actually the most stressful part of food-related jobs for working mothers, new research from Flinders University shows.

Conducted by a team of Flinders researchers, the study found that planning what to cook for lunch and dinner causes working mothers more stress than any other aspect of family food and nutrition – including cooking itself.

The study explored the ways in which 21 working mothers in casual, part-time and full-time jobs perceived and managed food-related jobs for their families, with a focus on food and time practices in meeting nutritional recommendations.

Of the findings, Nutrition and Dietetics research assistant Rachel Roberts said the most recurrent message from mothers was the stress associated with planning lunch and dinner.

“Once it came to cooking, most women could whip something up but the actual thinking ‘what on earth am I going to make for dinner tonight’ was the most stressful task out of all their food-related activities,” Ms Roberts, who conducted the study, said.

**Ethics of school-based immunisation programs examined**

**Media Release - 23 January, University of Adelaide**

University of Adelaide researchers and their government and industry partners have identified a range of ethical issues with high school-based immunisation programs in South Australia.

School-based immunisation programs are commonly run in Australia and in other countries around the world, with vaccines given to large groups of students whose parents have provided consent. Government-funded vaccines given to students aged 12-13 include boosters for such conditions as diphtheria and tetanus, as well as immunisation for hepatitis B, chickenpox and three doses of the human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV).

In a paper published in the American Journal of Public Health, University of Adelaide researchers highlight a number of ethical concerns with current practices.

"In general, school-based immunisation programs in South Australia are well organised and well accepted with good uptake by students. However we identified ethical challenges in three main areas: informed consent, restrictions on privacy, and harm to students in the form of fear and anxiety," says the lead author of the paper and Head of the University's School of Population Health, Professor Annette Braunack-Mayer.

"The accepted elements of informed consent include the provision of information, the capacity for people to make decisions, and voluntarily submitting themselves to the immunisation. We found challenges in each of these areas.

"A key challenge for parents and students alike is the information they're provided. For many, this was hard to understand and to remember, and this can affect their ability to make informed decisions. A very small number of students were unwilling participants in the immunisation program, even though their parents had given permission. They had to be persuaded, usually very gently, to receive the vaccines."

Professor Braunack-Mayer says the public nature of the school setting creates significant challenges for privacy and confidentiality. "To manage the student flow, immunisations are typically conducted in gymnasiums or classrooms, where interactions between students and nurses can be seen and heard by others. A necessary question for the HPV vaccine is: 'are you pregnant?'; and the answer is sometimes overheard by peers."

She says student anxiety about the immunisation program – and fear of the needle – is another area of concern for students. "This poses the question of potential harm, either real or imagined," she says. "It is important that we provide the best quality immunisation program we can for our students and the wellbeing of the wider community. Identifying and addressing these challenges will help to ensure that school-based immunisation programs are both ethically acceptable and effective," Professor Braunack-Mayer says.

This study has been supported by Australian Research Council (ARC) and National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), in collaboration with SA Departments of Health and Education and Children's Services, the Adelaide Women's and Children's Hospital, CSL Ltd and GlaxoSmithKline.
Cerebral Palsy - it can be in your genes

Media Release - 12 February, University of Adelaide

An international research group led by a team at the University of Adelaide has made what they believe could be the biggest discovery into cerebral palsy in 20 years. It has long been the belief that cerebral palsy occurs when a child experiences a lack of oxygen during pregnancy or at birth; however, the Australian Collaborative Cerebral Palsy Research Group, based at the University of Adelaide’s Robinson Research Institute, has found at least 14% of cerebral palsy cases are likely caused by a genetic mutation.

The findings of this research are published in the prestigious Nature journal, Molecular Psychiatry. The Head of the Cerebral Palsy Research Group, Emeritus Professor Alastair MacLennan, says prior to this research it was believed that as little as 1% of cerebral palsy cases had a genetic cause.

“Cerebral palsy is a major neurodevelopmental disorder, which disrupts movement control, and it occurs in 1 in 400 children,” Emeritus Professor MacLennan says. “While we have long suspected that genes may play a role in the development of cerebral palsy, it wasn’t until our research group mapped the DNA from cerebral palsy families that we could show genetic mutations are the likely cause of the condition in at least 14% of cases,” he says.

Prof Jozef Gecz, University of Adelaide genetic scientist, says because cerebral palsy is at least partly genetic in origin there will be significant changes in the approach to diagnosis, management and treatment of the condition. “Our findings of genetic diversity in cerebral palsy are similar to the genetic architecture of other neurological disabilities, such as intellectual disabilities, epilepsies, autism and schizophrenia,” Prof Gecz says. “Our research will lead to early diagnosis of some cerebral palsies and aid preventative genetic techniques in the future. It should also reduce inappropriate litigation against obstetric medics – who at times are blamed for causing the condition – which has led to defensive obstetrics and unnecessarily high caesarean delivery rates,” he says.

University of Adelaide PhD student and lead author, Gai McMichael, who was supervised by Professors MacLennan and Gecz, says this dramatic research finding will change how people think about cerebral palsy. “These results will make many rethink assumptions about the causes of cerebral palsy, which can be devastating for all concerned and costs Australia billions of dollars each year,” says Ms McMichael.

With the help of collaborators around Australia and in Houston, Texas, and with funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Cerebral Palsy and Tenix Foundations, the University of Adelaide-based research group has gathered a unique DNA and clinical data cerebral palsy biobank, which is attracting international attention and further research collaboration. This work has been the result of 20 years of research by the group. The team is continuing to seek further mutations in cerebral palsy cases, which will add to the percentage of cases with a genetic basis.

Impact of obesity on fertility can be reversed

Media Release - 10 February, University of Adelaide

In a breakthrough discovery, researchers at the University of Adelaide have revealed how damage from obesity is passed from a mother to her children, and also how that damage can be reversed. The findings, by a team led by the University’s Robinson Research Institute, have major implications for the future of fertility research and are published today in the journal Development.

“It's now well established that obesity in females leads to very serious fertility problems, including the inability to conceive. Obesity can also result in altered growth of babies during pregnancy, and it permanently programs the metabolism of offspring, passing the damage caused by obesity from one generation to the next,” says lead author Associate Professor Rebecca Robker from the Robinson Research Institute.

“In our laboratory studies, we’ve been able to unravel a key mechanism that leads to this multi-generational damage, and we’ve found a way to stop it happening,” A/Professor Robker says. The research team found that obesity leads to a particular stress response that causes damage to the mitochondria, which are critical energy-producing ‘organs’ within living cells.

“All of the mitochondria in our bodies come from our mother. If the mother is obese, this produces stresses that lead to reduced transmission of mitochondria to the offspring. We found that the eggs of such mothers lead to heavier-than-normal fetuses with greatly reduced amounts of mitochondrial DNA and other obvious signs of damage,” she says.

Having pinpointed the problem, A/Professor Robker and her colleagues attempted to stop it from occurring. “Once we had identified the type of stress involved, we used compounds known to alleviate that stress in the cells. In particular, we were interested in compounds that are also being tested in diabetes clinical trials,” A/Professor Robker says. “These compounds were highly successful in preventing the stress response, thereby stopping the damage from obesity being passed onto the offspring. It restored egg quality, embryo development and mitochondrial DNA to levels equivalent to those of a healthy mother. Effectively, the problem was fully reversed.”

A/Professor Robker says the results of this work point towards a potential future therapy to restore “natural” fertility in obese women, and to prevent multi-generational damage passing onto their children. “Importantly, this work further highlights that a woman’s nutritional state prior to getting pregnant matters greatly. Women are urged to eat healthy diets to optimise their chances for a healthy conception and to reduce the potential impact on their child’s future health,” she says.

This research is supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).
Half of childcare centres fail cot mattress safety test

Public health researchers at the University of Adelaide are hoping to raise awareness among childcare centres of the potentially deadly consequences of using cot mattresses that are too soft. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) has been linked to a number of risk factors associated with sleep practices and environment, including relationship between a soft sleep surface and infant death.

In 2013, a new voluntary standard was introduced by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand to define a firm enough sleep surface for infants. However, in a study of 28 childcare centres in the Adelaide metropolitan area, University of Adelaide researchers found that half of the centres had at least one infant mattress that did not comply with the standard. Of the 145 mattresses tested at the centres, 57 of them (or 39.3%) failed the minimum firmness test.

"To the best of our knowledge, this was the first audit of its kind in the world, and the results were both surprising and disappointing," says one of the study's supervisors, Mr Paul Rothmore from the University's School of Population Health.

"We know that if a sleep surface fails the test outlined by the standard, on average it has a three times greater risk of killing a child from suffocation.

"It was originally thought that blood pressure medication should only be used with caution in pregnant women with high blood pressure, because it would have the potential to impair placental blood flow, with negative impact on the baby's growth. However, we've been very happily surprised by these results," Professor Hague says.

"The women whose blood pressure was maintained at normal levels reduced their chances of developing severe high blood pressure, which is associated with an increased risk of stroke and other major complications, and their babies were just as happy and healthy as those whose mums were not on blood pressure medication."

This is the first large high-quality study of its kind looking at the potential impact of blood pressure control in pregnant women with mild to moderate high blood pressure. "The results of this study have major consequences for the treatment of pregnant women," Professor Hague says. "It helps to reinforce that it's important to do research to get the right balance of what's good for the mum and what's good for the baby."

He says the message to pregnant women with mild to moderate high blood pressure is: "Talk to your doctor, follow their advice, but don't be afraid to continue with blood pressure treatment because it offers the best benefits to both mum and baby in the immediate term."

Further research is ongoing to see if there is any impact on the children as they develop in later life.

Managing mum’s blood pressure doesn’t harm her unborn child

Health researchers have been surprised by the results of a major international study which shows that tightly controlling blood pressure in pregnant women has no harmful effects for their babies. The international study shows that, contrary to expectations, keeping blood pressure in the normal range with medication does not affect a baby’s growth and development in the womb, and there are no differences in outcomes for these babies at birth.

The study, led by BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre and the University of British Columbia in Canada, involved researchers at the University of Adelaide's Robinson Research Institute. The results have been published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. More than 980 pregnant women were involved in the study worldwide, including women from Adelaide.

"For pregnant women whose blood pressure is too high, it places them and their unborn babies at increased risk. The treatment of high blood pressure during pregnancy is extremely important to help avoid complications, such as stroke and death in the mother," says Professor Bill Hague from the University of Adelaide's Robinson Research Institute.

About half of the participants received blood pressure treatment, usually involving medication, to maintain tight control of their blood pressure within strict limits, while the remainder of the women were allowed to let their blood pressure rise a little, providing it was not to levels that would be dangerous for the woman.

"It was originally thought that blood pressure medication should only be used with caution in pregnant women with high blood pressure, because it would have the potential to impair placental blood flow, with negative impact on the baby's growth. However, we've been very happily surprised by these results," Professor Hague says.

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Further research is ongoing to see if there is any impact on the children as they develop in later life.
Nanny state: school surveillance on the rise

Media Release - 23 February, University of Adelaide

Invasive school surveillance practices are the norm in the UK and USA, and according to a University of Adelaide criminologist, such practices are becoming increasingly popular in Australian schools.

A/Professor Andrew Hope's research into school-based surveillance in the UK, USA, Europe and Australia was published in the British Journal of Sociology of Education.

A/Professor Hope says while the school surveillance revolution is fundamentally fuelled by concerns about the safety and wellbeing of staff and students, these initiatives threaten the inherent nature of schooling.

"An estimated 1.28 million students are fingerprinted in the UK, largely for daily registration purposes; there is an excess of 106,000 closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras installed in English, Welsh and Scottish secondary schools; while students in a USA high school use pedometers to ensure that they meet their gym class's physical activity requirement," says Associate Professor Hope, Head of the Department of Gender Studies and Social Analysis at the University of Adelaide.

"In most cases, school surveillance initiatives are introduced to protect students, and while the safety of children is important, we must not lose sight of their rights to privacy," he says. "Excessive use of surveillance devices can threaten the values of a progressive education, undermine trust, stigmatise individuals and limit the potential for student engagement."

A/Professor Hope says surveillance in Australian schools is steadily growing, with increased safety concerns, including fear of homeland terrorism, influencing people's attitudes to surveillance.

"In Melbourne, some primary school students who walk or cycle are required to swipe a card when they arrive to school, which generates an automatic email notifying parents, and dataveillance (surveillance using data) has been used to estimate student disengagement and dropout rates," says A/Professor Hope.

"Surveillance is largely used to reduce people's fear of crime and disorder. Many have differing views about the level of surveillance they think is appropriate, but generally people largely ignore surveillance technologies in their everyday lives until they intrude in a negative manner," he says.

A/Professor Hope says Australia needs to be careful it doesn't follow the path of the UK or USA.

"Discussion in educational communities is required prior to new monitoring technologies being introduced into Australian schools. This is not only because of the possible impact on schools but also as these intrusive devices then find their way into work and public places," says A/Professor Hope.

"However, it's also important to remember many already 'play with surveillance' by happily using social media," he says.

A/Professor Hope is an internationally renowned surveillance and criminology researcher and will be running new criminology courses at the University of Adelaide's School of Social Sciences in 2015.

Warning on use of drug for children’s sleep

Media Release - 25 February, University of Adelaide

Sleep researchers at the University of Adelaide are warning doctors and parents not to provide the drug melatonin to children to help control their sleep problems.

Melatonin is a hormone produced in the body with the onset of darkness. It plays an important role in fine tuning people's circadian rhythms, such as the timing of sleep onset, as well as other biological processes.

In a paper published in the Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health, Professor David Kennaway, Head of the Circadian Physiology Laboratory at the University of Adelaide's Robinson Research Institute, warns that providing melatonin supplements to children may result in serious side effects when the children are older.

"The use of melatonin as a drug for the treatment of sleep disorders for children is increasing and this is rather alarming," Professor Kennaway says.

"Melatonin is registered in Australia as a treatment for primary insomnia only for people aged 55 years and over, but it's easily prescribed as an 'off label' treatment for sleep disorders for children."

Professor Kennaway says there is extensive evidence from laboratory studies that melatonin causes changes in multiple physiological systems, including cardiovascular, immune and metabolic systems, as well as reproduction in animals.

"Melatonin is also a registered veterinary drug which is used for changing the seasonal patterns of sheep and goats, so they are more productive for industry. If doctors told parents that information before prescribing the drug to their children, I'm sure most would think twice about giving it to their child," Professor Kennaway says.

"The word 'safe' is used very freely and loosely with this drug, but there have been no rigorous, long-term safety studies of the use of melatonin to treat sleep disorders in children and adolescents. There is also the potential for melatonin to interact with other drugs commonly prescribed for children, but it's difficult to know without clinical trials assessing its safety."

Professor Kennaway, who has been researching melatonin for the past 40 years, says these concerns have largely been ignored throughout the world.

"Considering the small advances melatonin provides to the timing of sleep, and considering what we know about how melatonin works in the body, it is not worth the risk to child and adolescent safety," he says.
Blue collar boys count themselves out of success at school

University of South Australia education researcher Dr Garth Stahl says boys from low socio-economic backgrounds may be disengaging from school education, partly in response to wider prejudices about them that exist in the community and the poorly resourced schools they attend.

Dr Stahl tackles what is now a global issue of concern - the plummeting educational achievement of working class, white boys. He explores issues around social class, notions of male identity and stereotypes, and challenges a system and society where working class boys are characterised as difficult and psychologically abnormal.

Through close research with white, working-class boys in South London, UK, Dr Stahl identified not only that they were stereotyped as unlikely to succeed, but that the boys were fully aware of their own disadvantage and the prejudices that characterised them as lower class, and were choosing to disengage.

“They felt they were playing a no-win game, caught between stigma and risk,” Dr Stahl says.

“They feared academic failure, but they also feared academic success because it may catapult them into a future where they would never feel truly comfortable or accepted. As poor, low social status boys, they believed they would never belong in an environment of success and privilege and that they didn’t want to be part of a group that enshrined that kind of inequality.

“For these boys the safest option was to try to get a job and create an identity aligned to defiant egalitarianism. Furthermore, they disidentified with being ‘the best of the best’, instead articulating how they valued loyalty to peers and family. Egalitarianism was how they made themselves feel valuable in schools which de-valued them.

“It was also clear from my research, that calls for relatively superficial adjustments to the education system, such as longer teaching days or parachuting star teachers into disadvantaged schools, would not make inroads into what was a much broader and deeper social problem.”

Dr Stahl’s research undertaken between 2009 and 2010 stands as one of the few investigative research projects to examine the issues so deeply. It focuses on qualitative research with 23 white working class boys in their final years of compulsory schooling. Dr. Stahl used a visual methodology to elicit responses concerning the boys’ ideas about gender and social class.

“What I have learned is that boys will create and constitute an identity and a values system for themselves, even within environments that devalue them,” Dr Stahl says.

“But that perception of being less valuable has an enduring influence on the kind of identity these boys create for themselves and their educational aspirations and outcomes.”

Published by Routledge the new hardcover book (978-1-138-02587-5) is available for $143.64. Orders can be made via Emma Hinde (Emma.Hinde@tandf.co.uk) or Amazon.
“Guidelines for Good Gaming”
Physical and psychological effects of video and computer gaming
Thursday 19 March, 7:30-9:30pm
Mercedes College, Springfield

Speakers include Prof Leon Straker - Professor of Physiotherapy, Curtin University and Dr Wayne Warburton - Senior Lecturer School of Psychology, Macquarie University

Chaired by Amanda Blair. Tickets $25. Book online at www.trybooking.com/GVCW

Webinar: Refining the task of father-inclusive practice
Thursday 12 March, 1.30pm-2.30pm AEDT
ARACY and Child Family Community Australia are proud to host the webinar, Redefining the task of father-inclusive practice, presented by Dr Richard Fletcher and Dr Jennifer St George, both from the University of Newcastle.

This webinar will present evidence on "what works" to engage fathers, based on a recent review of the literature conducted for ARACY and the Australian Government. Two aspects, the place of co-parenting and the notion of "keeping fathers in mind" will be explored, and recent mental health initiatives using digital technology with fathers will be described.

For further information and to register go to https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5254043066072683265

University of Adelaide Research Tuesdays
Treat, Trial and Transform
Towards a globally self-learning and wholly evidence-informed health system

When receiving medical treatment, most of us would assume sound evidence existed to support any proposed course of action. Often, however, we’d be wrong. All over the world, including here in SA, around 50% of funds allocated to health care budgets facilitate medical interventions that we cannot say with empirical certainty will make us healthier. Focusing on reproductive health, this presentation will show how this approach can create a globally self-learning medical system, with benefits for patients, communities and governments alike.

The presenter
Ben (Willem) Mol is a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide and works at SAHMRI.

Event details
Tuesday 10 March, 5:30pm - 6:30pm, The Braggs Lecture Theatre, University of Adelaide


7th Shared Learning Clinical Practice Symposium
Youth Mental Health

The Shared Learning in Clinical Practice Group, a joint initiative between the University of South Australia’s Sansom Institute for Health Research and SA Health, would like to invite you to a free interactive symposium.

Wednesday, 18 March, 8.30am – 3.30pm (registration from 8.00am)
Bradley Forum, Level 5, Hawke Building, 55 North Terrace, Adelaide, University of South Australia, City West Campus

The Symposium will discuss engagement, assessment and collaboration in youth mental health. Open to SA Health employees, emergency service employees, families and community services, academic faculty, non-government employees, peer support workers, Medicare Local and other government employees for whom the mental health care of young people is part of their daily work in policy, practice and service delivery.

Morning tea and lunch will be provided. Please advise of any special dietary requirements upon registration.

Registrations close Friday 7 March
ASMR SA Annual Scientific Meeting

Abstracts will be open on Monday 9 March and close on Thursday 2 April.

Early bird registration deadline: Friday 1 May.

For online registration and abstract submission please visit http://www.asmr.org.au/MRWSA.html

This year’s plenary speaker is Dr Daniel Worthley – Beat Cancer Principal Research Fellow, SAHMRI on "Connective tissue stem cells in the bone, the bowel and cancer"

For further information contact: saumya.samaraweera@unisa.edu.au or ashleigh.paparella@adelaide.edu.au

ASMR SA Annual Scientific Meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd June, 2015 at the National Wine Centre, as part of ASMR Medical Research Week® 28 May to 5 June

The ASMR scientific meeting provides an excellent venue for researchers from all disciplines in South Australia to meet and have a great discussion about their research. This meeting is also a great opportunity for students to practise their presentation skills and share their research.

- 64 oral presentations and over 80 posters available
- Honours, PhD students & early Post-doctoral fellows are strongly encouraged to submit abstracts and attend the meeting

Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (ACHPER) Conference

29th ACHPER International Conference
13 -15 April, Prince Alfred College, Adelaide

ACHPER International Conference is a biannual event that attracts academics, health professionals, educators and members of associations and government departments associated with health and physical education, recreation and sport.

This year’s focus is on 21st century thinking about how to deliver pedagogy in the HPE learning area, inclusive of sport, recreation, physical activity and health agendas.

The conference theme is ‘Values into Action - A Brighter Future’ with the following sub-themes:
- The educative purpose of HPE
- Strengths based HPE
- Learning in, through & about movement
- Health literacy
- Critical inquiry and problem solving in HPE
- Sport Pedagogies.

Visit the website for more information and to register at http://www.achper2015.com/wb/pages/national-conference/home.php

Child Aware Approaches Conference

Child Aware Approaches Conference
18 May - 19 May, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Yarra River, Melbourne

Families Australia and the Australian Government Department of Social Services invites you to the 3rd annual Child Aware Approaches Conference (CAA 2015) in Melbourne. The focus of the conference will be 'Innovations in early intervention, community collaboration and partnership beyond the child & family welfare sector'.

The conference will provide a unique forum in which to advance thinking and innovative practice in five key thematic areas:
- Building stronger partnerships across sectors
- Strengthening families across the life course, including restoration of relationships
- Detection and prevention strategies to prevent harm to children
- Working with community leaders to improve outcomes for Indigenous children
- Working within diverse communities to promote child aware approaches.

Visit the website for more information http://www.childawareconference.org.au/index.asp?IntCatId=14