Welcome

Welcome to the 2nd Paediatric Research Newsletter. It has been an exciting time in the past few months in Paediatric Research on this campus. Despite a tough NHMRC round, Paediatric researchers at UNSW and Sydney Children's Hospital were associated with $3.5 million dollars of grant funding. There have been other grant successes, totalling $6 million throughout the year which are highlighted and celebrated throughout this newsletter.

Mid-year we had an External Review of Paediatric Research and I would like to thank the two expert reviewers, Professor Paul Monagle from Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne and Professor Craig Mellis from the University of Sydney, who gave their time to assist us. We are currently working on addressing each of the 19 recommendations aimed at stimulating and supporting paediatric research at Sydney Children's Hospital, UNSW and the surrounding campus. In the New Year we will have some forums where researchers will be able to meet each other to explore potential collaborative opportunities; watch out for future dates.

It has been a year full of reviews, and UNSW Medicine (previously the Faculty of Medicine) will undertake an External Review of research early in the New Year; we anticipate that paediatric research will be suitably represented.

We were sad to say goodbye to Dr Bronwyn Chan who recently resigned to concentrate on her busy roles on the North Shore. Bronwyn has been at the University and the hospital for many years and was instrumental in helping develop the new paediatric curriculum and she leaves it in great shape. I know we will all miss her, and I personally will miss her sage advice and corporate knowledge.

We also say goodbye to Antonia Milner, our education fellow, who went on maternity leave and gave birth to baby Claudia early last month. We thank her for being such an excellent Fellow. We will still see her around the hospital as she takes up a VMO position. We look forward to welcoming Monique Akouri and Sandra Chuang as our education Fellows from January; Monique has already stepped in to help cover Antonia’s maternity leave. Sandra will also be undertaking a part-time PhD.

I am delighted to announce that Dr Nitin Kapur from Brisbane will take up the position as Senior Lecturer in Respiratory Medicine from August 2013. In the coming year we will be looking at further senior academic appointments in Paediatrics and addressing the needs of researchers for a biostatistician.

I would like to thank Sam McFedries for an excellent job in putting together this edition and wish everyone a very happy and safe festive season and I look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Professor Adam Jaffé
John Beveridge Professor of Paediatrics
Head of Discipline of Paediatrics
School of Women's and Children's Health

Associate Director of Research,
Sydney Children's Hospital
Important Notices:

- **UNSW Grant Application Lodgement Forms**
  When completing Grant Application Lodgement Forms (GALF), it asks whether you would like to list an alternative contact to receive information about your grant.
  You are more than welcome to list Sam (Samantha McFedries – staff number 3395638) as your alternative contact.

- **Branding**
  New logos can be found on the UNSW Medicine website.

School logos were emailed to all academic and administrative staff, if you misplaced the email or were left off the list – email Sam (s.mcfedries@unsw.edu.au).

- **UPDATE: Attributing UNSW in Publications**
  It is important that researchers clearly & appropriately attribute UNSW in their publications.
  The following address should be used:

  School of Women's & Children's Health, UNSW Medicine, The University of New South Wales

  Consistency & clarity is important, to make sure that you and UNSW are properly credited with the work.
Sydney Children’s Hospital – Party Day

The Sydney Children's Hospital Party Day 2012 went off with a scream this year.

The Discipline of Shrieking (better known as the Discipline of Paediatrics) was involved in Party Day’s Halloween theme on Wednesday 24th October and we transformed the front of our office into a haunted house. All the spider webs and effort certainly paid off, with the Discipline winning the inaugural “Inviting Entrance Award”.

It was a fantastic day filled with lots of enthusiasm and brilliantly decorated wards/offices all with different themes based around Halloween. We were privileged to be involved in Party Day again this year and we are chuffed with our award, presently hanging in the office.

ILP Students

2012 ILP Students

Supervisors have probably already farewelled their 2012 ILP Students and are busy preparing for the next cohort for 2013.

However, 2012 ILP Students have been included in the circulation of this newsletter. However, if any 2012 ILP Students would like to opt out, please email s.mcfedries@unsw.edu.au

Ethics

As we go to print, the Sydney Children's Hospital Network Ethics and Governance Office at the Children's Hospital Westmead will be almost closed for the Christmas break however this is a quick reminder to supervisors that still need to apply for ethics approval (NEAF or LNR) for their ILP projects that they can contact Sam for help.

Sam is more than happy to read through protocols and application forms to make sure all required information has been entered and provide intellectual input.

Publications

Students and Supervisors, please remember to let Sam know if any of your manuscripts are accepted for publication or if you present at any conferences etc.

Ph: 02 9382 3038 | Email: s.mcfedries@unsw.edu.au
Discipline of Paediatrics Office Shutdown

The Discipline of Paediatrics Office on the 3rd Floor, Emergency Wing, Sydney Children's Hospital will be closed from 20th December 2012 until 7th January 2013.

However, there are some exceptions.

- Student Services & Program Development (Deborah Broder) will be back in the office from 2nd January 2013.
- Administrative Assistant to Prof Anne Cunningham (Sophie Jacob) will also be back in the office from 2nd January 2013.

These details are correct as of 10 December 2012, but could possibly change.

From all of us, have a safe and happy break
We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

HREC Dates - 2013

The Sydney Children's Hospital Network Human Research Ethics Committee – 2013 Dates

These dates and further information regarding the HREC process is available on the Children's Hospital Westmead's website.

Please note: Sam is available to give advice on completing your NEAF / LNR and Protocols for submitting to the HREC. However, it is also recommended that you attend the Q&A Sessions (dates below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q&amp;A Session for Applicants (Wed 12-1pm)</th>
<th>Closing Date</th>
<th>Scientific Advisory Committee (Fri 2-4pm)</th>
<th>Human Research Ethics Committee (Fri 2:30-4:30pm)</th>
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<tr>
<td>16 January</td>
<td>23 January</td>
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<td>27 February</td>
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Congratulations

Awards

- Dr Ammira Al-Shabeeba and A/Prof Maria Craig, together with Prof William Rawlinson, Dr Chi Nam Ignatius Pang, Prof Marc Wilkins, and Anandwarohan Hardkiar; were finalists for the Best New Innovation Award (Staff) in New South Innovations / UNSW Innovation Awards 2012. The title of their project was ‘An approach to prevention of autoimmunity in type 1 diabetes.’

- A/Prof Annie Bye was recognised for her development of services for children with epilepsy, by being awarded a Michelle Beets Memorial Award. These awards showcase the outstanding achievement of individuals responsible for the advancement of children’s health within the NSW. The award recognises the actions that go over and above what could reasonably be expected to improve health outcomes for children.

- Dr Steven Leach was awarded a certificate for “Significant Contributions to Research” in the 2012 Dean’s Awards.

- Dr Michelle Farrar was awarded a certificate for “Outstanding Research” in the 2012 Dean’s Awards.

- Dr Claire Wakefield was awarded the Hiroomi Kawano New Investigator Award by the International Psycho-Oncology Society at the 14th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology in Brisbane, 13-15 November 2012. This award honours a new investigator for outstanding research contributions in the field of psych-oncology. Another fantastic achievement, with Dr Nadine Kasparian, receiving this award in 2011 – well done to both of you, it’s great to see you going from strength to strength in the field!

- Dr Michael McGlynn OAM was recognised for giving 40 Years of Service to Sydney Children's Hospital.

- Dr Michael Brydon was recognised for giving 30 Years of Service to Sydney Children's Hospital.

- Dr Andrea Kruller was recognised for giving 10 Years of Service to Sydney Children's Hospital.

NHMRC

- CIA Dr Tony Roscioli together with (CIB-CIF) A/Prof Jo Huiqing Zhou, A/Prof Timothy Cox, A/Prof Michael Buckley, Prof Hans van Bokhoven, and A/Prof Edwin Kirk received a Project Grant of $565,181.18 for their research titled ‘Gene identification in familial orofacial clefts by next generation sequencing of exomes and p63 regulatory elements.’

- CIF A/Prof Kei Lui together with (CIA-CIE) Prof William Tarnow-Mordi, Prof Roger Soll, Dr Paolo Manzoni, Prof Brian Darlow, Prof David Isaacs, and (CIG-CJ) Prof Deborah Schofield, A/Prof Dominic Wilkinson, Dr Andrew Martin, Dr Wendy Hague received a Project Grant of $2,203,170.79 for their research titled ‘Does bovine lactoferrin (bLF) reduce mortality and morbidity in very low birthweight infants?’

- Prof Nadine Kasparian received a Career Development Fellowship of $397,724 for her research titled ‘Developing an evidence base for the psychological care of children and families affected by congenital heart disease.’

- A/Prof Maria Craig received a Practitioner Fellowship of $444,014 for her research titled ‘Childhood diabetes: translating evidence into practice.’

- CIA Prof Richard Lock together with (CIB-CIC) Prof William Wilson and Dr Hernan Carol received a Project Grant of $316,556.18 for their research titled ‘AKR1C3 as a potential biomarker for sensitivity of T-lineage acute lymphoblastic leukaemia to the pre-prodrug PR-104.’
Congratulations Continued

NHMRC Continued

- CIA Dr Tao Liu together with (CIB-CIC) Prof Yi Zhang, and Dr Christopher Scarlett received a Project Grant of $343,836.68 for their research titled ‘Targeting the histone methyltransferase DOT1L for the therapy of Myc-induced malignancies.’
- CID Prof Elizabeth Sullivan together with (CIB-CIC) Prof Tony Butler, Prof Anthony Smith, Mr James Ward, and (CIE-CIH) Prof Basil Donovan, Dr Janaki Amin, Dr Lorraine Yap, and Ms Sally Nathan received a Project Grant of $869,730.47 for their research titled ‘Sexual and reproductive health and behaviours of young offenders (14-18 years) in NSW & Qld.’
- CIB William Rawlinson together with (CIA) Prof Sally Tracey and (CIC -CIG) A/Prof Andrew Bisits, Dr Mark Tracy, Dr Antonia Shand, Prof William Ledger, and Prof Alec Welsh received a Project Grant of $657,429.73 for their research titled ‘Is lactic acid concentration in amniotic fluid a new predictor of labour dystocia?’
- CID Dr Karen Mackenzie together with (CIA-CIC) Dr John Pimanda, Prof Bertie Gottgens, A/Prof Oleg Igoshin and (CIE) Dr Jason Wong received a Project Grant of $733,411.58 for their research titled ‘Reconstructing Transcriptional Networks in Leukaemic Cells.’
- CIA Dr Yingzi (Jenny) Wang received a Project Grant of $360,431.18 for her research titled ‘Studying the novel role for G protein-coupled receptor signalling in leukaemia development.’

Grants

- Dr Alla Dolnikov together with co-investigator Dr Tracey O’Brien have received a second year of funding for their study titled ‘Improving the outcome of cord blood transplant by preventing Graft Versus Host Disease (GVHD)’ from the Inner Wheel Foundation – $65,000.
- Dr Sandra Chuang has been awarded a ResMed Foundation / Sleep Health Foundation Research Entry Scholarship for $30,000.
- A/Prof Richard Cohn together with co-investigator Dr Claire Wakefield has been awarded a Cancer Institute of NSW / Kids Cancer Alliance grant for their research titled ‘Development of a best practice model of care for survivors of paediatric cancer’ – $300,000.
- Dr Tony Roscioli together with co-investigators Dr Michelle Farrar, A/Prof Annie Bye, & Dr Matthew Kiernan, has been awarded a Grant-in-Aid from the Motor Neurone Disease Research Institute of Australia for $99,583.
- Prof Anne Cunningham with co-investigator Dr Meredith Ward has been awarded a Cerebral Palsy Alliance Innovative Research Grant for their study titled ‘Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor: A potential neuro-protective therapy for peri-natal hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy’ – $96,400.
- Dr Sandra Chang has been awarded an Australian Postgraduate Award for a PhD stipend of $24,653 per year for three years.

Appointments

- Dr Jordana McLoone was promoted to Lecturer.
- Dr John Eastwood was promoted to Conjoint Associate Professor.
- Dr Sue Woolfenden was promoted to Conjoint Senior Lecturer.
- Dr Natalie Ong was promoted to Conjoint Lecturer.
Congratulations Continued

Appointments Continued

Between July and December we have also gained a number of new conjoints – both teaching and research, and we would like to take this opportunity to welcome them.

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<th>Associate Lecturer (Conjoint)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Monique Akouri</td>
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<td>Dr Tara Brown</td>
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<td>Dr Lily Chen</td>
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<td>Dr Jasbir Dhalwal</td>
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<td>Dr Lisa Ewans</td>
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<td>Dr Noel Friesen</td>
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<td>Dr Raman Gayathri</td>
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<td>Dr Sarah Josephi-Taylor</td>
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<td>Dr Narinder Kaur</td>
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<td>Dr Tiffany Krause</td>
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<td>Dr Marianne McCormick</td>
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<td>Dr Archana Privadashi</td>
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<td>Dr Andrew (Eu Leong) Tee</td>
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<td>Dr Preena Uppal</td>
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<th>Lecturer (Conjoint)</th>
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<td>Dr Carolyn Cottie</td>
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<td>Dr Paul Gray</td>
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<td>Dr Gauthami Kondagari</td>
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<td>Dr Leah Krishock</td>
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<td>Dr Aldwin Suryo Rahmanto</td>
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<td>Dr Kevin Swill</td>
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<td>Dr Alvin Tan</td>
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<th>Senior Lecturer (Conjoint)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Mary-Louise Freckman</td>
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<td>Dr Alexandra Hendry</td>
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<td>Dr Andrew Kan</td>
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<td>Dr Scott Fergus</td>
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<th>Associate Professor (Conjoint)</th>
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<tr>
<td>A/Prof Lynette Lee</td>
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<th>Honorary Professor</th>
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<td>Prof Grahame Wise</td>
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Becoming a Conjoint

If you, or someone in your department is interested in becoming a conjoint with the School of Women's & Children's Health, UNSW Medicine – we would love to have you!

Conjoints have access to a range of UNSW services and facilities including the library and IT. Not to mention research support from Sam, the Grants Management Office, and other campus services. Conjoints are also eligible for most UNSW Medicine and UNSW grants and teaching / other awards.

We would also like to extend this invitation to become a conjoint to Nursing and Allied Health staff (as well as Clinicians) with an established interest in research or who are keen to become more involved in research.

The following links provide more information:
http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/page/Conjoints

To become a conjoint please contact Marina Margarian, Conjoint Liaison, School of Women's & Children's Health.

Ph 9385 6751 l Email m.margarian@unsw.edu.au l
Introducing Kate Dunn, Outreach Librarian

My role is to be your direct link with the Library. I can provide tips and tricks to help you play the ‘research game’; including increasing the visibility of your research, tracking and demonstrating your research impact (citation counts, impact measures such as the H index), strategic publishing (which journals to target etc.) and e-content for teaching.

I’m happy to come and chat with you about any of these issues.

Your Research Profile

In this newsletter I’ll focus on Research Profiles. One way to ensure you make yourself and your research visible is to create and maintain your research profile(s).

*Below are a few you should be aware of:*

**Scopus Author ID**


The Scopus citation database automatically creates a Scopus Author ID for you. If the ID is correctly set up all the documents belonging to you will be listed (including numbers of citations received, affiliations etc.)

Sometimes Scopus creates multiple profiles for an author, you can request to merge these profiles.

**ORCID**

ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) aims to provide a persistent digital identifier for researchers. It could well become an industry standard. You may find in future that you are asked for your ORCID ID when you submit a paper.

You can register via [https://orcid.org/register](https://orcid.org/register)

You can import your Scopus publications so that they appear on your ORCID profile.

**Researcher ID**


Creating a Researcher ID account will enable you to manage your publication list, track citation counts and avoid author misidentification. (Researcher ID profiles incorporate data and metrics from Web of Science.)

**Google Scholar Citations**


Creating a Google Scholar Citations profile allows you to check who is citing your publications and graph citations over time. If you make your profile public, it will appear in Google Scholar search results when someone searches for your name.

**Research Gateway**

See [https://research.unsw.edu.au/](https://research.unsw.edu.au/)

The Research Gateway is a single web portal for all aspects of research at UNSW. Select ‘Log in’ at the bottom of the screen to create a profile. (The publications section of the profile pulls data from ResPubs.)

**UNSWorks**

[http://www.unsworks.unsw.edu.au](http://www.unsworks.unsw.edu.au)

This is the open access Institutional Repository for UNSW researchers. NHMRC requires that any publications arising from an NHMRC supported research project must be deposited into an open access institutional repository within a twelve month period from the date of publication.

Authorship Rules
All authors of all types of publication (including web-based publications) must sign a ‘Statement of Authorship and Location of Data Form’ prior to a paper's submission.

If for any reason, one or more co-authors are unavailable to sign the ‘Statement of Authorship and Location of Data’ form, the executive author may sign on their behalf, noting the reason for their unavailability.

Confirmation should be obtained from absentee authors within six months of the publication being submitted.

Completed forms can be emailed or handed in to Sam (s.mcfedries@unsw.edu.au) to obtain Head of School signature and submit, on your behalf.

For more information see the following UNSW Policies:
- Research Code of Conduct
- Procedure for Authorship and for Resolving Dispute Between Authors
NHMRC Research Administrators Seminar, November – Canberra

In late November, Sam attended the NHMRC Research Administrators Seminar in Canberra. Here are a few points of interest she would like to share from the seminar.

Submission Process

The NHMRC expressed that they are tightening submission processes moving forward. When an application deadline closes at 5pm, you will no longer be able to submit after this time.

Application Compliance

- From next year, there will be an increased focus on adherence to font sizes and formatting requirements – i.e. rejections on this basis.
- Six Grant Rule – there were multiple rejections on this basis in 2012.
- Background information not being completed is an issue. Keywords etc. are important to the NHMRC when they are finding and assigning panel members and assessors.

Universal Funding Rules

Changes are coming soon. The NHMRC are hoping to introduce them in 2013.

Centres of Research Excellence

Applications have now opened for Centres of Research Excellence. They were previously delayed due to establishing priority areas. The closing date is therefore later than in previous years. Applicants must commence their application and provide minimum data in RGMS by Wednesday 16 January 2013 to allow NHMRC to start sourcing reviewers with appropriate expertise.

Research Fellowships & Practitioner Fellowships

Applications open on 12th December 2012 and close on 13th February 2013. A summary of changes to this round will soon be posted on the NHMRC website.

Tripartite Agreement in Indigenous Health

The NHMRC together with the Canadian Institutes of Health, and the Health Research Council of New Zealand, have signed a new Tripartite Agreement in Indigenous health research. The intention of this agreement is to encourage and increase collaboration between researchers working in translatable Indigenous health research.

Women in Science

Women in Science is an NHMRC Working Committee that has been established to address issues that women researchers are faced with in both career progression and also their retention in health and medical research. Focus points are why women leave research, why there is a gender gap in senior positions of research, and how NHMRC can look at ways to overcome this. More information can be found on the NHMRC website.

Research Grant Management System (RGMS)

Variations can now be administered through RGMS. However, you aren’t able to initiate a variation prior to the start date of the contract – the NHMRC are working on this and hope to have this function available soon.

CIA’s need to initiate variations and then the Grants Management Office (GMO), or equivalent if not administered by UNSW, will submit to NHMRC.

Any extensions need to be applied for prior to the end date.
**Scientific Reporting** – Annual and Mid-Term Reports can now be submitted in RGMS. Final Reports, at this stage, still need to be submitted via the template. The NHMRC are aiming to have the infrastructure to accept Final Reports via RGMS by 2014.

NHMRC indicated at the Seminar that they are going to get tougher on submitting reports on time – including penalties for failing to submit Final Reports. Early Career Fellowships

**Financial Reporting** – Annual Financial Statements and Acquittal Statements can be submitted via RGMS. Instructions on how to do this is in the RGMS Library.

**Fellowship Mid-Term Reports** – A notification from the NHMRC will be circulated soon, advising that these will also be able to be submitted via RGMS. At this stage, Scholarship Reports will not move to RGMS.

**Transferred Grants** – Relinquishing Institutions can transfer unspent funds to Receiving Institutions via RGMS. However the NHMRC have said there can be delays.

**Travel**

The NHMRC indicated a recent change to the Travel and Conference Guidelines. Namely that research must be directly related to the research and for conferences, you must be presenting.

All overseas travel needs to be approved, generally the NHMRC benchmark is one trip, per grant, per year.

**Publications**

A revised NHMRC policy for the dissemination of research findings came into effect on 1 July 2012. You can find it here on the NHMRC Website.

**Rebuttals**

Rebuttals are critical to the peer-review process. Researchers should always reply. Rebuttals can sway the panel radically. Advice from NHMRC is to be clear, calm, and concise.

**2013 NHMRC Funding Calendar**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Activity</th>
<th>Applications Open</th>
<th>Applications Close</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Funding Initiative</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Grants</td>
<td>5 December 2012</td>
<td>19 March 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Grant</td>
<td>6 March 2013</td>
<td>5 June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centres of Research Excellence</td>
<td>28 November 2012</td>
<td>20 February 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development Grants</td>
<td>10 April 2013</td>
<td>10 July 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partnership Projects – 2012 Third Call</td>
<td>26 September 2012</td>
<td>29 January 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partnership Projects – 2013 First Call</td>
<td>30 January 2013</td>
<td>30 April 2013</td>
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<td>Partnership Projects – 2013 Second Call</td>
<td>11 May 2013</td>
<td>6 August 2013</td>
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<th>People Support</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Funding Initiative</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Fellowships</td>
<td>12 December 2012</td>
<td>13 February 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practitioner Fellowships</td>
<td>12 December 2012</td>
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<td>Career Development Fellowships</td>
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<td>TRIP Fellowships</td>
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<td>Early Career Fellowships</td>
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<td>Postgraduate Scholarships</td>
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Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) Evaluation

In 2012, the Australian Research Council (ARC) conducted the second full Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) evaluation. The aim of ERA is to identify and promote excellence across the full spectrum of research activity, including both discovery and applied research, within Australian higher education institutions.

For the purposes of ERA, research is defined as the creation of new knowledge and / or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies and understandings. This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it is new and creative.

Institutions were asked to use this definition of research when assessing the eligibility of research output for submission in ERA. Evaluation of data submitted was undertaken by eight Research Evaluation Committees, broadly representative of eight discipline clusters, further broken down into 157 specific subject areas. Results are based on various indicators including publications and citations, expert review, and international benchmarks.

UNSW Results

As a whole, ERA assessed UNSW’s performance in all broad areas of research as “at, above or well-above” world standard. For Medical and Health Sciences, UNSW scored a five which is the maximum amount of points given. This puts us in line with Deakin University, Monash University; Universities of Adelaide, Melbourne, Queensland, Sydney, and Western Australia.

More specifically (i.e. within Medical and Health Sciences), UNSW Paediatrics and Reproductive Medicine scored a three. This is also a fantastic result considering there are not many instances i.e. grants, publications, or research as a whole that indicates the FoR Code Paediatrics as 100% as it is always broken down further to sub-specialities of clinical sciences, immunology, or oncology and carcinogenesis, for example.

More Information

For more information please visit the ARC website.

Here you can view the full report along with other key documents relating to ERA including Submission Guidelines. Discipline Matrix, Journal List, and Evaluation Handbook.

You can also find the UNSW media announcement here:

http://newsroom.unsw.edu.au/news/general/world-class-research
Dr Ammira Al-Shabeeb is a Research Associate engaged in virology research in the Discipline of Paediatrics. Ammira's research interests surround type 1 diabetes, and more specifically the role of viral infections in the pathogenesis of type 1 diabetes. She is studying the cytokine profile of children with type 1 diabetes autoimmunity and enterovirus infection. Ammira's work is looking at defining the MicroRNAs signature of type 1 diabetes autoimmunity and certain enteroviruses, which can regulate critical genes correlated with biology, prognosis, and therapy of this disease.

In October, Ammira presented the abstract below at the 38th Annual ISPAD 2012 (International Society for Paediatric and Adolescent Diabetes) Annual Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey. Ammira also received a travel grant from the conference committee to the value of US$2000.

Enterovirus infection, microRNA levels and type 1 diabetes: regulation of genes involved in inflammation and human pancreatic islet cell death
Ammira Al-Shabeeb1,2, Chi Nam Ignatius Pang3, Marc R. Wilkins3, William D Rawlinson1,2,3, Maria E Craig1,2,4
1Virology Research, Prince of Wales Hospital Research Laboratories, South Eastern Area Laboratory Services, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney
2School of Women's and Children's Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales, Sydney
3School of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales, Sydney
4Institute of Endocrinology and Diabetes, the Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney
5School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Science, Faculty of Science, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.

Objective: Type I diabetes (T1D) is a chronic autoimmune disorder in which enteroviruses, such as coxsackie virus B(CVB) are possible environmental factor that can trigger or accelerate disease. Growing evidence indicates that microRNAs (miRNAs) are involved in the pathogenesis of beta cell death. miRNAs function as translational repressors and important regulators of key biological processes. We hypothesise that CVB infection of β-cells alters miRNAs abundance, thereby regulating gene expression, inducing pro-inflammatory cytokines and β-cell death.

Methods: Primary human islets were infected with CVB3,4, and 5. RNA was isolated at Day1 to day 7 post infections .miRNA analyses were performed using TaqMan miRNA Array. Each sample was assayed with an A & B card resulting in the analysis of a total of 755 miRNA. miRBase and miRWalk algorithms were used to predict possible target genes of differentially expressed miRNAs. Multivariate analysis of miRNAs and non-parametric Spearman’s correlation coefficient were used to calculate the pairwise correlation in miRNA concentrations between every pair of miRNAs. Hierarchical clustering was used to determine groups of miRNAs with similar expression patterns following EV infection. R software (Version 2.13.1) was used for correlation analyses and for creating heat maps.

Results: We identified a panel of 21 microRNAs associated with type 1 diabetes candidate genes, of which 19 are involved in the regulation of the immune system, five are transcription regulators, and four are in the Human Leucocyte Antigen (HLA) region.

Conclusions: This study provides a rich source of information about miRNAs that are differentially expressed in CVB infected human primary β islets. Our findings provide a deeper understanding of the mechanisms underlying CVB infection. Once the role of these miRNAs in the regulation of pancreatic tissue-CVBs has been determined, it will improve the protection and treatment strategies in Enterovirus infection.
### Funding Opportunities:

#### December
- **Perpetual Trustees Australia**
  - Philanthropy Annual Funding
  - Applications Close: 14th December 2012
- **Australian Rotary Health**
  - Primary Lymphoedema Scholarship
  - Bowel Cancer Scholarship
  - Pancreatic Cancer Scholarship
  - Applications Close: 14th December 2012
- **Cerebral Palsy Alliance**
  - Career Development Awards
  - Applications Close: 14th December 2012
- **BUPA**
  - Grants Program
  - Applications Close: 17th December 2012

#### January
- **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation**
  - Fault detection algorithms for risk mitigation in artificial pancreas systems
  - Insulin Sensor Initiative
  - Applications Close: 2nd January 2013
- **Cardiac Society of Australia & New Zealand**
  - CSANZ Travelling Fellowships
  - Applications Close: 18th January 2013
- **NSW Health**
  - Population Health and Health Services Research Support Program
  - Applications Close: 25th January 2013
- **NHMRC**
  - Partnership Projects
  - Applications Close: 29th January 2013
- **Australian Nurse Teachers Society**
  - Scholarship
  - Applications Close: 31st January 2013
- **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation**
  - Studies Relevant to the Prevention of Human Type 1 Diabetes
  - Applications Close: 31st January 2013

#### February
- **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation**
  - Strategic Research Agreement
  - Applications Close: 1st February 2013
- **Cardiac Society of Australia & New Zealand**
  - CSANZ / CSL Biotherapies Interventional Fellowship Award
  - Applications Close: 1st February 2013
- **Asia Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology**
  - APLAR Scholarship
  - Applications Close: 3rd February 2013
- **The Ian Potter Foundation**
  - Medical Research
  - Health & Disability Research
  - Applications Close: 5th February 2013
**Funding Opportunities Continued**

- **Food & Drug Administration**
  - Clinical Studies of Safety and Effectiveness of Orphan Products Research Project Grant
  - Applications Close: 6th February 2013

- **NHMRC**
  - Research Fellowship
  - Practitioner Fellowship
  - Applications Close: 13th February 2013

- **Thrasher Research Fund**
  - Early Career Awards
  - Applications Close: 15th February 2013

- **NHMRC**
  - Centres of Research Excellence
  - Applications Close: 20th February 2013

- **Gastroenterological Society of Australia**
  - Fresenius Krabi Junior Travel Awards
  - Applications Close: 28th February 2013

**March**

- **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation**
  - High Priority, Short-Term Bridge Awards
  - Applications Close: 1st March 2013

- **Humpty Dumpty Foundation**
  - Hospital Equipment – Neonatal & Paediatrics
  - Applications Close: 1st March 2013

- **NHMRC**
  - Career Development Fellowships
  - Applications Close: 6th March 2013

- **Dan David Prize**
  - Doctoral & Post-Doctoral Scholarships
  - Applications Close: 15th March 2013

- **NHMRC**
  - Project Grants
  - Applications Close: 19th March 2013

**Grant Applications Accepted Throughout the Year**

- **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation**
  - Conference Grants
  - Hosting conferences, scientific meetings, & workshops relevant to the JDRF mission.

- **Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds Travel Grant**
  - Short-term visits to Europe – Early Career, PhD, Post-Doc

**Coming up in 2013 – Dates to be Announced**

- **Heart Foundation**
  - Grants-in-Aid
  - Career Development Fellowships
  - Overseas Research Fellowships
  - Post-Doctoral Fellowships

- **UNSW Postgraduate Research Scholarships**
  - Semester 2, 2013 – International Students
  - Semester 2, 2013 – Domestic Students

- **Ramaciotti Biomedical Research Award**
  - February 2013.
  - Biomedical research, personnel, equipment, major infrastructure improvement.

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**International Congress of Pediatrics—ICP 2013, Melbourne**

ICP 2013 is the global meeting place for Physicians, Researchers, Nurses and Health Care Workers in the field of Pediatrics and its sub-specialties. Dedicated to promoting and improving child health and setting it as a high priority on the world agenda. Professionals in the field will convene in Melbourne for a high-level scientific program focused specifically on “Bridging the Gaps In Child & Adolescent Health.” Join leading experts to explore different opinions, treatment methodologies, and practices of pediatric and adolescent care.

**Call for Abstracts**

ICP 2013 is pleased to invite you to submit an abstract for consideration for Oral or Poster Presentation. Share your research findings and expertise with your peers, colleagues, industry leaders and top researchers.

Abstract Submission Deadline: 4th February, 2013
http://www2.lemes.com/qip/scientificPages/CallForAbstracts.aspx

**Travel Scholarships**

ICP will award 150 travel scholarships, each valued at AUD 2,000 to delegates from lower-income/developing countries, based on research abstracts submitted for presentation at the Congress through the generosity of the Victorian State Government (Australia) and the Melbourne Convention and Visitors Bureau.

http://www2.lemes.com/QIP/SCIENTIFICPages/TravelScholarships.aspx
Conference Presentations

October 2012

- **Dr Keith Ooi** was an Invited Symposium Speaker in the “All things Pancreas in Cystic Fibrosis” Symposium #26 at the North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference held in Orlando, Florida from 11-13th October. Keith’s presentation was title ‘The Pancreas in Pancreatic Sufficient Cystic Fibrosis.’

November 2012

- **Dr Jordana McLoone** presented at the Joint Meeting of the International Psycho-Oncology Society 14th World Congress and Clinical Oncological Society of Australia’s 39th Annual Scientific Meeting held in Brisbane from 13-15th November. Jordana’s abstract was titled ‘Perceptions of Melanoma Risk Among Australian Adolescents: Is this the greatest barrier to sun protection adherence and what can we do about it?’ Dr Nadine Kasparian was also a contributing author.

- **Prof Adam Jaffe** presented at the Arab Pediatric Pulmonary Association 3rd Annual Congress in Abu Dhabi from 22nd-24th November. Adam’s presentation was titled ‘Allergic Bronchopulmonary Aspergillosis diagnosis and management.’ Adam also contributed to facilitating the workshop titled ‘Cystic Fibrosis Care with Minimal Resources.’

- **Dr Keith Ooi** was an Invited Symposium Speaker in the Australian Pancreatic Club Symposium #3 at the Australian Health & Medical Congress. The title of Keith’s presentation was ‘The Pancreas in Cystic Fibrosis and how to diagnose Cystic Fibrosis.’ The Congress was held in Adelaide from 25-28th November.

Publications

October 2012:


November 2012:


December


**In Press:**


Next Edition

The next edition of the Paediatric Research Newsletter will be published on Monday 11th March 2013.

If you would like to contribute to the next edition, please contact Sam by Monday 18th February 2013.

Feedback and suggestions for content will be greatly received!

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The Discipline of Paediatrics is committed to providing excellence in education & research with the ultimate goal of improving child health outcomes.

The purpose of this group is to communicate items of interest, funding opportunities, and other important information. It is also to stimulate collaboration between researchers and establish our research community.

http://www.linkedin.com/groups/UNSW-Paediatrics-4719950

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