

# Newsletter

## Upcoming Events...

### • 21-26 February

The 4th Asia-Pacific Nutrigenomics conference 'genes, diet and gut health' will be held in Auckland, New Zealand.

### • 24-27 March

The 57th Society for Gynecologic Investigation (SGI) annual meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida, USA.

### • 28-31 March

The 14th Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand (PSANZ) annual congress will be held in Wellington, New Zealand.

### • 17-20 May

The 30th American Society for Reproductive Immunology annual meeting will be held in Pittsburgh, PA.

### • 29 May-2 June

The 9th International Society for the Study of Fatty Acids and Lipids Conference will be held in Maastricht, the Netherlands.

### • 4-11 June

The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR - SA branch) annual medical research week will be held in Adelaide.

Further information at [www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/events](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/events)

## LATEST NEWS

### HDA Travel Grants Awarded 2010

*The following students and early career researchers have been awarded a HDA Travel Grant for conference travel to present their research work.*

*Dr Kylie Dunning:* University of Adelaide - Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology. [Society for the Study of Reproduction, USA].

*Dr Mark Kohler:* University of Adelaide - Children's Research Centre. [Congress of International Pediatric Sleep Association joint meeting with Pediatric Sleep Medicine, Italy]

*Ms Wee-Ching Kong:* University of Adelaide - Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology. [RNAi and miRNA, Europe]

*Ms Catherine Milte:* UniSA - Nutritional Physiology Research Centre. [ISSFAL Conference, Netherlands]

*Ms Zhi Yi Ong (HDA Scholar):* UniSA - Early Origins of Adult Health Research Group. [11th International Congress on Obesity, Sweden]

*Ms Alicia Piteo:* University of Adelaide - School of Psychology. [Congress of International Pediatric Sleep Association joint meeting with Pediatric Sleep Medicine, Italy]

*Dr Natalie Sinn:* UniSA - Nutritional Physiology Research Centre. [ISSFAL Conference, Netherlands]

*Ms Margarita Tsiros:* UniSA - Nutritional Physiology Research Centre. [11th International Congress on Obesity and 4th Scandinavian Paediatric Obesity Conference, Sweden]

*Dr Linda Wu:* University of Adelaide - Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology. [Society for the Study of Reproduction, USA]

### HDA Scholars Program

Our second cohort of seven PhD Scholars (supported by the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation) will be commencing their Practicum Placements and Mentoring components this year.

### HDA Event Program

It's going to be another busy year with our event program. We have our annual events coming your way with four Thematic Evenings and the 6th annual Oration scheduled.

We will also be co-hosting a Food Industry Forum for Nutrition Research with the Nutritional Physiology Research Centre, UniSA. We are also planning some career development events/seminars to be run this year plus a few other events that may come through the pipe line.

I'll keep you posted via email alerts and the newsletter!

### New HDA Members

Professor Eric Gowans is the Executive Director of the Women's and Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI). Research focus in Virology - hepatitis C virus, vaccine, antivirals, cell therapy, and virus replication.

Dr Alison Coates is a senior lecturer and researcher in the Nutritional Physiology Research Centre at UniSA. Research focus in Nutrition - omega 3 fatty acids, inflammation, obesity, metabolic syndrome, bioactive nutrients, and cardiovascular health.

Mr Chee Quin Teoh is a PhD student in the Discipline of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Adelaide. Research focus on Virology - hepatitis B virus, antiviral treatment, DNA vaccine, cell-mediated immunity, and persistent virus infection.

An initiative of the University of Adelaide since 2004



HDA Partners



Women's & Children's Health Research Institute Inc.  
Research for the future health of our children



Government of South Australia  
Department of Education and Children's Services



Dr Kate Ridley is a Senior Lecturer and Joint Topic Coordinator in Physical Education in the School of Education at Flinders University.

Kate joined the School of Education at Flinders University in

2004 after completing an undergraduate degree in Exercise and Sports Science and an honours degree in Human Movement. Kate completed her PhD in 2005, where she co-developed and validated a Multimedia Activity Recall for Children and Adolescents (MARCA).

The MARCA is currently being used in a number of national and international research studies to measure children's use-of-time.

Kate's research interests include: children's physical activity and sedentary behaviour

patterns; associations between children's behaviour patterns and health-related fitness; and measurement of physical activity and energy expenditure.

Current research projects are:

- \* Development and evaluation of a Multimedia Activity Recall for Children and Adolescents.

- \* Development of a child-specific compendium of energy costs of everyday activities.

- \* Associate Investigator in the Health of Young Victorians Study (HOYVS) conducted at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (funded by the NHMRC).

Areas for Postgraduate Supervision include:

- \* Children's physical activity and sedentary behaviour patterns (e.g. measurement, trends, determinants, etc.).

- \* Associations between children's behaviour patterns and health-related fitness.

- \* Strategies to increase physical activity participation in school and community settings.

**Dr Kate Ridley**

☎ 8201 3355

✉ [kate.ridley@flinders.edu.au](mailto:kate.ridley@flinders.edu.au)

The University of Adelaide expands the frontiers of knowledge more frequently, and in more disciplines, than any other institution in South Australia. Our leading researchers, many globally recognised, relentlessly seek answers that will positively impact life on earth.

The Research Tuesdays monthly presentation series is your chance to share in some of their most fascinating discoveries.

**Research Tuesdays**

SHARING GREAT RESEARCH WITH THE COMMUNITY

### **Commanding Health**

***How controlling the movement of cells can lead the fight against cancer, infection and autoimmune disease.***

**Professor Shaun McColl**

**Tuesday 9 February, 5:30pm - 6:30pm**  
**Level 3 Ligertwood Building,**  
**Law Lecture Theatre 2 (room 333)**  
**North Terrace Campus, University of Adelaide**

#### **Synopsis**

Imperceptible to the naked eye, our bodies are in perpetual motion. Continual cellular movement is a normal, indeed vital physiological function, assisting our growth, maintenance and immune systems. When the body comes under certain forms of attack, however, it's a very different story. Cellular movement becomes our enemy, facilitating the spread of cancers and the development

of autoimmune disease. But what if that movement could be isolated and controlled? Could these pathologies be slowed, halted or even prevented?

Research at the University of Adelaide's School of Molecular & Biomedical Science appears to be saying, "Yes". And in this inspiring presentation, Professor Shaun McColl explains how.

#### **About the Speaker**

Shaun McColl is Head of Chemokine Biology and Deputy Head of the School of Molecular & Biomedical Science at The University of Adelaide. He is a former Research Fellow at the Australian National University and has over 100 published articles, reviews and book chapters.

Registrations are essential, go to

[www.adelaide.edu.au/researchtuesdays](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/researchtuesdays)

For enquiries or questions email

[research.tuesdays@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:research.tuesdays@adelaide.edu.au)

**Media release 23 December 2009 - Flinders University**

World experts meeting at Flinders University in February will try to generate a more informed understanding of, and response to, advertising 'pester power', violent computer games and the sexualisation of children in the media.

Professor Elizabeth Handsley of Flinders Law School says the often heated community debate about freedom of speech and protecting the rights of children is missing the point. "The growing consensus of researchers who have worked in the field of children and media over many years is that children's media use should be considered as a public health issue," Professor Handsley said.

"As such, it would normally be seen as an exception to absolute freedom of expression," she said.

"The debate could be better informed, as researchers and stakeholders in the field are sometimes at cross-purposes."

The *Harvard-Australia Symposium on Media Use and Children's Wellbeing*, to be held on 18 February by Flinders University and supported by the Harvard-Australian Studies Committee, will bring together leading academics and professionals with the aim of turning that situation around.

Professor Handsley hopes the symposium will make a valuable contribution to enhancing overall understanding of a vexed and complex issue. "When it comes to dealing with the media environment, parents are effectively left to their own devices," said Professor Handsley, who is Vice-President of the Australian Council

on Children and the Media and co-convenor of the Symposium.

"They are given lots of important, evidence-based advice about vaccinations, balanced diets and physical activity to help them raise healthy children. No one expects parents to develop their own polio vaccine but some people do expect them to know how to immunise their children from the influence of a complex and pervasive media environment that includes mobile phones, the Internet, targeted advertising campaigns and 'raunch' culture," she said.

Paediatrician Dr Michael Rich and his colleagues Dr David Bickham and Professor Dafna Lemish from Harvard University's Centre on Media and Child Health will share the findings of their research based on the American experience of the impact of media.

There is mounting evidence that the health and wellbeing of children and young people are adversely affected by portrayals of violence, by alcohol, smoking and drug abuse, by exposure to highly sexualised depictions and by advertising and marketing.

"The main aim of the Symposium is to bring together people from different walks of life who are engaged with children's media and to develop a mutually acceptable way of gathering research and communicating it to parents and decision-makers," Professor Handsley said.

"We want to raise awareness of the important and challenging issues in this field. And we're confident the Symposium will herald a new era for policy and regulation on children's well-being and media use."

**Early Family Support and Tackling Alcohol Abuse  
the Key to Reducing Child Abuse and Neglect****Media release 22 January 2010 - University of South Australia**

Speaking in response to release of the Australian Child Protection Statistics on 21 January, Director of the Australian Centre for Child Protection at UniSA, Professor Dorothy Scott says the child protection statistics released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare are deeply concerning.

"An increase of 9.3 per cent of children in State care in the past year is alarming," Prof Scott said.

"We should not have over 34,000 children in care in Australia today. This is not the solution and it can sometimes cause further harm. Most states are still not investing enough in the fences at the top of the cliff to prevent child abuse and neglect."

Prof Scott says what is especially concerning is the number of very young children coming to the attention of child protection authorities.

"Few parents set out to harm their children," Prof Scott said.

"All families with an infant should have access to a child and family health nurse and struggling families should be quickly linked to services which can assist them. Schools can also be best place from which services can reach out to many vulnerable families.

"The vast over representation of Aboriginal children in our child protection systems shows that this is indeed a national crisis, requiring bipartisan concerted long-term strategies, and not just in remote areas."

Prof Scott says in the past year there have been encouraging signs that governments are more willing to work together to tackle the problem of child maltreatment.

"The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children which the Council of Australian Governments approved in 2009, is a big step forward," she said.

"However, there is a long way to go in addressing the main causes of child abuse and neglect - domestic violence, parental substance dependence and mental health problems.

"Parental alcohol abuse is a central problem. Half of the children coming into State care have at least one parent with an alcohol problem and 13 per cent of Australian children live in a household with at least one adult who is regularly drunk.

"Governments can do a lot more to combat alcohol abuse and must be willing to take on vested interests such as the liquor industry. Families and communities must also accept responsibility to stop children being hurt by alcohol abuse."