

Developments

NGED Steering Group Meeting

The NGED Steering Group met on 25th July 2005 to discuss the composition of current NGED working groups, current Network programs and the processes associated with these, the introduction of a new Network program, and the feasibility of conducting wet-lab workshops in Australia. The outcomes of the discussions are outlined in this newsletter.

NGED Working Groups

Following discussions at the Steering Group Meeting, the group considered that in our second year since formation it would be good to move more of our members through the NGED working groups. Changes to our working groups are outlined below:

- Melissa Little (UQ) will replace Peter Koopman (UQ) on the Network Awareness Group.
- Michael D'Occhio's replacement on the NGED Interchange Program Group will be announced shortly.
- Peter Koopman (UQ) will replace Rob Saint (ANU) on the NGED Steering Group.

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all past and present members on all Network working groups for their support and contributions.

NGED Membership Committee

The NGED Membership Committee met in July to discuss the scientific and geographical gaps that are yet to be filled to further strengthen the Network. Proposals for new members have been discussed and invitations will be sent out shortly. Additions to our member base will be communicated to all as soon as they have been finalised.

The Membership Committee decided to capture all postdoctoral fellows, PhD students and technical support staff currently employed within NGED laboratories as 'Affiliate Members' of the NGED. An immediate outcome of this will be to facilitate communication directly between the NGED Office and all of its members by email. The 'affiliate database' will also be used for NGED reporting purposes.

Edwina Ashby has prepared a spreadsheet based on the information available from your Member Profiles to capture details of affiliate members and will ask NGED members to revise and update the details of their lab members accordingly so that the 'affiliate database' can be completed.

Wet-lab Workshops

Edwina Ashby has started to conduct a feasibility study regarding the possible establishment of wet-lab workshops in Australia. Edwina will contact members and affiliate members of the Network shortly with a brief questionnaire to identify the need for such workshops and our member's priorities / interests. The outcome of the survey will be communicated to all shortly.

NGED Forum 2006

> PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY <

The next **NGED Forum** is scheduled for **15th and 16th June 2006**.

We are currently looking for suitable venues and will advise you of the details as soon as they are available.

NGED Programs

New round of funding (existing programs)

The NGED Steering Group has decided to allocate further funding to support NGED programs in 2005. A third round of funding has been announced for the Conference Support, Conference Participation, and Laboratory Interchange schemes. Deadline for this round is 1st September 2005. Cross-Disciplinary Workshop Attendance applications are being considered on an ongoing basis.

New NGED Focus Group Award Program

Following recently received enquiries and suggestions made by delegates attending the 2005 NGED Forum, the Steering Group has decided to introduce a new scheme to support 'Focus Group/Think Tank Meetings' that lie within the objectives of the Network, i.e. strategic planning across the fields, CoE planning, or establishment of collaborations between NGED groups that cross disciplinary boundaries. The NGED Steering Group will take responsibility of the administration of the new scheme and will allocate \$15,000 towards this new scheme in 2006. Award rules and application forms are available on the NGED website. Deadline for applications for meetings in 2006 is 1st November 2005.

Closing Date	Program
01 September 05	NGED Conference Support
01 September 05	NGED Conference Participation Award
01 September 05	NGED Laboratory Interchange Program (please note the new award rules)
01 November 05	NGED Focus Group Award
Ongoing	NGED Cross-Disciplinary Workshop Attendance Award (please note the new award rules)

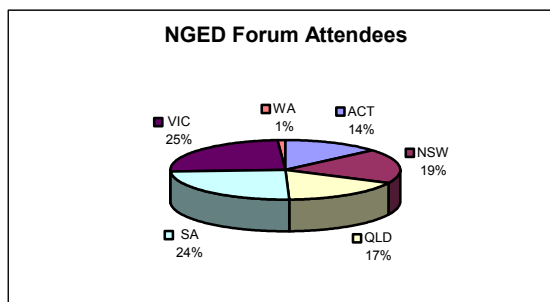
The Network anticipates further rounds of funding under the above schemes in 2006. However, these will be subject to availability of funding.

Network Programs – Financial Distribution

The tables and graphs below provide an overview of the expenditure associated with the different Network programs.

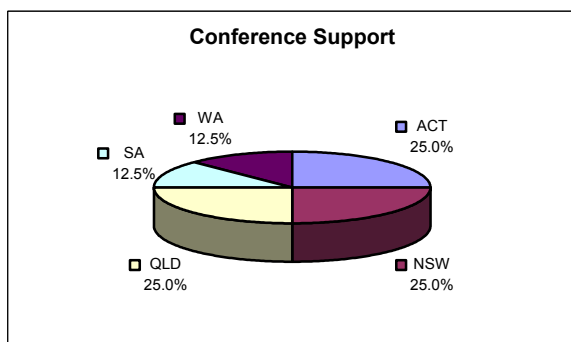
NGED Forum

The NGED Forum held in April 2005 in South Australia was attended by over eighty Network members, affiliate members and invited guests. The total costs of the NGED Forum including airfares and accommodation for invited speakers and delegates was \$39,599. The pie chart shows the geographical distribution of attendees at this meeting.



NGED Conference Support

The purpose of the NGED Conference Support Program is to assist conference organisers to provide high profile meetings in the areas of developmental biology / developmental physiology. To date, the NGED contributed \$16,000 towards seven conferences organised within Australia, which lie within the objectives of the Network. Conference contributions were sent to the organisers of the states below:

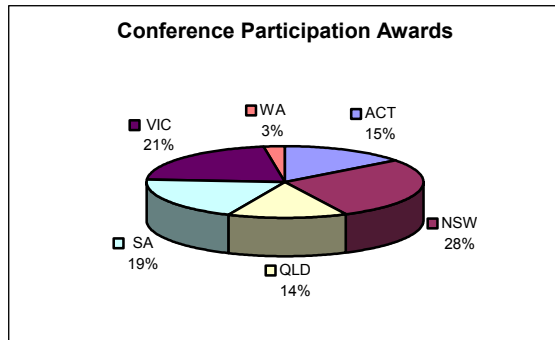


Supported conference include:

- Congress of the International Society of Developmental Biologists (ISDB) - \$4,000
- 2nd Great Barrier Reef Drosophila Conference - \$2,000
- Conference on Epigenetics Regulation of Development and Disease - \$2,000
- 32nd Intl Fetal and Neonatal Physiology Society Conference and Jeffrey Robinson Symposium - \$2,000
- 1st International Summit on SOX Developmental Transcription Factors - \$2,000
- Preterm birth – causes and consequences - \$2,000
- The 7th Australasian Zebrafish Meeting - \$2,000

NGED Conference Participation Awards

The objective of the NGED Conference Participation Award is to provide young scientists with an opportunity to present their work at a scientific forum, which they otherwise may not have been able to. To date, the Network contributed over \$39K towards supporting 70 PhD students and early career scientists from 27 Network laboratories to participate and present their work at scientific meetings. The pie chart below highlights the distribution of funds to successful applicants from the different states within Australia.

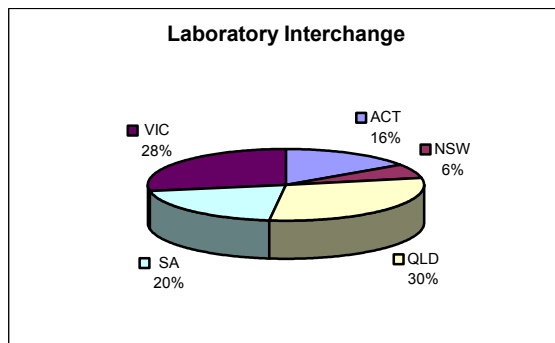


Distribution of funds:

ACT	\$ 5,800
NSW	\$10,980
QLD	\$ 5,440
SA	\$ 7,590
VIC	\$ 8,400
WA	\$ 1,000

NGED Laboratory Interchange Program Awards

The NGED Laboratory Interchange Award is available to assist NGED students, early career scientists and other members of the Network to visit other NGED laboratories to work on collaborative interdisciplinary projects, learn specialised techniques or access specialised equipment. The total support of \$15,048 allowed eight applicants to visit other laboratories.



Distribution of funds:

ACT	\$2,338
NSW	\$ 972
QLD	\$4,488
SA	\$3,050
VIC	\$4,200

NGED Cross-disciplinary Workshop Attendance Awards

To facilitate research interactions and research training activities, which cross discipline boundaries, the Cross-Disciplinary Workshop Attendance Award assists NGED students, early career scientists and other members of the Network to attend cross-disciplinary workshops (i.e. a physiology student attending a developmental biology workshop). To date, the Network has supported two applicants from Queensland and South Australia with a total contribution of \$4,946.

Grant Success

The NGED wishes to congratulate Network members Richard Harding and Stuart Hooper, Monash University, for their success in obtaining the following NH&MRC program grant:

Scientific Title: Novel strategies for improving respiratory support and outcomes for very preterm babies.

Recommended Budget: \$7,895,340

Chief Investigators

Prof Richard Harding, Colin Morley, Assoc Prof Stuart Hooper, Dr Peter Davis, Dr Timothy Cole

Lay Description

Professor Richard Harding and his team at Monash University in Melbourne will carry out a range of studies to learn more about why premature birth causes so many problems for a baby's lungs, and to improve the way premature babies with lung problems are treated.

Researchers will study the lungs of prematurely born animals closely to understand better how their lungs work, and don't work. A number of methods will be trialled to improve lung performance in prematurely born animals.

Video recordings will also be made of premature babies, to ensure that the treatment they receive is the best possible. As well, new forms of artificial ventilation in premature babies will be trialled, to find the one, which is the safest and most effective. New drugs will also be trialled to see if they improve a premature baby's chance of a healthy life.

Position Vacant

A Research Assistant position (grade subject to experience) is available at the Embryology Lab at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Melbourne. This is coupled to NHMRC Project Grant 237144 Biological and Mathematical Studies of Development of the Enteric Nervous System, and has a year's funding. An application for extension has been submitted.

The appointed person will use microdissection, organ culture, immunolabelling, image analysis, cell counting and some molecular techniques. Training in these is available. The appointed person will record procedures and results in hard and soft copy, and maintain reagents. Results and lab discussions will take place frequently in MCRI and in the Maths and Anatomy Departments at Melbourne University. The applicant may also attend the monthly MCRI Dev Biol forum, the fortnightly Cell & Axon Guidance Group at Dept Anatomy, Melbourne University, and the Victorian Developmental Biology Society meetings.

For further details please contact: [Don Newgreen](#), phone: 03-8341 6276

Upcoming Conferences

<p>3-7 Sept 2005</p>	<p>The 15th International Society of Developmental Biologists Congress, themed "From Egg to Adult: Constructing the Complexity of Life" Place: Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre on Darling Harbour. http://www.isdb2005.com/</p>
<p>8-12 Sept 2005</p>	<p>The 2nd International Great Barrier Reef Drosophila Conference Place: Cairns Colonial Club Resort, Queensland For details please visit http://www.cmgd.adelaide.edu.au/conference</p>
<p>25-28 Sept 2005</p>	<p>32nd International Fetal and Neonatal Physiology Society Conference and Jeffrey Robinson Symposium Place: Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg, SA Australia For more information please visit http://www.mbs.adelaide.edu.au/fnps2005/</p>
<p>2005 30 Sept – 3 Oct</p>	<p>Preterm Birth – Causes & Consequences Place: Fremantle Organisers: Tim Moss, Jon Hirst, John Newnham, Roger Smith & Richard Harding More information is available at http://www.obsqyn.uwa.edu.au/fnps</p>
<p>1-3 Oct 2005</p>	<p>The 2nd International Conference on Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transitions Place: Vancouver, Canada Co-chairs are Dr Shoukat Dedhar and Dr Raghu Kalluri. The International Organising Committee consists of Mina Bissell, Elizabeth Hay, Kohei Miyazono, Suresh Mohla, Donald Newgreen, Pierre Savagner, Jean-Paul Thiery, Erik Thompson, Robert Weinberg.</p>
<p>16-20 Nov 2005</p>	<p>The Third International Congress on Developmental Origins of Health & Disease Place: Toronto, Canada www.mpi-evv.com/2005DOHaD/frameset.htm</p>
<p>2005 29 Nov – 2 Dec</p>	<p>Sir Mark Oliphant Conference on "Epigenetic regulation of Development and Disease" Place: The Discovery Centre, CSIRO, Plant Industry Registration opens: February, 2005 For further information contact Jean Finnegan or visit http://www.pi.csiro.au/markoliphant-conf/</p>
<p>2006 April 3-5</p>	<p>Enteric Nervous System Development: Cells, Signals and Genes Place: Arden Conference Center, Arden House Road, Harriman, NY, USA Co-chairs are Drs Heather Young and Donald Newgreen. The International Organising Committee consists of Vassilis Pachnis, Alan Burns, Aravinda Chakravarti and Michael D. Gershon. http://www.anatomy.unimelb.edu.au/devens/index.html</p>