


### NGED Early Career Researchers Committee

The NGED has established an Early Career Researchers Committee to implement Network initiatives that promote the interaction among young scientists within the Network. The first meeting of this committee is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> March 2006 in preparation for the upcoming NGED Forum. Members of the ECR Committee are:

	<p><b>Dagmar Wilhelm</b> (chair)</p> <p>University of Queensland Institute for Molecular Bioscience <i>Brisbane</i></p>		<p><b>Hugh Morgan</b></p> <p>University of Sydney Human Reproduction Unit <i>Sydney</i></p>
	<p><b>Graeme Polglase</b></p> <p>University of Western Australia Women's and Infants' Health <i>Perth</i></p>		<p><b>Andrew Siebel</b></p> <p>University of Melbourne Physiology <i>Melbourne</i></p>

### NGED Forum 2006

> PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY <



**The 2006 NGED Forum will be held  
at the Novotel Palm Cove Resort in Queensland on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006.**

Please pencil these dates into your diary (including arrival 14<sup>th</sup> June 06 and departure 17<sup>th</sup> June 06)

The objective of the 2006 Network Forum is to bring people from different scientific backgrounds together to address the key issues of Australian research in developmental biology and developmental physiology. The Network aims to capture the "big picture" by facilitating talks from different areas of research providing an insight into how each field of research addresses questions and challenges in their field.

### Funding Opportunity

A funding opportunity exists to provide support for a specialised centre to conduct a pilot public consultation study to obtain wide societal input to inform the design of a possible large U.S.-based longitudinal cohort study of the role of genes and environment in health and disease.

<b>Title:</b>	Public Consultation to Inform the Design of Possible Large-Scale Studies of Genes and Environment in Common Disease (U01)		
<b>Issuing Organisation:</b>	National Human Genome Research Institute	<b>Application Receipt Date(s):</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2006
<b>Further Information:</b>	<a href="http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HG-06-008.html">http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HG-06-008.html</a>		

## Cross-Disciplinary Workshop

The NGED Interchange Program Group wishes to establish a series of workshops to help inform NGED members of the methodological capabilities and research activities of the many laboratories within the Network. The committee envisages that such workshops would be organised by members who work in one discipline (for example, 'fetal physiology' or 'epigenetics') to address the interests of members in other disciplines. Workshop organisers would formulate the structure and content of the workshop after liaising with NGED members in other disciplines, so that the interests and questions of those in other disciplines are appropriately addressed. The committee considers that a workshop run by a group of individuals from different laboratories would maximise the coverage of the various topics that would constitute a workshop's content.

Support from the Network would be made available to cover the costs of the workshop venue and to contribute to travel and accommodation for organisers and attendees.

At this initial stage, the committee wishes to hear from members who would be interested in organising such a workshop. A brief letter (*please refer to part A and B of the attached proforma*) expressing interest in running a workshop, including the names of the Network members who would be organisers, the discipline to which they belong, and the potential themes of the workshop (for example, existing methodologies, research interests, emerging issues, perceived gaps in capability) should be emailed to Helli Meinecke, NGED Office, Adelaide, at [helli.meinecke@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:helli.meinecke@adelaide.edu.au)

The committee would also like to hear from Network members and affiliate members, who have suggestions for workshop content (*please refer to part A and C of the attached proforma*). These need only be brief descriptions of what they would like to know more about from other disciplines (for example, those working on fetal programming might like to learn about how epigenetic modification of gene expression is measured). Suggestions should be emailed to Helli Meinecke, NGED Office, Adelaide, at [helli.meinecke@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:helli.meinecke@adelaide.edu.au)

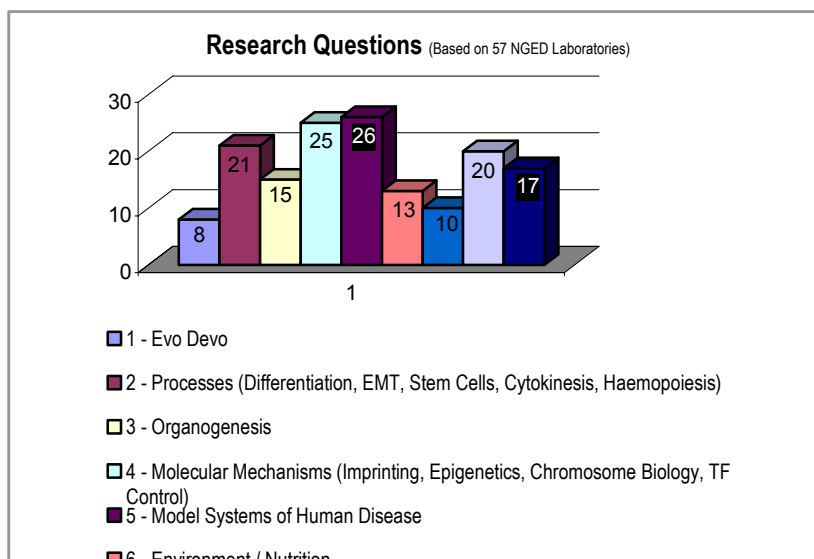
It is hoped that, through these workshops, members will become more aware of others' interests and capabilities, and will be in a better position to recognise where cross-disciplinary projects will lead to advances in their own research programmes.

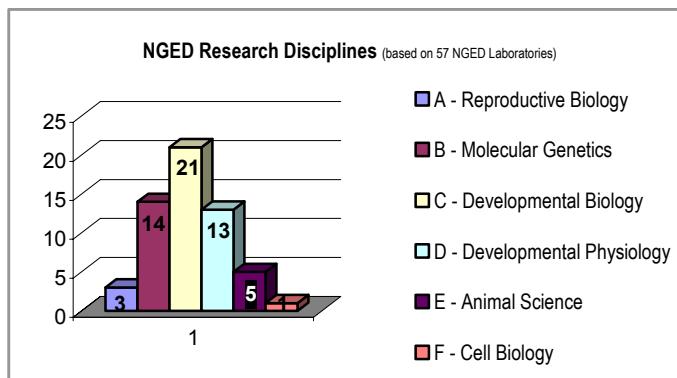
To enable the establishment of this scheme and allow for the initiation of planning for the first workshop as soon as possible, please return your suggestions and expressions of interest by 12<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

Other responses received will be kept for subsequent consideration.

## NGED Membership Mapping

The membership mapping exercise initiated by Edwina Ashby has now been completed. The outcomes (see graphs below) have been communicated to the NGED Membership Committee to provide the group with statistics highlighting the gaps in our member base. The information will be used for the recruitment of new members in 2006.





## NGED Programs

The Network has introduced a number of programs to support interactions amongst Network Members and with other researchers and research organisations from Australia and overseas. Award rules and application forms are available on the [NGED website](#). The table below provides a brief description of the programs and the application closing dates for 2006.

Closing Dates	Programs
30.04.06 31.07.06 31.10.06	<b><a href="#">NGED Conference Support Awards</a></b> 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. Preference will be given to international conferences held in Australia with an emphasis on promoting multidisciplinary interactions in order to provide the greatest benefit to NGED members from different scientific backgrounds.
30.04.06 for travel in May-July '06 31.07.06 for travel in Aug-Oct '06 31.10.06 for travel in Nov-Jan '06/07	<b><a href="#">NGED Conference Participation Awards</a></b> The purpose 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. Preference will be given to the Network's PhD students and early career researchers. Awards will not normally exceed \$500 (for meetings in Australia) or \$1,000 (for overseas meetings).
30.04.06 31.07.06 31.10.06	<b><a href="#">NGED Laboratory Interchange Award</a></b> 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.
<u>Ongoing</u>	<b><a href="#">NGED Cross-Disciplinary Workshop Attendance Award</a></b> To facilitate research interactions and research training activities, which cross discipline boundaries, the Cross-Disciplinary Workshop Attendance Award will assist 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).
30.04.06 31.07.06 31.10.06	<b><a href="#">NGED Focus Group Award</a></b> The purpose of this award is to support 'Focus Group/Think Tank Meetings' that lie within the objectives of the Network (i.e. strategic planning across the fields, Centre of Excellence planning, or establishment of collaborations between NGED groups that cross disciplinary boundaries).

Reports and summaries of the funding provided by the NGED under the above schemes can be accessed on the [NGED website](#).

## Upcoming Conferences

<p><b>2006 April 3-5</b></p>	<p><b>Enteric Nervous System Development: Cells, Signals and Genes</b>            Place: Arden Conference Center, Arden House Road, Harriman, NY, USA Co-chairs are Drs Heather Young and <a href="#">Donald Newgreen</a>. The International Organising Committee consists of Vassilis Pachnis, Alan Burns, Aravinda Chakravarti and Michael D. Gershon.  <a href="http://www.anatomy.unimelb.edu.au/devens/index.html">http://www.anatomy.unimelb.edu.au/devens/index.html</a></p>
<p><b>2006 April 7-8</b></p>	<p><b>2006 National Workshop on Fetal and Neonatal Physiology</b>            As in past meetings, the 2006 meeting will consist of free communications on completed studies, work in progress or planned studies. Topics include developmental origins of health and adult disease, development of cardiovascular function, brain development and neuroprotection, prematurity and respiratory disorders, renal development and function, placental development and function, nutrition and neonatology, among others.            Place: Rottnest Lodge, Rottnest Island, WA            For further information on registration and abstract submission details, please contact:  <a href="#">Dr Megan Probyn</a>, Dept of Physiology, Monash University, ph: (03) 9905 2564, fax: (03) 9905 2547</p>
<p><b>2006 June 15-16</b></p>	<p><b>NGED Forum</b>            Place: Palm Cove Resort, Queensland            Organisers: <a href="#">NGED Steering Group</a></p>
<p><b>2006 Aug 20-23</b></p>	<p><b>Annual Conference of the Endocrine Society of Australia and Society for Reproductive Biology</b>            Place: Jupiters Convention Centre Gold Coast, Queensland            For details please contact <a href="#">Sarah Robertson</a>.</p>
<p><b>2006 Aug 23-25</b></p>	<p><b><u>Downunder Embryo Symposium</u></b>            Place: Jupiters Convention Centre, Gold Coast, Queensland            For details please contact <a href="#">Chris O'Neill</a> .</p>
<p><b>2006 November</b></p>	<p><b><u>30th Annual Meeting of the Matrix Biology Society of Australia and New Zealand</u></b>            Place: Melbourne Convention Centre, Victoria            For details please contact <a href="#">Greg Harper</a> .</p>
<p><b>2006 November</b></p>	<p><b><u>5th Australian Developmental Biology Workshop</u></b>            Place: Whalers Inn Resort, Victor Harbor, SA            For details please contact <a href="#">Rob Saint</a>.</p>

## NGED Cross-Disciplinary Workshop / Expression of Interest

Date:			
<b>A) Member Details</b>			
Surname:		First Name:	
Department:			
Organisation:			
Telephone:		Facsimile:	
Email:			
<b>B) Workshop Details</b>			
Organisers:	<i>Please state names of organisers and the disciplines they belong to.</i>		
Workshop Themes:	<i>(For example, existing methodologies, research interests, emerging issues, perceived gaps in capability)</i>		
<b>C) Workshop Content</b>			
<i>Brief description of what you would like to know more about from other disciplines (for example, those working on fetal programming might like to learn about how epigenetic modification of gene expression is measured).</i>			