

New Members

The NGED wishes to welcome two new Network Members (member profiles can be viewed by clicking on the names).

	<p>Paul Colditz Organisation: University of Queensland Department: Perinatal Research Centre Field of Study: Perinatal health and perinatal neuroscience</p>
	<p>Marilyn Renfree Organisation: University of Melbourne Department: Zoology Field of Study: Reproductive physiology and developmental biology of marsupials, especially sexual differentiation, germ cell and gamete biology, embryonic diapause, pregnancy and parturition and comparative genomics.</p>

Awards and Achievements



2006 South Australian Young Achiever of the Year

The NGED wishes to congratulate Amanda Sferruzzi-Perri (O&G, Adelaide University) who has been named the 2006 South Australian Young Achiever of the Year. Amanda, a PhD Student in the laboratory of Dr Claire Roberts, was awarded the honour for her work investigating the growth and function of the placenta in pregnancy. Her groundbreaking research, which is laying the foundation for future therapies, is designed to stimulate placental development and improve pregnancy outcomes.



'Current Biology' Cover Image

Members and collaborators of David Miller's laboratory have recently published their work on 'Axial Patterning and Diversification in the Cnidaria Predate the Hox System' in the journal *Current Biology*. Their work was chosen for the cover of the 2006 May issue. <http://www.current-biology.com/>

NGED Annual Report 2005

The 2005 Annual Report of the NGED is now available on the [NGED website](#). The report includes information about the

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| a) Network objectives | g) Reports from NGED award winners |
| b) Governance | h) Equipment and techniques list |
| c) NGED initiatives / programs | i) Linkages |
| d) Use of funds | j) Publications |
| e) Financial Statement 2005 | k) Register of participants |
| f) Budget 2006 | |

Employment Opportunities



The Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research is currently seeking a Senior Research Officer whose primary duty will be to maintain and manage the research aquarium and a separate quarantine aquarium of their comprehensive zebrafish research facility for developmental and genetic studies. Further information about this staff vacancy is appended to this newsletter and can also be found at the [LICR website](#).

Conference Reports 2005

Twentieth National Workshop on Fetal and Neonatal Physiology

The 20th National Workshop on Fetal and Neonatal Physiology was held at Rottnest Lodge, Rottnest Island, WA on April 7-8, 2006. This was our second memorable meeting on Rottnest Island. It was attended by 51 delegates from Australia, New Zealand, UK and USA. Participants included basic scientists, neonatologists and obstetricians, as well as postgraduate trainees. As in previous workshops, the ample time allowed for discussion led to an excellent discourse between participants from all disciplines, enabling the in-depth discussion of novel concepts to the mutual benefit of all.

During the two day meeting there were 31 oral presentations (18 student presentations and 13 from established researchers) in the fields of: placental function, mechanisms of fetal brain injury and neuroprotection, control of fetal growth, fetal and neonatal medicine, fetal lung development, the influence of gender/sex on responses to intrauterine stress, the impact of prenatal infection / inflammation, and the developmental origins of postnatal health and disease. Our invited speakers, Prof Alan Jobe (USA) and Prof Donald Peebles (UK) gave excellent reviews of recent studies.

Two prizes were awarded for the best student oral presentations; the recipients were Nicole Smith from the Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne ("Responses to head-up tilting in sleeping preterm infants"), and Jennifer Henderson from the School of Women's and Infants' Health, Perth ("The effects of antenatal glucocorticoid administration on the endocrinology of lactation II in sheep").



Abstracts from this workshop meeting and photos of the participants can be viewed at the [Monash website](#).

Upcoming Conferences

2006 June 15-16	NGED Forum Place: Palm Cove Resort, Queensland Organisers: NGED Steering Group
2006 Aug 20-23	Annual Conference of the Endocrine Society of Australia and Society for Reproductive Biology Place: Jupiters Convention Centre Gold Coast, Queensland For details please contact Sarah Robertson .
2006 Aug 23-25	Downunder Embryo Symposium Place: Jupiters Convention Centre, Gold Coast, Queensland For details please contact Chris O'Neill .
2006 Sept 1-3	21st Australian Insect Molecular Biology Conference Place: Alpine Ash Mountain Retreat, Toolangi, Victoria For details please contact Lynn Jones .
2006 November	30th Annual Meeting of the Matrix Biology Society of Australia and New Zealand Place: Melbourne Convention Centre, Victoria For details please contact Greg Harper .
2006 Nov 29 - Dec 3	5th Australian Developmental Biology Workshop Place: Whalers Inn Resort, Victor Harbor, SA For details please contact Rob Saint .
2007 July 12-17	7th IBRO World Congress of Neuroscience Place: Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne, VIC For details please contact Sandra Rees

NGED Member Profiles

The member profiles on the [NGED website](#) ought to be updated on a regular basis. Please check your member profile regularly and advise the [NGED Office](#) of any changes (simply copy your member profile into a word document and highlight the necessary changes using 'tools - track changes'). Thank you for your co-operation.

NGED Programs

The Network has introduced a number of programs to support the interaction 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
31.07.06 31.10.06	NGED Conference Support Awards 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.
31.07.06 for travel in Aug-Oct '06 31.10.06 for travel in Nov-Jan '06/07	NGED Conference Participation Awards 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).
31.07.06 31.10.06	NGED Laboratory Interchange Award 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>	NGED Cross-Disciplinary Workshop Attendance Award 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).
31.07.06 31.10.06	NGED Focus Group Award 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](#).



RESEARCH OFFICER (AQUARIUM)

LUDWIG INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH
MELBOURNE BRANCH

- **International Organisation**
- **Zebrafish Research Facility**

The Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research is an international not-for-profit organisation located at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Parkville. The Institute has established a comprehensive zebrafish research facility for developmental and genetic studies, including a research aquarium and a separate quarantine aquarium. The aquaria support the work of the Colon Molecular and Cell Biology Laboratory studying intestinal epithelial cell biology and colorectal cancer and a research group of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research studying blood cell development and disease. We are currently seeking a Senior Research Officer whose primary duty will be to maintain and manage both aquaria.

The successful candidate will have an applied science/science degree or qualification in aquaculture, and possess excellent organisational and communication skills. Experience in fish husbandry techniques and competent computing skills are highly desirable.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications and the position will be available for 3 years. Generous superannuation and attractive salary packaging are available. A position description is available from our website www.ludwig.edu.au.

For further information regarding this position contact Dr. Joan Heath or Dr. Andrew Trotter; phone (03) 9341 3155 and fax (03) 9341 3104. Please forward your curriculum vitae, quoting reference number 68/2006, and the names of three referees to the Human Resources Manager, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, PO Box 2008, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Vic. 3050 or by e-mail to jobs@ludwig.edu.au Closing date for applications: May 29th, 2006.