

* **NEW** * NGED announces joint funding initiative with ARACY Research Network

The NGED and the ARACY Research Network (Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth) share a common goal of fostering new collaborations to identify and understand the complexity of factors influencing healthy development. This shared vision is to expand research capacity and create new ways of addressing research questions through new collaborations across disciplines and sectors. Expected outcomes are a better understanding of the biological, genetic, environmental and social determinants of healthy development.

To facilitate this aim the two Networks have decided to introduce a new funding program to encourage collaborations between researchers across both Networks. Together we are now inviting applications from participants from both Networks for funding to support the formation of new cross-network, multi-disciplinary collaborations, with the goal of producing useful resources and successful grant applications.

The topic area for this round of funding is:

The interaction between biological, genetic, environmental and social determinants of healthy development.

Potential applicants are welcome to discuss proposed projects and topic areas with [Prof Ann Sanson](#), ARACY Network Coordinator or [A/Prof Rob Richards](#), NGED Convenor.

The amount of funding awarded to each collaboration will be considered on a case-by-case basis, up to a maximum of \$10,000. Up to four collaborations will be supported. More information on the call for applications is available on the Network's website <http://www.nged.adelaide.edu.au/programs/>. **The closing date is 31 October, 2007.**

New Members

The NGED wishes to welcome the following new members:



Anke van Eekelen

http://www.nged.adelaide.edu.au/member_profiles/vanEekelen_Anke.html

Organisation: Telethon Institute for Child Health, Perth, WA
Email: ankev@ichr.uwa.edu.au
Phone: 08 9489 7886

Research Interest: Development Neuroscience



Janna Morrison

http://www.nged.adelaide.edu.au/member_profiles/Morrison_Janna.html

Organisation: The University of South Australia
Department: Sansom Institute, School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences
Email: janna.morrison@unisa.edu.au
Phone: 08 8302 2166

Research Interest: Fetal growth restriction and cardiovascular development



Karen Moritz

http://www.nged.adelaide.edu.au/member_profiles/Moritz_Karen.html

Organisation: The University of Queensland
Department: School of Biomedical Sciences
Email: k.moritz@uq.edu.au
Phone: 07 3365 4598

Research Interest: Developmental origins of cardiovascular and renal disease

Dates for 2008 NGED Forum

The 2008 NGED Forum and ECR Meeting will be held from
Monday, 16th June to Wednesday, 18th June 2008.

Please pencil these dates into your diary!



Steering Group Meeting

The NGED Steering Group met in July 2007 to address the suggestions/feedback received at the recent Network Forum. The outcomes of the discussion are outlined below:

1. The proposal to facilitate collaborative projects that address major national environmental problems that impact development

The NGED will make funds available to bring together a critical mass of experts to address research questions of national priority in relation to genes and the environment in development, such as

1. The increase in susceptibility to obesity
2. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
3. Causes of the alarming rise in frequency of allergies in children
4. The vulnerability of the male

The award rules and application forms will be forwarded to NGED members shortly.

2. Organisation of state meetings

The suggestion to hold state meetings that replicate the NGED Forum to involve more staff and students in interacting at a cross-disciplinary level is strongly supported by the Steering Group. However, it is expected that local meetings are organised by local committees. The initiative of local groups to undertake the organisation of these meetings will therefore be sought via the ECR committee. The Network will contribute a maximum of \$500 towards state meetings to cover expenditure associated with catering/venue hire.

3 Addressing the needs of "Mid Career Researchers"

The Early Career Researchers Committee has been asked to help determine the needs of mid career researchers. A discussion about the needs of mid-career researchers will be included in the program of the upcoming ECR conference in November. The ECR Committee has been asked to report on:

- When does the transition from ECR to MCR occur (what is a 'Mid Career researcher')
 - Strategies for ECR / MCR continuum
 - At what point is it important to establish a leadership role
 - What are the top 5 research questions in your field (multidisciplinary / integrative)
 - What can the Network do to help?
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4. Production of a booklet/pdf on various techniques / areas of interest for distribution to NGED community.

The production of a booklet on various techniques / animal models was discussed by the Steering Group. As the information on these topics is readily available on the internet, the group decided not to pursue with the production of such book at this stage.

5. Linking art and science - photographic exhibition

The proposal to link art and science through a photographic exhibition is endorsed by the Steering Group. The organisation of such event will be the responsibility of the Marketing & Communication Officer / NAG (soon to be recruited).

ECR Committee News



New ECR Committee Member

Dr Terje Svingen from Professor Peter Koopman's lab at the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland, has joined the NGED ECR Committee in July 2007. Terje's research interests are the "Molecular principles governing sex determination and differentiation in mammals". Terje, who has been involved in local ECR Committee activities, will be a great addition to the team.



ECR Conference - Moreton Bay Research Station, 28 - 30 November 2007

The NGED ECR committee would like to invite all Early & Mid Career Researchers (senior postgraduate students, postdoctoral officers/fellows, SROs, etc.) to submit an abstract to present their current research at the up-coming three day scientific conference (28th - 30th November, 2007) held at the Moreton Bay Research Station, North Stradbroke Island. The conference is open to senior postgraduate students, postdoctoral officers/fellows and senior research officers in the network. Ideally, we are looking to attract delegates across the many disciplines representing the majority (if not all) of the research labs within the network. For further information please visit <http://www.nged.adelaide.edu.au/career/#Strad>

Lab News / Grants / Awards / Prizes



Professor David Miller from the Coral Genomics Group and ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at the James Cook University in Townsville, has been awarded the "Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Short-term Invitation Fellowship" to visit the laboratory of Professor Kiyo Agata at the University of Kyoto for two months in early 2008. Agata is an authority on planarian development and molecular genetics, and has done some wonderful work on the development of the nervous system. As flatworms are amongst the simplest animals to be unambiguously bilateral, the plan is to look at consequences of knocking down the expression of some candidate regulators of axial patterning in his system. Congratulations, David. Enjoy the sashimi!



Visit the Australian Phenomics Facility (APF) booth at ComBio2007

NGED member **Dr Michael Dobbie** (Scientific Programmes Manager for Development Projects at the APF) and colleagues will be attending ComBio2007, which will be held in Sydney 22-26 September. If you are currently working with mice, or have not used mice but are wondering how they may assist your research, now is the time to talk to Michael. The APF works with researchers to produce new mouse models of human disease and development through chemical (ENU)-mutagenesis, which enables the linking of a phenotype to a point mutation. If you want to know more about the APF, the advantages of ENU-mutagenesis, or the recently-announced, NCRIS-funded infrastructure support (and for a chance to win an Ipod Nano!) come to Booth #53 at ComBio or arrange to meet Michael during the conference. If you are not attending, Michael can be contacted at michael.dobbie@anu.edu.au or Tel: (02) 6125 9117.



The August issue of the *Australasian Science* magazine (<http://www.control.com.au/>) featured a report by Network Member **Simon Koblar** (University of Adelaide) and collaborators Christine Barry and David O'Carroll: 'Frontier Technologies for Brain Repair' Engineers, geneticists and neuroscientists are working together to understand the human brain and forge a future where brain repair is beyond science fiction.

NGED Funding Programs

The Network has introduced a number of funding 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. <http://www.nged.adelaide.edu.au/programs/>

Closing Dates	Programs
31.10.2007	<p>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.</p>
31.10.2007	<p>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).</p>
31.10.2007	<p>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.</p>
Ongoing	<p>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).</p>
31.10.2007	<p>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).</p>
<u>NEW</u> 31.10.2007	<p>Joint funding initiative with ARACY Research Network The NGED and the ARACY Research Network share a common goal of fostering new collaborations to identify and understand the complexity of factors influencing healthy development. Expected outcomes are a better understanding of the biological, genetic, environmental and social determinants of healthy development. To facilitate this aim the two Networks have decided to introduce a new funding program to encourage collaborations between researchers across both Networks. The topic area for this round of funding is: The interaction between biological, genetic, environmental and social determinants of healthy development.</p>

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

What's On....

28.10.07 – 01.11.07	<p>7th Pan Pacific Connective Tissue Societies Symposium incorporating the 31st Annual Meeting of the Matrix Biology Society of Australia and New Zealand 28th October - 1st November 2007</p> <p>Shangri-La Resort, Cairns, Australia Invited speakers include: Reinhard Fassler (Germany), David Eyre (USA), Kaz Nagata (Japan), Chris Overall (Canada), Yoshi Ninomiya (Japan), Kevin Campbell (USA), Eri Arikawa-Hirasawa (Japan), Raija Soininen (Finland), Kishore Prayaga (AU), Amanda Fosang (AU), Kathy Cheah (HK), Bruce Caterson (UK), Stan Gronthos (AU), Matt Warman (USA), Zhongjun Zhou (HK).</p> <p>Registration and Abstract submission: http://www.connectivetissue2007.org/</p>
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<p>01.11.07 – 02.11.07</p> 	<p>Monash Healthy Start to Life Research Initiative Healthy Start for a Healthy Life: The Wintour's Tale DOHaD Satellite Conference In recognition of the career of Professor Marelyn Wintour FAA Nov 1-2, 2007 Grand Hyatt Melbourne</p> <p>The Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) is quickly emerging as a major new research focus in basic and clinical medicine. In essence, DOHaD research focuses on the early origins of adult health and disease, as we are learning that the origins of many adult chronic diseases can be traced back to our embryonic, fetal and early childhood development. This Satellite Meeting, an initiative of the Monash Healthy Start to Life research initiative, is being held to recognise the outstanding contributions to this field by Professor Marelyn Wintour FAA. The Satellite will showcase our current understanding of the early origins of health and disease. The programme will include presentations from leading national as well as international researchers in this field.</p> <p>For further information please visit www.asnevents.net.au/dohad</p>
<p>04.11.07 – 07.11.07</p>	<p>Epigenetics 2007 4 – 7 November 2007 Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre For further information please visit http://www.epigenetics2007.com/index2.htm</p>
<p>06.11.07 – 10.11.07</p> 	<p>5th International Congress on Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) 6 – 10 November 2007 Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre</p> <p>The NGED ECR committee, in conjunction with the Network Awareness Group, are delighted to be a major congress sponsor for the upcoming 5th International Congress on Developmental Origins of Health & Disease to be held in Perth, Western Australia on the 6th-10th of November. DOHaD is emerging as one of the most significant forms of international research in determining the prevention and treatment of many child and adult illnesses. One of the most impressive selection of world experts will be speaking on a number of topics encompassing the major disciplines of the Network focusing on finding global solutions for the origins of disease. One of the exciting sessions for early career researchers will be a breakfast symposium with Nobel Laureates Professor Barry Marshall and Dr Robin Warren present their career paths from ECR to Nobel Prize winner. The talk entitled "Helicobacter pylori – the origins of a Nobel Prize" will be followed by an open panel question time allowing ECRs a unique opportunity to ask questions of the Nobel Laureates. The conference also incorporates a joint session with the 2007 Epigenetics Scientific Conference, also supported by NGED. DOHaD not only consists of an excellent scientific program, but an exceptional social program consisting of a Melbourne Cup Day Lunch, Barbecue and Social Afternoon and the Gala Dinner. This meeting is a must for all network members, so tell your colleagues, friends and family, and join us in Perth for the DOHaD 2007 conference. For more information, check out www.dohad2007.org.</p>
<p>07.11.07 – 11.11.07</p>	<p>6th Australian Developmental Biology Workshop 7 - 11 November 2007 North Stradbroke Island, Queensland, Australia For further information please visit http://www.imb.uq.edu.au/devbiology</p>
<p>28.11.07 – 30.11.07</p> 	<p>NGED Early Career Researchers' Meeting 28 - 30 November 2007 Moreton Bay Resaerch Station, North Stradbroke Island, QLD</p> <p>For further information please visit http://www.nged.adelaide.edu.au/career/#Strad</p> 

Please contact the [NGED Office](#) if you are aware of any upcoming events that are not yet listed in the [NGED Events Calendar](#).