

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!



Network Awareness Group News

The NGED Network Awareness Group met at the University of Adelaide – a meeting that welcomed me on-board as the marketing and communications officer and enabled us to extensively plan the year ahead.

Ideas and visions, short and long term objectives of what the network awareness group would like to achieve were discussed. NGED aims to continue to grow and operate at a maximum capacity in Australia and seeks to continue the network well beyond 2009. The main aim is that there is an increased awareness amongst the public, scientists, industry and the education sector of (i) who NGED is, (ii) what we do and (iii) the communication of the incredible benefit that scientific collaboration and research provides to the community.

I am now commencing communications with target groups that have been identified, producing promotional publications & materials and organising events and exhibitions. Early in the new year I will be visiting members' laboratories to meet with NGED members and affiliate members, institutions' media and communications units & with staff running science education and outreach programs. You will be hearing from me shortly to arrange meetings.

Briefly, in 2008 the network will be increasingly involved in public events, exhibitions, and talks with industry, government departments and non-government organizations to raise awareness of, & opportunities for, NGED. NGED's health priority research summits will be coordinated to facilitate and increase collaborative research within the network. In addition, we intend to further promote the Network to member and non-member scientists at NGED supported conferences. In the new year a photographic/image competition will be announced for NGED members, so start preparing your favourite shots!

Happy Christmas to you and your families and all the best for the new year.

Marina Delpin
NGED Marketing & Communication Officer

Vacancies

Research Assistant Positions available in the Research Centre for Reproductive Health

The Research Centre for Reproductive Health (RCRH) is seeking applications from highly motivated and enthusiastic individuals for two Research Assistant positions available within the Ovarian and Oocyte Biology Research groups. The RCRH within the School of Paediatrics and Reproductive Health at the University of Adelaide is at the international forefront of fundamental reproductive biology research and clinical reproductive medicine. For further information please refer to the advertisement appended to this newsletter.

Applications close Monday 14th January 2008.

1. NGED Early Career Researcher Scientific Meeting - REPORT

As a new initiative of the NGED program, ECRs from around the country arrived in Queensland for the *1st NGED Early Career Researcher Scientific Meeting* running from 28th to 30th November.



The location was the Morton Bay Research Station at North Stradbroke Island, a half-hour boat trip outside Brisbane. The meeting had a clear agenda; "to foster collaborations and encourage interactions between ECRs within the NGED", and with 39 delegates from around 30 research laboratories, everything was set for a successful outcome.

After midday arrival and a social lunch, the meeting was officially underway with an opening greeting from the ECR committee chair Andrew Siebel and the NGED network conveyor Rob Richards. The organising committee had decided on giving all delegates the opportunity to present their work as oral presentations and PhD student Zoe Ireland from the Walker laboratory at Monash University had been granted the prestigious first spot and opened what was to become a long series of high quality scientific talks. Sincere enthusiasm from both presenters and the audience created a perfect atmosphere for scientific



debates and interactions between delegates. As intended, the ECRs from all stages in their career felt comfortable in this unique setting and valuable connections were established across the board.

In addition to the ECR delegates three NGED lab leaders were present: Marilyn Renfree (University of Melbourne), Emma Whitelaw (Queensland Institute of Medical Research) and Rob Richards (University of Adelaide). These colleagues offered additional insight both towards the scientific content of the meeting and through sessions on career-building and grant / fellowship schemes. The combined information given by Rob, Marilyn and Emma through the special program session will be of great use for everyone who participated, from PhD to post-docs and the delegates were keen on thanking the group leaders for sharing their valuable time by being present at the scientific meeting.



Overall, the 1st NGED ECR Scientific Meeting turned out to be a great success, and although the program was extremely busy, the delegates kept a high spirit throughout lasting until the very last wrap-up session Friday lunch. Again, Andrew Siebel addressed the delegates on behalf of the ECR committee, thanked everyone from the delegates through to the NGED steering group for their funding support and also announced his plans on stepping down from the ECR committee come 2008. As a final note, winners of the best PhD and post-doc presentations were announced and went to Marc Mazzuca (University of Melbourne) and Andrew Pask (University of Melbourne), respectively, as voted for by a panel of ECR delegates.

Terje Svingen
NGED ECR Committee

NGED Events Calendar

The NGED Events Calendar is available at <http://www.nged.adelaide.edu.au/seminars/>

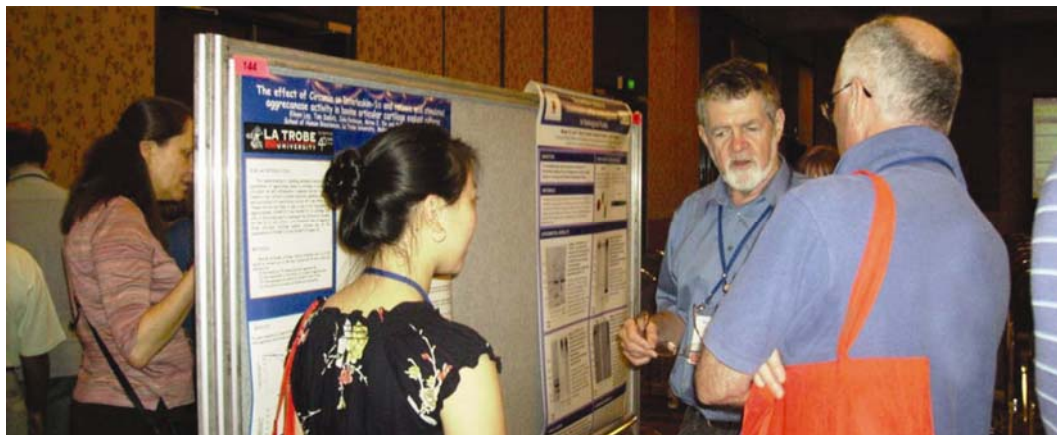
If you are aware of any meetings in 2008 / 2009 that are not yet included in the calendar, please let Helli Meinecke know by email to helli.meinecke@adelaide.edu.au

7th Pan Pacific Connective Tissue Societies Symposium - REPORT

Raising money for basic science conferences is never easy, but raising money for multidisciplinary meetings, hosted by collaborating societies around the Pacific basin, when the focus of many funders has shifted towards regional commercialisation of science, presents a particular challenge. Hence the organisers of the "PPCTSS" were particularly grateful for the early support of the NGED.

The Symposium took place in Cairns between the 28th of October and the 1st of November this year. One hundred and forty delegates came from 12 countries, and we were particularly satisfied to welcome a contingent of 34 Japanese scientists to complement our regular Matrix Biology Society members (about 70 active).

The scientific program committee, chaired by Shireen Lamande, assembled an impressive array of oral presentations that encompassed the leading edges of fundamental knowledge (e.g. Reinhard Fassler), analytical techniques (e.g. Chris Overall), clinical investigations (e.g. Danny Chan) and medical device innovations (e.g. David McQuillan), where the theme was consistently matrix biology and its applications. Dr Mandy Fosang received the MBSANZ's most prestigious award, the Barry Preston Award for her outstanding work in cartilage degrading enzymes in development and disease.



As above, raising sponsorship money is often difficult and in this context we were very happy to receive the support of Life Cell (USA), Glycoforum, the International Society of Matrix Biology (Elsevier), and from trade associates, BD Biosciences, DKSH, Genesearch, KI Scientific, Millenium Science, Millipore, Sapphire Bioscience and Crondar for the meeting.

MBSANZ meetings are renowned for informality and conviviality and the PPCTSS was no exception. The venue (Shangri-La Resort) in downtown Cairns had the benefits of proximity to the pubs and clubs of the CBD, and whilst a little expensive for many members, was attractive for the more senior researchers in the program.

So congratulations again to our fellow organising committee members, and thanks to the NGED for its foundational financial support.

Drs Greg Harper and Shireen Lamande

Co-convenors; Past and current MBSANZ Presidents respectively

2008 ARC and NHMRC Grant Funding

NGED Members have been successful in attracting over \$17M in ARC and NHMRC grant funding commencing in 2008. Congratulations to all! A spreadsheet outlining the grant funding details is attached to this newsletter.

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
31.01.2008	<u>NGED Conference Support Awards</u> 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.
31.01.2008	<u>NGED Conference Participation Awards</u> 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).
31.01.2008	<u>NGED Laboratory Interchange Award</u> 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.
Ongoing	<u>NGED Cross-Disciplinary Workshop Attendance Award</u> 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).
31.01.2008	<u>NGED Focus Group Award</u> 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).

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

Merry Christmas!



Wishing you and your families
a Wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The NGED Steering Group.



Research Centre For Reproductive Health
DISCIPLINE OF OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

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CRICOS Provider Number 00123M

Research Assistant Positions available in the Research Centre for Reproductive Health

The Research Centre for Reproductive Health (RCRH) is seeking highly motivated and enthusiastic applications for two Research Assistant positions available within the Ovarian and Oocyte Biology Research groups. The RCRH within the School of Paediatrics and Reproductive Health at the University of Adelaide, is at the international forefront of fundamental reproductive biology research and clinical reproductive medicine.

The Ovarian and Oocyte Biology Research groups headed by Dr Darryl Russell and Dr Robert Gilchrist have a fundamental cell biology research focus, investigating the cellular communication between female germ cells and ovarian somatic cells that promote fertility and healthy embryo development. Experiments will focus on cell and embryo culture determination of intra-cellular signalling mechanisms, and molecular and biochemical markers of ovarian cell function and post-fertilisation embryo developmental potential, primarily using animals models, but also in a clinical context.

The successful applicant should have:

- Honours degree or equivalent in Science, Health Science, or a related discipline.
- Demonstrated skills and prior experience in cellular and molecular biology techniques.
- The ability to work within a research group and self-motivation to work independently.
- Good written (eg. technical reports and record keeping) and oral communication skills.

These two full-time positions are jointly funded by NHMRC and ARC grants awarded for 2008-2010, and will be appointed on an annual fixed term basis. Expressions of interest addressing the criteria above and a full CV including an academic transcript, residency details and the names, addresses, and contact details of three referees should be sent to Dr Robert Gilchrist robert.gilchrist@adelaide.edu.au Applications close Monday 14th January 2008.

Grant Application Outcomes for funding commencing in 2008

Caroline McMillen, Janna Morrison	Prof Isabella McMillen, Dr Catherine Suter, Dr Janna Morrison, Dr Severence MacLaughlin	Uni SA	NHMRC Project Grant	Epigenetic Programming of the Hypothalmo-Pituitary-Adrenal Axis	528,750
Klaus Matthaei	Prof Caryl Hill, Dr Klaus Matthaei	ANU	NHMRC Project Grant	The role of connexins in blood pressure regulation: Use of a conditional gene expression system	560,500
Klaus Matthaei	Dr Mark Hulett, A/Pr Klaus Matthaei	ANU	NHMRC Project Grant	Dissecting the function of heparanase in inflammatory disease using genetic tissue-specific ablation	557,750
Klaus Matthaei	Prof Paul Foster, Prof Rakesh Kumar, A/Pr Klaus Matthaei, Dr Joerg MATTES	ANU	NHMRC Project Grant	The role of microRNAs as new anti-inflammatory targets for the treatment of asthma	600,375
Miranda Grounds	Prof Miranda Grounds, Dr Peter Arthur, Dr Thea Shavlakadze	UWA	NHMRC Project Grant	IGF-1 As A Therapeutic Agent: How Does IGF-1 Affect Oxidative Stress In Dystrophic And Aged Skeletal Muscle?	523,750
Murray Whitelaw	A/Prof ML Whitelaw	UoA	ARC Discovery Grant	Single Minded 2: Cross coupling or specificity within the bHLH/PAS transcription factor family?	330,556
Paul Colditz	Paul Colditz	UQ	NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship		600,000
Paul Colditz	Dr Kathryn Buller, Prof Paul Colditz, A/Pr Glenda Gobe	UQ	NHMRC Project Grant	Mechanisms contributing to long-term neuronal loss after hypoxia-ischemia in the premature neonate brain.	574,875
Paul Colditz	Prof JB Mattingley; Dr R Cunningham; Dr RL Hester; Dr MA Bellgrove; Prof OV Lipp; Dr GM Wallis; Prof IM Brereton; Prof GJ Galloway; Dr GI de Zubicaray; Prof S Crozier; Prof PB Colditz; Prof GA Jull; Prof PW Hodges; Prof M Coltheart; Prof S Crain; Dr MA Williams	UQ	ARC LIEF Grant	A 3.0 Tesla MRI system for human cognitive neuroscience research	650,000
Peter Currie	Peter Currie	VCCRI	NHMRC Research Fellowship		600,000
Peter Currie	A/Pr Peter Currie	VCCRI	NHMRC Project Grant	Molecular and cellular basis for muscle regeneration in zebrafish	519,250
Peter Farlie, Carol Wicking	Dr Peter Farlie, Dr Carol Wicking, Prof Marianne Bronner-Fraser	Monash	NHMRC Project Grant	Functional screening of novel genes in craniofacial development	518,250
Rob Richards	A/Pr Robert Richards, Dr Louise O'Keefe	UoA	NHMRC Project Grant	Common Fragile Site Genes: Function and Contribution to Cancer Cell Biology	454,875
Sally Dunwoodie	Sally Dunwoodie	VCCRI	NHMRC Research Fellowship		600,000
Sally Dunwoodie	A/Prof SL Dunwoodie; Dr DB Sparrow	VCCRI	ARC Discovery Grant	A role for Cited2, Transforming Growth Factor beta and matrix metalloproteinases in trophoblast invasion and placenta formation	252,000
Stuart Hooper	A/Pr Stuart Hooper, Prof Robert Lewis, Dr Bruce Thompson, Prof Kerry Hourigan	Monash	NHMRC Project Grant	Phase contrast X-ray imaging of the lung at birth	498,593
Stuart Hooper	Prof K Hourigan; Prof MC Thompson; A/Prof SB Hooper; Dr JT Pearson; A/Prof RG Evans; Dr KM Denton; Dr T Leweke	Monash	ARC Discovery Grant	Engineering Imaging and Supercomputer Prediction of Biofluid Flows	350,000
Vicki Clifton	Vicki Clifton	Uni Newcastle	NHMRC Research Fellowship		600,000

17,189,869