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Australasian Society of
Clinical and Experimental
Pharmacologists and Toxicologists

May 2012 E-news

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President's Message

In case you had not yet realised this, our ASCEPT website has a number of forums – clinical pharmacology, drug discovery, drug disposition and response, pharmacogenomics, toxicology, urogenital and gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, and education. I hope you all have a chance to look at these and maybe even contribute to them as well.

There has been some great discussion on the Clinical Pharmacology forum over the last couple of weeks. It has been fascinating to see the very strong opinions expressed by some of our most senior and respected members. The thread was started when a posting was made about a seemingly arcane subject – that the Therapeutics Goods Administration is seeking comments on a draft guideline for on “Evidence Required to Support Indications for Listed Medicines”. This has led to a spirited discussion about evidence based medicine, complementary medicines, the role of regulatory bodies and basic philosophies that underpin clinical pharmacology. It has demonstrated really well how a forum can operate and contribute to the culture of our society. It is also a great way to learn. Please sign up to your forum, read and contribute.

By the way ASCEPT is preparing a submission in response to the TGA about their draft report (due May 18th) -- if you are interested in contributing contact Matt Doogue: mdoogue@gmail.com or leave your comments on the Clinical Pharmacology forum.

David Le Couteur

President, ASCEPT

ASCEPT Upcoming Events

ASCEPT NZ Conference

27 - 29 August 2012, Queenstown as part of the annual MedSci conference

Registration opens early May. [Read more information](#)

ASCEPT-APSA Joint Meeting 2012

2 - 5 December, Sydney

Theme: Medication Safety

Pre-register your interest by emailing the Secretariat: ascept@clems.com.au

ASCEPT Clinical Weekend 2012 - outstanding clinical toxicology talks

The third annual ASCEPT Clinical Weekend was hosted by St.Vincents Hospital, Sydney, April 28-29. The weekend is a mix of trainee presentations and clinical education. This years theme was Clinical Toxicology and the weekend piggy-backed with the Australian Toxicology Poisons Network Meeting. Several trainees attended both meetings and we had some outstanding clinical toxicology talks from senior ASCEPT members including Ian Whyte, Geoff Isbister, Andrew Dawson, Noel Cranswick and Nick Buckley. A special thanks to Darren Roberts for his organisation and to CMAX for sponsoring the trainee prize. This years prize winner was Dr Tilenka Thynne of Flinders Medical Centre for Blood donors on medications, assessing the risk of teratogenicity in the recipients of blood products. The Clinical SIG will host a workshop on therapeutic drug monitoring prior to the annual scientific meeting in December.

Matt Doogue
Chair, Clinical SIG

REMINDER: Call for Nominations for ASCEPT representatives on three committees

ASCEPT has representation on the following committees associated with Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM). Nominations are invited from ASCEPT members to fill the following positions:

RACP QAP Chemical Pathology Advisory Group

Requirements: association with a lab performing TDM and exposed to RCPAQAP program.

Pathology Associations Council

Requirements: DM advocate

Pathology Associations Council Workforce Committee

Requirements: TDM advocate

Nominations should be forwarded to the ASCEPT Secretariat email ascept@clems.com.au.

Life Membership - Call for Nominations

ASCEPT Council welcomes the nomination of eligible members of ASCEPT for Life Membership. Members who have reached the age of 65 years or have retired from their full time position who have contributed to the Society may be nominated.

Please forward suggestions for further consideration by ASCEPT Council to ASCEPT Secretariat (ascept@clems.com.au) by **Thursday 21 June 2012**. A statement outlining the achievements of the nominee may

also be included.

ASCEPT constitution: Section 28 (b) Life Members

Life Members who have reached the age of 65 years or have retired from their full time position and who have contributed to the Society may be nominated by Council as Life Members and elected as Life Members by the Annual General Meeting. Life Members shall be entitled to the privileges of membership of the Society including voting rights, they will not however be called upon to pay their annual subscription. Life Members shall also be entitled to receive free registration to ASCEPT Scientific meetings. However, where a scientific meeting is being delivered in partnership or under contract with another organisation (eg., IUPHAR, IUTOX, ASMR), only the portion of the fee relating to ASCEPT can be waived.

Employment Opportunitites

Senior Lecturer, Pharmacology/Clinical Pharmacy, Sydney Nursing School, University of Sydney

Closing date: 13 May 2012. [Read more information](#)

Lecturer (Teaching and Research), Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, The University of Melbourne

Employment Type: Full-time fixed term position available to 31 May 2015. Closing date: 27 May 2012. [Read more information](#)

Research Australia Update

Policy Alert

The Victorian Government has generally spared Victoria's scientific research community from the savings measures introduced in the budget announced on 1 May 2012. Existing capital works such as the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre proceed and other programs are also continued. The Victorian Cancer Agency, which was initially funded in the 2008/09 budget for four years, has been allocated funding for a further four years. There is even some new money to support innovation and recognise science researchers. [Read more information](#)

Research Australia Awards

The Research Australia Awards recognizes and celebrates achievement and contribution to the landscape of health and medical research in Australia. Awards are presented for areas such as discovery, advocacy, philanthropy and lifetime achievement, in front of an assembled audience representing Research Australia's member community, supporters, the business community, politicians, and other notable guests. The process for selecting award winners is one which takes many months and begins with your considered nomination of an outstanding individual or organization.

If you have any questions regarding the nomination process or the Awards Dinner itself, please contact Melissa Harris on 02 9295 8546 or melissa.harris@researchaustralia.org. Must be a member of Research Australia. Nominations should reach Research Australia by no later than **1 June 2012**. [Read more information](#) and [download nomination form](#).

Science and Technology Australia Media Release

"Science & Technology Australia welcomes the strategic investment in science and maths education and measures to boost funding for science and research in the 2012/13 Federal Budget'.....[Read more information](#)

Call for IUPHAR Executive Nominations

IUPHAR invites nominations by **October 31, 2012** for the following positions on the IUPHAR Executive Committee for the period between the international meetings in 2014 and 2018:

- President
- Secretary general
- Treasurer
- First vice president
- Second vice president
- Five (5) councilors".....[Read more information](#)

Royal Society of New Zealand News

The 2012 Prime Minister's Science Prizes open

The Prime Minister's Science prizes are New Zealand's pre-eminent annual awards for excellence in science. The Government of New Zealand introduced the Prime Minister's Science Prizes in 2009 as a way to raise the profile and prestige of science in New Zealand. Each year five prizes are awarded, with prize money totalling 1 million dollars. Submissions close **24 July**. [Read more information](#)

The following suite of medals and awards is being offered in 2012 by the Royal Society of New Zealand. Closing date for nominations **Saturday 30 June 2012**. [Read more information](#)

Forthcoming Meetings and Events

Collaborate Innovate 2012, CRC Association, Adelaide, 15-17 May

The meeting will feature high-level keynote speakers, lots of new information, and a highly interactive format. The sessions are designed to stimulate your thinking and provide you with skills to take away, whether you lead a collaborative research venture, promote it to the public, administer its taxes or are a potential participant in a new collaboration.....[Read more information](#)

2nd Annual World Congress of Molecular & Cell Biology (CMCB-2012): Beijing, China, May 18-20

The conference is dedicated to fundamental knowledge and cutting-edge developments in all areas of cellular and molecular biology. Certain aspects of basic research, functional genomics and genetics, application of innovative technologies, mechanisms of severe diseases, microbial molecular and cell biology, plant/animal molecular and cell biology. It will gather for world-leading scientists from different research areas and with varied expertise, also with a shared interest in new and significant information. The program includes invited lectures, co-current session talks, and young scientists' forum.....[Read more information](#)

Writing for Science Course, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, 22–23 May

This Professional and Executive Development course will give you a stimulating introduction to the techniques of science writing. It combines an examination of the concepts and techniques involved in science writing with practical writing workshop sessions and critical class discussion of your written work. [Read more information](#)

Advanced in in-vitro cell culture and 4th Annual Quasi-Vivo User Group Meeting, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 22-23 May

A symposium on the latest techniques for cell culture, in-vitro testing and toxicity, regenerative medicine and modelling of disease. [Read more information](#)

European Association of Poisons Centre and Clinical Toxicologists XXXII International Congress, London, 29 May - 1 June

[Read more information](#)

International Conference on Environmental Health, Seoul, Korea, 31 May - 1 June

The theme for the conference is "Enhancing human safety through advancing toxicological technology & climate change and environmental health". [Read more information](#)

NOX Biology and its Translation to Human Disease and Therapy, Waterville Valley Resort, Waterville Valley, NH 2 - 8 June

[Read more information](#)

Transit of Venus Forum – Lifting our Horizon, Gisborne, New Zealand, 5-8 June

Join delegates from the science, business, iwi and government communities at the Transit of Venus Forum to hear some of New Zealand's leading thinkers advance Sir Paul Callaghan's vision for New Zealand – a place where talent wants to live – a community that is prosperous and inclusive. [Read more information](#)

ARCS Sydney Congress, Sydney, 6-7 June

This year ARCS is running a congress with 90 speakers, 31 sessions and five streams of content for those in Clinical Research (Australia and Asia), Study Coordinators and Data Managers, Medical Affairs, Pharmacovigilance, Medical Writing, and Management. [Read more information](#)

12th Annual Neonatal Pharmacology conference, Washington DC, USA, 7-9 June

Designed for NICU professionals including neonatologists, nurse practitioners, clinical pharmacists, nurse managers and experienced staff nurses. This year's new Preconference on Neonatal Cardiology will cover advances in medications that are most effective in managing cardiac complications. [Read more information](#)

International Conference on Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Medicine, Copenhagen, Denmark, 11-12 June

The XXXIII. International Conference on Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Medicine aims to bring together academic scientists, leading engineers, industry researchers and scholar students to exchange and share their experiences and research results about all aspects of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Medicine, and discuss the practical challenges encountered and the solutions adopted. [Read more information](#)

EUROTOX 2012, Stockholm, Sweden, 17-20 June

The Eurotox 2012 scientific programme spans the variety of interests for academia, industry and regulatory agencies from around the world and covers the significant developments and achievements in science and in regulation. [Read more information](#)

XVI International Symposium on Olfaction and Taste (ISOT), Stockholm, Sweden, 23-27 June

Brings together scientists working on chemosensory sciences from all over the world. [Read more information](#)

7th International Workshop on Clinical Pharmacology of Hepatitis Therapy, Cambridge, MA, USA, 27-28 June

The objective of the workshop is to provide a forum for discussion of topics related to clinical pharmacology of current and future drugs in the treatment of viral Hep B and Hep C. [Read more information](#)

Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia Incorporated (HERDSA) Conference, Hobart, 2-5 July

The main theme for the 2012 HERDSA International Conference is Connections in Higher Education. Conference delegates will explore the policies, research, leadership and student outcomes we should be pursuing in higher education world-wide to establish and sustain our connections with the entire sector. [Read more information](#)

6th International Congress of Asian Society of Toxicology (ASIATOX-VI), Sendai, Japan, 17-20 July
[Read more information](#)

6th Congress of Pharmacology, Granada, Spain, 17-20 July

The program will ensure the participation of the most relevant speakers in the different fields of Pharmacology, and will be planned to make it attractive to all pharmacological scientists, with a special emphasis for young investigators. [Read more information](#)

World Congress on Risk 2012, Sydney, 18-20 July

Theme: Risk and Development in a Changing World. [Read more information](#)

Research Australia's Philanthropy in Health & Medical Research Conference – 'The Funding Formula', Melbourne, 13-14 August

Research Australia recognises that in today's competitive funding space, our members and other health and medical research organisations often rely on a diverse range of strategies and income streams to fund their research and operations. These strategies will often require different skills, resources and knowledge bases, and can at times have conflicting requirements. It is the aim of the 2012 Philanthropy in Health & Medical Research Conference to address some of these areas and promote discussion in the Research Australia community as to how we can, not just juggle but manage this diversity to make it work for us. [Read more information](#)

17th European Congress on Alternatives to Animal Testing - LINZ 2012 and 14th Annual Congress of EUSAAT – EUSAAT 2012, Austria, 5-8 September

Call for posters closes 31 May. [Read more information](#)

World Congress for Health and Safety 2012, London, 8 - 9 September

URMPM (Union of Risk Management for Preventive Medicine) [Read more information](#)

Abstract submission deadline extended until **15 May**

8CTDC Congress on Toxicology in Developing Countries, Bangkok, Thailand, 10-14 September

[Read more information](#) and [travel fellowship awards](#)

North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology (NACCT), Las Vegas, USA, 1-6 October

[Read more information](#)

European Society of Toxicology In Vitro 2012 International Conference (ESTIV2012), Portugal, 16-19 October

[Read more information](#)

Research Australia Awards, Sydney, 14 November

The Research Australia Awards recognizes and celebrates achievement and contribution to the landscape of health and medical research in Australia. [Read more information](#)

51st American College of Neuropsychopharmacology Annual Meeting, Florida, USA, 2-6 December

The ACNP Annual Meeting is open only to members and their invited guests. The Annual Meeting is one of the world's leading forums for the exchange of cutting edge scientific information about the brain, behavior, and psychotropic drugs. [Read more information](#)

The 2nd International Conference on Prehypertension and Cardio Metabolic Syndrome, Barcelona, Spain, 31 January - 3 February 2013

The Conference will aim to deal with all aspects related to early diagnosis, including innovative technologies and treatments, as well as bringing together professionals from the fields of Hypertension, Diabetes, Lipidology, Cardiology, Nephrology, Endocrinology, Internal Medicine, Pharmacology and more. [Read more information](#)

The International Symposium on Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Paris, France, 7-10 March, 2013

Over the years, ISOPT has repeatedly shaped its form so it can accommodate to provide a collaborative atmosphere for clinicians, clinical trialists, pharma industry and regulatory officers. Our formed vision has been to increase knowledge and awareness of drug usage in ophthalmology reflecting innovations and their utilization in practice. [Read more information](#)

Molecular Pharmacology Gordon Research Conference, Lucca (Barga), Italy, 28 April - 3 May, 2013
, Lucca (Barga), Italy, 28 April - 3 May 2013

A key event gathering scientists from basic, applied and clinical science in G protein coupled receptor (GPCR) research. The 2013 conference, 24th GRC edition, will emphasize both emerging and rapidly growing areas in the field, from receptor dynamics at molecular level to system-level analysis of receptor function. [Read more information](#)

XIII International Congress of Toxicology, Seoul, Korea, 30 June-4 July, 2013

Abstract submissions close **31 January 2013**. [Read more information](#)

Other Society News

BPS - Pharmacology Matters e-Bulletin [April](#)

RACP - AMD Newsletter [20 April](#), [27 April](#)

The Australasian Faculty of Occupational & Environmental Medicine Newsletter [27 April](#)

Cooperative Research Centre Update - [1 May](#), [8 May](#)

ASCEPT E-news is a snapshot of updates, industry news and other information relevant to ASCEPT. If you have any suggestions or would like to contribute to the E-news, please send it along to [Nicole Jones](#) for consideration.

Nicole Jones
ASCEPT Newsletter Editor

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Please do not hesitate to contact ASCEPT Secretariat, if you have any queries.
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