



## Welcome to the December E-News

of the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists

If you would like to contribute any items to the eNews, please send to the **Secretariat** for consideration

Closing date for **E-News** contributions is the **15th of each month** for end of month publication

Closing date for the weekly **News Alerts** is **5pm each Wednesday** for a Friday publication.

Nicole Jones  
ASCEPT Newsletter Editor

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## President's Message

I would like to thank everyone for contributing to a fantastic conference this year. The friendliness, collegiality, quality of science and just plain entertainment value were fabulous. I was particularly impressed by the posters - they were all of an incredibly high standard and I really like the way there seemed to be lots of discussion between their authors and other participants. After attending this conference we can all be confident that we are part of a vibrant society that is at the cutting edge of pharmacological science.

And our members are making major individual achievements. Hopefully you all heard at our conference that Professor Arthur Christopoulos was awarded the Abel Prize by the US pharmacological society ASPET for his work on the G-protein coupled receptor. I also received great news that Professor Nick Buckley and his colleagues were awarded a large NHMRC Program Grant for clinical and experimental toxicological research. Please let us know of any other achievements by our members - it would be good to publicize these on our newsletter.

Finally I hope that you all have a peaceful and enjoyable holiday over the Christmas break!

David Le Couteur  
President, ASCEPT



*Andrew McLachlan, President APSA, David Le Couteur, President ASCEPT and Kim Oates, opening keynote speaker*

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## **Call for symposia for the 2013 ASCEPT Annual Scientific Meeting**

**1 - 4 December 2013 RACV City Club Melbourne**

Please remember that preference will be given to symposia that are supported and proposed by more than one SIG.

In terms of International speakers, there will only be a limited number (2) of international speakers supported for the conference. If an international speaker is proposed for your symposium, please also propose a local speaker who would also be suitable if funding does not permit your proposed international speaker.

Could you please submit all your symposia suggestions to the **ASCEPT Secretariat** ([jen.coulls@ascept.org](mailto:jen.coulls@ascept.org)) **by close of business on Friday 1st February, 2013**. The symposium proposal form is available from your forum area.

Best wishes

**Dom Geraghty**  
**Carl Kirkpatrick**  
**Chair-Elect and Chair of Scientific Advisory Committee**

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## **Health Workforce 2025 (HW2025)**

The third volume of Health Workforce Australia's landmark projections for doctors, nurses and midwives has been released.

Health Workforce 2025 (HW2025) is the first major, long-term study of the national health workforce in Australia out to 2025 and the publication of volume three marks the final of the current series.

All three volumes of the Health Workforce 2025 reports, an outline of the response endorsed by SCoH and an easy-to-read summary are available for download at <http://www.hwa.gov.au/health-workforce-2025>

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## Science Meets Parliament 2012



**Science Meets Parliament (SmP2012)** is an annual event run by Science and Technology Australia designed to bring together scientists from diverse disciplines to expose them to the workings of Australian Parliament. Dr Lauren May (Monash) and myself were invited to represent ASCEPT and were afforded the opportunity to meet with the Member for Bennelong in Sydney, Mr John Alexander, to discuss our work and the importance of maintaining science in Australia.

What better time to attend SmP2012 than September this year when shortfalls from the mining boom have resulted in nationwide 'belt-tightening' and rumours of a pause or cessation of significant science, technology, health and medical research funding programs? Our intensive two-day program incorporated sessions on when and how to influence the Budget process, how to make sure science informs evidence-based policy, a discussion of the 24 hour news cycle and how science can break into mainstream media, engaging with the community through social media and the protocols and procedures necessary when meeting with parliamentarians.

I learnt a number of valuable points from the two days. First, parliamentarians want to support our research as they recognise the significance and quality of the work we do. However, discoveries take time and thus the outcomes are somewhat intangible over the short-term, i.e. can't be demonstrated in a press conference at the time of an announcement. Because of the current economic and political climate, this makes research an easier target than, say, health care or defence. We can only change these outcomes by both lobbying parliamentarians and increasing our profile amongst the electorate. If voters tell politicians that protecting scientific research is important to them, then they will listen.

I would like to thank ASCEPT for inviting both myself and Lauren to attend such a valuable and interesting event.

**Dr Nicola J Smith**  
Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute

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## Congratulations to all prize winners at the 2012 Joint ASCEPT-APSA Meeting

ASCEPT Lecturer - Professor Kathie Knights, Flinders University  
ASCEPT Teaching Excellence Award - Dr Matt Doogue, Flinders University  
ASCEPT Early Educator Award - Dr Tina Hinton, The University of Sydney  
ASCEPT Achievement Award - Associate Professor Rebecca Ritchie, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute  
ASCEPT Robert Whelan Prize - Lachlan Facey, Monash University

ASCEPT Garth McQueen Prize - Chantal Donovan, The University of Melbourne  
ASCEPT Neville Percy Prize - Janna Duong, The University of NSW  
ASCEPT Integrative Pharmacology/Toxicology Poster - Jacqueline Ku, Monash University  
ASCEPT Clinical Trainee Session Prize - Paul Chin, Christchurch Hospital

**BPS/ASCEPT Outstanding New Investigator Award - Inaugural**

Celine Valant, Monash University

**ASCEPT Denis Wade Johnson & Johnson Young Investigator Award**

Celine Valant, Monash University  
Danijela Gnjidic, The University of Sydney  
Stefanie Hennig, The University of Queensland  
Jurgen Bulitta, Monash University

**ASCEPT SIG Poster Prize Winners**

Clinical Pharmacology - Louise Thomas, Otago University  
Cardiovascular - Amehah Jagnoori, The University of Adelaide  
Toxicology - Esther Cheah, University of Western Australia  
Drug Disposition - Nuy Chau, Flinders University  
Pharmacogenomics - Mafalda Dias, The University of South Australia  
Drug Discovery - Carmen Klein-Herenbrink, Monash University  
Neuro and Behavioural Pharmacology - Jake Gordon, The University of Adelaide

**And just a reminder that abstracts from the meeting are available on the Conference website**

<http://www.ascept-apsa.com/program/>

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## Meet your new Council

At the AGM on 4 December, ASCEPT bade farewell to retiring Councillors Peter McIntyre and Evan Begg, and welcomed Betty Exintaris (Secretary) and Andrew Dawson (Councillor). The ASCEPT Council for 2013 is:

Professor David Le Couteur (President)  
Associate Professor Peter Molenaar (President-elect)  
Dr Betty Exintaris (Secretary)  
Professor Emilio Badoer (Treasurer)  
Professor Carl Kirkpatrick  
Professor Andrew Dawson  
Dr Barbara Kemp-Harper  
A/Professor Dominic Geraghty (Chair, SAC)  
Professor Greg Monteith  
Dr Christine Cameron (New Zealand)  
Dr Matt Doogue (STC)  
Dr Nicole Jones (Newsletter Secretary)



*Standing (L-R): Liz Davis, Nicole Jones, David Le Couteur, Chris Cameron, Greg Monteith, Peter Molenaar, Barb Kemp-Harper, Emilio Badoer, Andrew Dawson, Carl Kirkpatrick  
Seated: Dom Geraghty, Matt Doogue, Evan Begg (retired)  
Absent: Betty Exintaris*

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## Career Opportunities

### Professor of Medicines Use and Health Outcomes

#### Faculty of Pharmacy/Charles Perkins Centre, The University of Sydney

The University has applied its internationally recognised academic credentials to ease the burden of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease by forming the Charles Perkins Centre – a unique collaboration of scholars across many disciplines and faculties.

To this end, the Charles Perkins Centre and the Faculty of Pharmacy are seeking an outstanding researcher with an internationally recognised reputation in the broad area of medicines use and health outcomes. The successful candidate is likely to have a research focus in pharmacy; medicine; pharmacotherapeutics; pharmacoepidemiology, pharmaceutical policy, health services research; pharmacoconomics health technology assessment; evidence-based practice or patient-centred care.

As an inspirational teacher in areas that intersect the research and education strategy of the centre, with its focus on obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and the Faculty of Pharmacy's five core research themes of cancer, cardiovascular and diabetes, mental health, respiratory disease and health services, you will assist the centre and the faculty to maintain and further improve an international reputation in both teaching and research. You will also contribute to the faculty's research-enriched learning and teaching activities, administration and engage with the pharmacy profession and the community.

This is an opportunity to take on a leading role in collaborative research within the field of pharmacy and to join a vibrant and high-achieving faculty training approximately 20% of all pharmacists in Australia. Full details at [Professor of Medicines Use and Health Outcomes](#)

**Closing Date: 1 February 2013**

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### TGA Medical Officers - more than one

The **Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)** is currently undertaking a recruitment process to fill a number of TGA Medical Officer positions. The TGA supports a culture of high performance, continuous learning, and scientific excellence,

and the Medical Officer positions are a key to this endeavour. As experts in a range of clinical and scientific fields we wanted to bring these vacancies to your attention, and also seek your assistance in promoting these vacancies to your colleagues and networks as you consider appropriate.

Further information about the positions is available at [TGA Careers](#)

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## New Upcoming Events

### 12th meeting of the Asia Pacific Federation of Pharmacologists (APFP)

The 12th meeting of the Asia Pacific Federation of Pharmacologists (APFP), sponsored by Chinese Pharmacological Society (CNPHARS), will be held in Shanghai, China from 9 – 13 July, 2013.

The meeting will consist of plenary lectures, invited lectures, symposia, oral presentation, poster presentations and discussion sections, all focusing on basic and clinical pharmacological research as well as on new drug discovery. The meeting will offer a golden opportunity for all delegates and guests to expose and communicate their results, new ideas, new methods and technologies in pharmacology.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we look forward to welcoming pharmacologists from the Asia Pacific region and all over the world to get-together in the beautiful city, Shanghai. We believe that the meeting will make a great contribution fostering regional and international communication and collaborations, and boost progress in the field of pharmacology and new drug research.

We look forward to welcoming you in Shanghai.

**Co-Chair**

**Professor Guanhua Du**

**Co-Chair**

**Professor Samuel H. H. Chan**

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## International Narcotics Research Conference

The 44th INRC will take place in Cairns, Queensland from July 14 – 18, 2013.

The INRC Annual Meeting features all aspects of opioid research from cellular signaling, molecular biology and medicinal chemistry through addiction research and pain management. Since 1969, the INRC meeting has been a unique forum where scientists, clinicians and Pharma share the latest information about the key questions in opioid research. The 44th annual meeting in Cairns is great chance to get together with colleagues old and new, and learn about the most exciting findings in the opioid world.

Website: <https://www.dccconferences.com.au/inrc2013/home>

**Contact:**

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Mac Christie, University of Sydney, [mac.christie@sydney.edu.au](mailto:mac.christie@sydney.edu.au)

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## CDISC Asia-Pacific Interchange, 18 - 22 February 2013, Singapore

The Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC) is proud to announce the launch of the inaugural CDISC Asia-Pacific Interchange to be held 18-22 February 2013 in Singapore. Singapore was chosen for its central location in this region, the epicenter of some of the most booming economies in the world.

The core message of the CDISC 2013 Asia-Pacific Interchange is "Streamlining Global Research through Standards," and representatives from local Asia-Pacific ministries of health, pharmaceutical companies, clinical research organizations, technology service firms and non-governmental organizations will be in attendance. Speakers and panelists will include presentations on case studies using the CDISC standards, the role that CDISC standards play in clinical research around the globe, how CDISC standards can streamline clinical research using EHRs, and recent advances in therapeutic area standards development.

In addition to the conference, CDISC will also offer authorized CDISC educational training courses during the week. "The CDISC Asia-Pacific Interchange will include excellent keynote speeches and commentary by leaders in Asia, networking opportunities and the privilege of authorized CDISC training from our certified instructors in an area central to all Asia-

Pacific countries,” said Kiyoteru Takenouchi, Director from Asia on the CDISC Board, “We are excited to offer this innovative and educational forum and hope everyone in Asia interested in streamlining clinical research on a global basis will consider attending.”

[CAPI DRAFT Program Version 4-Nov2012.pdf](#)

For more information on how to register for the conference and education courses, please visit <http://www.cdisc.org/interchange>.

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## Toxicology and Poisons Network Australasia Scientific Meeting, 2 - 4 May, Newcastle

Newcastle will host the second scientific meeting of the Toxicology And Poisons Network Australasia. Widely perceived as the city that paved the way for Australian clinical toxicology on both a national and an international scale, it is fitting that next year we will look at what the future may hold as we encompass " new directions in poisoning ".

A stimulating scientific programme along with a pleasurable social programme in Australia's seventh largest city with some of the most beautiful beaches and other landscapes in Australia at close hand, make this an event not to be missed.

Opportunities for presentation of research will be available along with key updates in important areas and plenary sessions that will be of relevance to a number of medical specialities.

Register your interest to attend and check back regularly for updates at <http://tapna.net/registration/>

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## Other News

### NC-IUPHAR

The latest issue of the **NC-IUPHAR** newsletter is now available for download from the database homepage at the following link:

[http://www.iuphar-db.org/NC-IUPHAR\\_Newsletter.pdf](http://www.iuphar-db.org/NC-IUPHAR_Newsletter.pdf)

In a new and expanded format, this issue covers news of NC-IUPHAR's latest projects and developments of the IUPHAR database. It also includes features on various aspects of the curation work undertaken for the database, and details of the latest NC-IUPHAR meeting held in Paris in October. The database homepage <http://www.iuphar-db.org/> also lists details of the new content and features of the IUPHAR database.

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## NHMRC Research Tracker

**Ministerial grant announcement: 18 December 2012** The Minister for Health, the Hon Tanya Plibersek, will announce the outcomes of three NHMRC grant schemes: Program Grants, Development Grants and Post-Graduate Scholarships.

### **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Targeted Call for Research: now open**

Consistent with the Australian Government's commitment to Indigenous Health with Closing the Gap, research funded under the targeted call will need to be highly relevant to the health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Further information is on the [NHMRC website](#).

### **NHMRC Principles of Peer Review: consultation now open**

Submissions close on 1 February 2013. This document aims to improve the transparency and consistency of our funding schemes and to ensure funds are invested wisely and fairly. Further information on the [NHMRC website](#).

### **NHMRC Evolutions in Peer Review Symposium – 20-21 February 2013, Canberra**

NHMRC has invited the National Institutes of Health, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the UK Medical Research Council and Australian partners to a two day workshop. NHMRC's "Principles of Peer Review" and proposals to streamline NHMRC peer review will be discussed. Registration details are available on the [NHMRC website](#).

### **NHMRC Honour Roll recognises all peer reviewers (2012): now online**

The Honour Roll is now available on the [NHMRC website](#). NHMRC thanks all the researchers for their contributions and asks institutions to include such service to medical research in their appointments and promotions activities.

### **Updated Project Grants Funding Rules: now online**

The Project Grants scheme for funding commencing in 2014 opened on 5 December 2012. The [NHMRC Funding Rules](#) (PDF, 370KB) have been updated to include the Category Descriptors.

**Reminder:** grant extension requests must be submitted through RGMS prior to grant end date.

NHMRC will not consider any requests submitted after the end date of a grant. Grant extensions may affect investigators' eligibility to apply for NHMRC schemes that have restrictions on the number of grants that an investigator may apply for and / or hold

**Reminder:** complete all core fields in RGMS Profiles

Chief Investigators will not be able to create an application or be added to an application if core Profile fields are empty. A general user guide and a video tutorial on updating Profiles are available in the RGMS Library. The RGMS User Guide for Applicants has also been updated to guide CIs through the new checks.

### **Grant eligibility**

Applicants are reminded to consider eligibility requirements outlined in the NHMRC Funding Rules incorporating the Project Grants Scheme, for funding commencing in 2014, when completing their application.

### **NHMRC 2013 Science to Art Award**

NHMRC's 2013 Science to Art Award for outstanding images from medical research closes 5pm AEDST on 21 December 2012. Further information is available on the [NHMRC website](#).

### **Key funding dates for 2013**

The updated funding calendar is available on the [NHMRC website](#).

### **Open Public Consultations**

• [Australian Drinking Water Guidelines](#) call closes 5pm AEDST on 09 Jan 2013.

### **Tenders for new NHMRC health evidence and advice panel: close 31 January 2013**

NHMRC is establishing a panel of providers to help develop and present a suite of evidence-based health advice and resources. Further information is on the [AusTenders website](#).

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## **International Events**

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

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](#).

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### **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](#).

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### **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](#)

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

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

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## Secretariat Christmas Closure

The ASCEPT Secretariat will close on **Friday 21 December** and re-open on **Wednesday 2 January 2013**.

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](#) ASCEPT Newsletter Editor  
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