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April 2012 E-news

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President's Message

I hope you enjoyed your Easter holiday break. There is a human gestation period – exactly nine months - between Easter and Christmas which of course raises all sorts of interesting explanations and issues about death and rebirth. Last Christmas I gave a talk where (at the end of the talk, which was about something quite different) I tried to convince the audience that the three wise men were indeed pharmacologists, or perhaps at least, drug reps. The gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh are all recognized pharmaceutical agents. Gold (Myocrysine[®]) will be familiar to most of you as a standard drug for the treatment of inflammatory conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis. You will be less familiar with the fact that myrrh (Mirazid[®]) has been trialled for the treatment of intestinal parasites in Egypt. And you will probably not be aware that an extract of frankincense called Maxi-Boz[®] is available as an alternative Ayurvedic remedy for inflammation. I am not sure whether there are any pharmacological correlations with Easter, except perhaps for the reassuring association between chocolate and a reduction in the risk of cardiovascular disease.

David Le Couteur

President, ASCEPT

ASCEPT Upcoming Events

ASCEPT Clinical Weekend - [Updated Program](#) download PDF and **[Register Now](#)** download PDF
28-29 April, St Vincents, Sydney

Theme: Clinical Toxicology

Open to all ASCEPT members and pitched at physician advanced trainees in Clinical Pharmacology.

This year's Clinical Weekend has been scheduled to allow trainees to also attend the Australian Toxicology Poisons Network Meeting 26 - 27 April, Sydney [Read more information](#)

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

2012 ASCEPT Denis Wade Johnson & Johnson New Investigator Awards

Nominations close Friday 4 May

Nominations are invited of suitable new investigators new investigators in clinical and experimental pharmacology and toxicology. Nominees would normally be expected to have completed not less than two years and not more than eight years in employment since obtaining their highest tertiary qualification. There is no age limit.

These prestigious awards will be presented at the 46th Annual Scientific Meeting of ASCEPT in Sydney 2 - 5 December 2012 at a symposium designed to showcase new investigators in clinical and experimental pharmacology and toxicology.

Nominations must be made by a member of CEPT, who should ensure that the nominee is also a member of the Society. The application must contain a letter of support and up-to-date Curriculum Vitae of the nominee, and

should be forwarded to ASCEPT Secretariat by Friday 4 May 2012 to email ascept@clems.com.au

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.

Global Research in Paediatrics (GRIP) Database

Global Research in Paediatrics is a European Commission funded program. The project commenced in 2010 and will end in 2015. While based in Europe and in collaboration with the US and Japan, it will also have useful components for the developing world; WHO is a partner in the program.

The general objective of the GRIP project is to facilitate the development, and promote the availability, of medicines for children by reducing the fragmentation of ongoing efforts in relevant fields of research.

A component of the project is a PAEDIATRIC FORMULATION (WORK PACKAGE 5). The aim:

- To create a platform to share knowledge, expertise and experience around paediatric drug delivery and pharmaceutical issues in clinical trials and in practice worldwide;
- To support paediatric formulation education and training worldwide;
- To identify situations in which access to age-appropriate formulations of medicines is difficult particularly in children under five and to plan and develop formulation strategies that will improve access in all countries;
- To facilitate global paediatric formulation research.

[Download](#) an interest/expertise Registration Form. By filling this form you will enter an internal database GRIP can use to facilitate networking activities.

Australian Museum Eureka Prizes - Nominations Open

Presented annually by the Australian Museum, the Eureka Prizes reward excellence in the fields of scientific research & innovation, science leadership, school science and science journalism & communication.

Nominations close Friday 4 May. [Read more information](#), including judging criteria, conditions of entry and entry forms

Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research in Australia Submissions

ASMR's submission emphasizes the overarching measures that are key to drive a 10 year strategic HMR plan for our nation. [Read the submission](#)

Research Australia's submission calls for the development of a National Health and Medical Research Strategy that outlines the roles and responsibilities of each Commonwealth, State and Territory ministry for the funding, support, evaluation and regulation of health and medical research in Australia. We recommend that the strategy also articulates the roles of the health providers, universities, research institutes, charitable foundations and the private sector in Australian health and medical research, with the aim of achieving better coordination across the whole sector. [Read the submission](#) and the [media release here](#)

Research Australia Awards - Nominations open

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](#).

Expressions of Interest sought for two new TGA Expert Advisory Committees

The TGA is seeking expressions of interest from experts for various positions on two new statutory advisory committees:

- The Advisory Committee on Biologicals
- The Advisory Committee on the Safety of Medical Devices

These committees provide advice and make recommendations to the Minister for Health and to the TGA, in relation to their respective areas of expertise. Members will be appointed to these committees in an individual capacity by the Minister and not as a representative of an organisation. Also, members will be bound by committee-in-confidence obligations as well as obligations to declare all potential conflicts of interest. The TGA would appreciate your assistance in communicating these vacancies within your membership networks and wider channels, as appropriate.

Further information on the positions and instructions for submitting expressions of interest are available on the TGA Internet site at: <http://www.tga.gov.au/about/committees-expert-vacancies.htm>. Enquiries by email can be made to committee.vacancies@tga.gov.au

Applications must be received by **20 April 2012**.

ASMR's plan to mitigate the future health and economic challenges

The Government's 2010 Intergenerational report, as well as the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare review of "Australia's Health 2010", has clearly identified the unsustainable costs of the projected health and ageing challenges, which will greatly impact on the future health care of all Australians...[Read more information](#), [Download Deloitte Report](#) and [AMSR fact sheet](#)

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

Three positions on the Royal Society Council will be held by electronic ballot in May 2012. The positions are those of the Vice-President (Biological and Life Sciences); and for two Elected Councillor positions (these are generic positions which have no specific portfolio attached to them). RSNZ are now calling for nominations for these positions. Nominations must be received in the Society's office on or before 5pm on **Friday, 27 April 2012**. Information concerning the elections and nomination forms are [available here](#)

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](#)

The Royal Society of New Zealand says this country has lost one of its finest scientists, with the passing of Professor Sir Paul Callaghan.....[Read more information](#)

2012 STA /APESMA Professional Scientist Remuneration Survey

The Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia (APESMA) is currently undertaking the 2012 STA /APESMA Professional Scientist Remuneration Survey and is seeking you and your members' assistance by completing the questionnaire.

The closing date for the submission of completed survey questionnaires is **Monday 30 April 2012**.

The survey will take around 10 minutes to complete. No identification is necessary and all information will remain strictly confidential and is used by APESMA in aggregate form only. A summary of the survey results will be

available on the APESMA website later in the year. To commence the survey please [click here](#)

If you require further information or clarification, please contact Dominic Angerame, Surveys Unit, APESMA on Phone: 03 9695 8835 or via email: dangerame@apesma.com.au

Forthcoming Meetings and Events

URMPM Seminar for Risk & Emergency Management for HealthCare 2012, London, 2-4 May

An international education seminar of patient safety with best professors of patient safety in UK, such as Profs. Sir Brian Jarman, James Reason, Aidan Halligan, Charles Vincent. [Read more information](#) and [Register here](#).

RACP Future Directions in Health Congress 2012, Brisbane, 6-9 May

The four-day Congress remains the premier annual event on the RACP calendar and as in previous years, will continue to provide RACP Fellows, physician trainees and visiting medical specialists with a stimulating forum to update their knowledge and skills in their area of speciality and outside their area of practice. [Read more information](#).

Want to improve your career prospects? The Walter + Eliza Hall Institute PhD Information Night for Advanced Medical Trainees & their Supervisors, Melbourne, 10 May

"The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research is hosting an open forum directed toward medical trainees to provide an opportunity to discuss the issues regarding undertaking a PhD as a part of their training and facilitating an introduction to the world of both basic and clinical translational research". [Read more information](#) and [download flyer](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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 papers close 30 April; posters 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](#)

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

[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](#)

17th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WCP2014), Cape Town, South Africa from 13-18

July 2014. More details following shortly.

Other Society News

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

RACP - AMD Newsletter [16 March](#), [23 March](#) and [30 March](#)

The Australasian Faculty of Occupational & Environmental Medicine Newsletter [16 March](#), [30 March](#), [13 April](#)

Cooperative Research Centre Update - [19 March](#) and [5 April](#)

Research Australia Philanthropy e-mag [Summer edition](#)

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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