

**Subject:** E-News | February - Crisis looming for antimicrobials

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### February 2012 E-news

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### President's Message

In a recent review on drug development I pointed out that although there are about 20,000 genes and 100,000 proteins in humans that are potential drug targets, only 324 of these targets have yet yielded approved drugs. Of these, only 266 were derived from the human genome, whereas the rest are microbial targets. Thus much of successful drug development is directed at antimicrobials, and to be honest, these are probably the agents that do the most good. One of the spectacular successes of antimicrobial drug development is HIV – an infection that was uniformly fatal a couple of decades ago, yet now most people with HIV can expect a fairly normal lifespan. And it looks like viral hepatitis is heading the same way.

So it is rather disturbing that I received [a letter from Tom Gottlieb](#) who is President of the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases pointing out that there is a crisis looming for antimicrobials. In a letter to the members of ASCEPT he has written that “Antibiotics are the original miracle drugs. When use became widespread after the 1950s, it was in an era of great medical optimism, and society at large and the medical profession came to believe in antibiotic infallibility. Sixty years on, resistance to antibiotics is increasing dangerously worldwide. It has recently been listed by the WHO as one of the three greatest threats to human health.... In the past we have usually been saved by the regular introduction of new compounds but this time the antibiotic production pipeline is dry”. The crisis of antibiotics should be a priority for our Society and I am sure that there are many members who might have suggestions and ideas for how ASCEPT can contribute to improving this dire situation.

David Le Couteur

President, ASCEPT

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## 2012 ASCEPT Membership Now Due

It is that time of year when your ASCEPT membership is now due for renewal. Membership subscriptions are based on a calendar year beginning 1 January and ending on 31 December. To renew your membership simply make an online payment by credit card (Visa or Mastercard) go to <http://www.ascept.org/Members/Renew.aspx>.

ASCEPT membership continues to offer many member benefits including:

- Discounted rates to the Annual Scientific Meeting
- A chance to present your work at the ASM in front of peers and a highly informed audience.
- Student/Early Career/Mid-Late Career Awards and prizes
- Opportunities for international travel support
- Special Interest Groups
- Departmental seminar programs
- Networking opportunities
- Job opportunities
- Receive regular updates on ASCEPT ( E-news and website)
- Discounted subscriptions (Clinical and Experimental Physiology and Pharmacology (CEPP) and the Australian Medicines Handbook (AMH))

If you need assistance, please contact our Member Services Team between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday on email [ascept@clems.com.au](mailto:ascept@clems.com.au) or telephone +613 9416 3833.

Your continued support is greatly valued.

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## ASCEPT Events Calendar 2012

### **ASCEPT Clinical Weekend, 28-29 April, St Vincents, Sydney**

Theme: Clinical Toxicology

Pre-register by emailing the Secretariat: [ascept@clems.com.au](mailto:ascept@clems.com.au)

**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](mailto:ascept@clems.com.au)

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## ASCEPT Special Interest Groups - Forum Update

A reminder to members that if you would like to have the opportunity to meet other like minded professionals working on extraordinary projects become a member of one of the SIGs below. The forums are a members-only privilege.

- Cardiovascular
- Drug Disposition and Response
- Drug Discovery
- Education
- Gastro-Urogenital Pharmacology
- Pharmacogenomics
- Toxicology
- Students

- Clinical Pharmacology
- New Zealand
- ASCEPT Council (Elected council members only)
- Scientific Advisory Committee (Committee members only)

If you'd like to find out more information, please contact the Secretariat on: [ascept@clems.com.au](mailto:ascept@clems.com.au) or

Telephone (03) 9416 3833.

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## Employment opportunities

**Lecturer or Senior Lecturer - Pharmaceutics/Pharmaceutical Technology, New Zealand's National School of Pharmacy** - Applications close 12 March. [Read more information](#)

**Professor in Pharmacy, Charles Darwin University, Darwin** - Applications close 14 March. [Read more information](#)

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## IUPHAR and Immunopharmacology

ASCEPT recently received a letter from Prof. Francesca Levi-Schaffer, who is the Israeli representative to the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology, asking if members would be interested if an Immunopharmacology section was to be established within IUPHAR (letter available here). Please contact the Secretariat if you are interested: [ascept@clems.com.au](mailto:ascept@clems.com.au)

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## The Strategic Health & Medical Research Review

"In September 2011, The Commonwealth Government instigated The Strategic Health & Medical Research Review. Mr Simon McKeon has been appointed to chair the Review Panel. The Panel met twice in late 2011, and plans to commence its engagement with the broader community with a call for public submissions in February".....[Read more information](#) and [Download table of groups](#)

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## Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Journal – Call for Review Articles

As you can read below, the Editor of the journal *Therapeutic Drug Monitoring* is very keen to hear from authors particularly with Review Articles. The scope of this journal goes well beyond Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Clinical Toxicology these days, so perhaps give it your attention if thinking about preparing a review, or other original papers? <http://www.drug-monitoring.com>. Thanks for considering, Sincerely, Ray Morris

Dear All,

We are interested in getting top reviews and original articles from the key institutes working in this field. Therefore, we would like to encourage you to motivate your staff to solicit such papers. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Best personal regards. Michael Oellerich, Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h.c. M. Oellerich  
FFPath (RCPI), FRCPath, Editor-in-Chief, Therapeutic Drug Monitoring,  
Director Dept. of Clinical Chemistry, George-August-University, University Medical Center Göttingen,  
Department of Clinical Chemistry / Central Laboratory,  
D-37099 Göttingen, Germany. Email: [moeller@med.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:moeller@med.uni-goettingen.de)

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## Catalyst

The next generation in comprehensive, independently reviewed, Australian medicines information, from the publishers of AusDI Advanced. A 14 day free trial is available at: <http://catalyst.hcn.com.au>.

The quality and currency of the datasets that underpin Catalyst include:

- Over 2685 Product Information (PI) sheets
- Over 5050 Product Summaries
- Over 2440 Drug Product Images
- Over 1000 Independent drug monographs
- Over 2775 Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) leaflets
- A fully searchable Product Identifier Module
- Links to your interactions and medication safety system

Catalyst is developed by a team of highly regarded medical editors, and the independent content is created in strict accordance with the guidelines developed by an independent Editorial Advisory Committee.

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## Expressions of Interest sought for TGA Expert Advisory Committee Reminder

Expressions of interest close on **29 February 2012**. [More more information](#)

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is seeking expressions of interest for a number of positions on the following expert Advisory Committees on:

- the Advisory Committee on Prescription Medicines (ACPM)
- the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Medicines (ACSOM)
- the Advisory Committee on Medical Devices (ACMD)
- the Advisory Committee on Non-prescription Medicines (ACNM)
- the Advisory Committee on Complementary Medicines (ACCM).

Please find attached a letter inviting individual members of your organisation to submit expressions of interest for these committees. The letter includes references to details on the positions and to the process for submitting expressions of interest.

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## Charles Fleming Fund – Call for Applications

We are now calling for applications for the following awards:

- Charles Fleming Fund - Senior Scientist Award
- Charles Fleming Fund - Publishing Award

The closing date for applications is **31 March 2012**. Information on these awards, and application form are available on the Society's website: <http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/programmes/funds/fleming/>

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## Forthcoming Meetings and Events

**A lecture tour by Professor Chris Stringer, multiple venues in New Zealand, 22-24 February**  
Professor Chris Stringer, Palaeontologist and Research Leader in Human Origins at the Natural History Museum,

London, will present four public talks in New Zealand in February 2012. [Read more information](#)

#### **Science Meets Policy Makers, Science and Technology Australia, Canberra, 24 February**

Science meets Policymakers will, for the first time, bring together researchers from a range of disciplines and policymakers from various government departments to take a closer look at the intersection. [Free registration](#) until 3 February. [Read more information](#)

#### **Conjoint Medical Education Seminar, Melbourne, 29 February**

The theme is "*The Medical Professional in the 21st Century: Competent, Fit and Safe*"....[more information](#)

#### **Clinical Toxicology Forum, Melbourne, 9 March**

Please RSVP to [Lynne.STANLEY@austin.org.au](mailto:Lynne.STANLEY@austin.org.au) by 2 March. [Read more information](#)

#### **The Human Genome Meeting (HGM2012): Sydney, Australia, from 11-14 March**

The theme is "*Genetics, Genomics and Personalised Medicine*". HGM 2012 will explore the fundamental, translational, and clinical sciences driving the progress of this personalised medicine movement. With the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia, the HGM 2012 event will feature a session on Genomic Pathology. Meeting website is [www.hgm2012.org](http://www.hgm2012.org). Please also view the meeting synopsis on the website for further information about program development.

#### **SOT Annual Meeting & ToxExpo, San Francisco, USA, 11-15 March**

The SOT Annual Meeting is the forum to showcase toxicology's novel discoveries. For the science of toxicology, this 5-day event is the culmination of a year's worth of achievements in research and education. Early Bird registration closes 27 January. [Read more information](#)

#### **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](#).

#### **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](#)

#### **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](#)

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

[Read more information](#) on the conference

#### **World Congress for Health and Safety 2012, London, 8 - 9 September 2012, URMPM (Union of Risk Management for Preventive Medicine )** [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.

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## **Other Society News**

**BPS** - Pharmacology Matters e-Bulletin [February](#)

**RACP - AMD Newsletter** [17 February](#) [10 February](#) [3 February](#)

**The Australasian Faculty of Occupational & Environmental Medicine** [February](#) Newsletter

**Cooperative Research Centre** Update - [February](#)

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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**



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