



## Welcome to the February 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



At the end of January while I was on holidays in the UK I met with Karen Schlaegel and David Webb from the British Pharmacological Society at their headquarters in Angel Gate, London. On that day, it was the hottest day ever in Sydney at about 46C, while in London it was snowing and quite beautiful. The holiday photograph I took then shows the entrance to the BPS building on that day and I was really glad to be in London – and not in my home town Sydney - on that day. We discussed our plans for a joint BPS-ASCEPT conference in Hong Kong in 2015 - I hope that you can all pencil in May 2015 to attend (the exact dates are yet to be confirmed). Our ties with the BPS are growing stronger and this is fabulous. For example, our first winner of the BPS-ASCEPT Outstanding Young Investigator award is Celine Valant who is attending the BPS conference this year as an invited speaker to present her work on GPCRs. On behalf of ASCEPT I would like to congratulate her and wish her the best for her presentation. And to all our members, I would encourage you to consider joining the BPS and attending some of their conferences (no registration fee for BPS members).

**David Le Couteur**  
**President, ASCEPT**



***BPS - Angel Gate, London***

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## **Ever wondered what to do when you're not writing grants?**

Here's how one ASCEPT member contributes to public debate.

[The Conversation](#)

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## **News from other societies**

Below is information of events and news from other groups and associations:

BPS [Newsletter](#)

RS New Zealand [Newsletter](#)

NHMRC [Health Tracker](#)

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## Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS): Post-Market Review of Medicines to Treat Asthma in Children

The review aims to systematically evaluate the body of clinical evidence regarding asthma medicines, and the appropriate quality use of medicines in children with asthma in clinical practice.

The need for the review was first identified by the Paediatric Medicines Advisory Group, which found that 40% of children prescribed with a fixed-dose combination product (of inhaled long-acting beta-agonists and corticosteroids) had not first been prescribed a single ingredient product (an inhaled corticosteroid). This was regarded as a “serious quality use of medicines issue” which is contrary to current asthma management guidelines.

Comments are invited that may address the review of PBS-listed medicines for treating asthma in children, including salmeterol with fluticasone, eformoterol with budesonide, beclomethasone dipropionate, ciclesonide, sodium cromoglycate and nedocromil sodium, montelukast, and eformoterol.

Further information, including the Terms of Reference for the Review, is available at: [Post-Market Review of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Medicines to Treat Asthma in Children](#).

The College will prepare a submission via the PBS Submission process. **ASCEPT members are welcome to make comment.**

Please submit your comments to Judith Walker, RACP Senior Policy Officer, at [judith.walker@racp.edu.au](mailto:judith.walker@racp.edu.au) by **16 March 2013** to meet PBS deadlines.

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## ASCEPT New Zealand ASM 2013

### 27-29 August 2013

The Executive have taken into account the preferences expressed at the 2012 Annual Meeting and plan to hold the next Annual Meeting in Queenstown in conjunction with the Queenstown Research Week. The ASCEPT meeting will be held separately from the MEDSCI meeting which gives more flexibility for managing the program and funding.

The ASCEPT NZ 2013 Annual Meeting will start with a Welcome Reception in the early evening Tuesday 27 August and continue with the scientific meeting on Wed 28 August and the morning of Thu 29 August. A joint meeting with Carney Pharmacogenomics and Genomic Medicine groups will be held in the afternoon of Thursday 29 August.

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## Career Opportunities

### Monash University – Clayton Campus Lecturer (Pharmacology)

Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences  
School of Biomedical Sciences  
Department of Pharmacology, Monash University  
Remuneration package: Academic Level B Continuing Appointment

The Department of Pharmacology is seeking to appoint a dynamic individual, wishing to pursue or further an academic career in Biomedical Sciences, as a Lecturer on a continuing basis. This is an exciting opportunity for a suitably qualified and enthusiastic academic to join a highly motivated team of teaching and research staff.

In this position you will be expected to teach pharmacology in one or more subjects and across various courses at the direction of the Head of Department. You will develop blended learning and teaching strategies in pharmacology and be expected to convene at least one pharmacology unit.

This role is a full-time position; however, flexible working arrangements may be negotiated.

Your application must address the selection criteria. Please refer to "How to apply for Monash Jobs"

Enquiries: Professor Rob Widdop, Head of Department, Pharmacology, +61 3 990 54858

**Closing Date: Thursday 21 March 2013, 11:55pm Aus. Eastern Daylight Time**

[Info Package](#)

Job No. 509643

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### The University of Chicago Postdoctoral Trainees for 2013 – 2014 Academic Year

The University of Chicago Committee on Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacogenomics is seeking motivated MD trainees for their Academic/Industry Clinical Pharmacology position. This two-year program provides focused academic and industry work in clinical pharmacology and pharmacogenomics. In the first year, trainees will have the opportunity to tailor their research work to emphasize clinical, translational or basic science with some time dedicated to a core curriculum of course work in Pharmacogenomics, Clinical Pharmacology and Genetic Medicine as well as IRB training. The second year of training will largely take place in an industry setting being exposed to several facets of clinical drug development.

The program is intended to build a skill set suitable for a career in industry or academics along with eligibility to become board certified in Clinical Pharmacology.

This position is open to U.S. and foreign M.D. trainees. For further information about the program or to apply, please visit the website at <http://ccpp.bsd.uchicago.edu>

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## Upcoming Events

### PhD information night for medical trainees

**18 April 2013**

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.

This evening will provide an opportunity to discuss PhD studies in general to medical trainees, and will not just be specific to undertaking research at the Walter and Eliza Hall.

The importance of the night will be to provide a forum to discuss issues such as:

- 1) Why do basic research or clinical translational research
- 2) How to apply for a PhD
- 3) Funding - what scholarships are out there
- 4) What to expect from doing a pHd / MD - ie. day to day
- 5) What the field of interest is for each laboratory and current directions/interests at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute
- 6) Contact details and open invitation to come and talk to the head of the lab if interested.

**Date:** Thursday 18th April

**Time:** 6.00 pm for 6.30 - 8.00 pm

**Venue:** The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, 1G Royal Parade, Parkville, 3050 (next to the Royal Melbourne Hospital Car Park Entrance)

**Contact :** Jenni Harris, email: [ctc@wehi.edu.au](mailto:ctc@wehi.edu.au)

Phone (03) 93452480

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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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## **2013 Lowy Cancer Symposium Discovering Cancer Therapeutics' - University of New South Wales, Sydney 15-17 May 2013**

Hosted by the University of New South Wales, the symposium is designed for basic research scientists, oncologists and other health care professionals. The symposium will highlight Australasia's research strengths, including recent developments in personalised pancreatic cancer therapy and hypoxia-activated cancer drugs. Several of Australia's leading researchers and seven international speakers will focus on the three key phases of cancer therapeutics development: Discovery; Pre-Clinical and Clinical, with various aspects of basic and applied research in the field.

Themes for the 2013 conference will include:

Drug Delivery Strategies \* New Small Molecules \* Preclinical and Clinical Trial Systems \* Stratified Cancer Therapy \* Target Identification using Systems Biology \* Emerging Targets

Early-Bird Registration and Oral Abstract submissions close on **Friday, 15 March, 2013**.

Register and pay on or before 15 March 2013 on-line to secure the Early-bird rate.

Further details, including the full list of esteemed international and national speakers are available on the Symposium [website](#)

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## **12th meeting of the Asia Pacific Federation of Pharmacologists (APFP) 9-13 July 2013**

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

[APFP Shanghai](#)

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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.

[More Information](#)

Contact:

Mark Connor, Macquarie University, [mark.connor@mq.edu.au](mailto:mark.connor@mq.edu.au)  
Mac Christie, University of Sydney, [mac.christie@sydney.edu.au](mailto:mac.christie@sydney.edu.au)

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## 8th International Human Peroxidase Meeting, Sydney, Australia, 9 - 12 September, 2013

The International Human Peroxidase Meetings represent the foremost meeting series focused on all research into the mammalian heme peroxidases, ranging from basic science to clinical studies. The Meetings of SFRR(A) bring together researchers from Australia, New Zealand and the surrounding area with an interest in free radicals, reactive oxygen and nitrogen species and redox biology.

[More Information](#)

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## 5th FIP Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress, Melbourne 13-16 April 2014

Join leading pharmaceutical scientists from around the world to discuss cutting edge research and up-and-coming developments under the theme of 'Pharmaceutical Sciences 2020: Realising the Vision'.

The 2014 PSWC will also foster a new generation of visionary and ground-breaking pharmaceutical scientists via a special stream for students.

[More information](#)

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## International Events

**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**

**Extended deadline for abstract submission, early registration and sponsorship  
application 30 April, 2013**

[Read more information](#)

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**13th International Congress of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring & Clinical  
Toxicology,  
Salt Lake City, USA.  
Sept 22-26 2013**

This is the key international congress with a focus on Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Clinical Toxicology. Registrants typically: include Students (esp. PhD degree, or equivalent), Scientists, Clinical Pharmacists, Clinical Biochemists, Clinical Pharmacologists, Clinical Pathologists, Clinical Toxicologists, Pharmacogeneticists.

**Early registration deadline: 30 June**

Congress Secretariat email: [congress@eventsmgt.com](mailto:congress@eventsmgt.com)

Website for further information: <http://iatdmct.com/>



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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 ASCEPT Newsletter Editor  
Follow us on twitter [ASCEPTanz](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact ASCEPT Secretariat, if you have any queries.  
Phone: (08) 8274 3741 Fax: (08) 8271 9928 Email: [jen.coulls@ascept.org](mailto:jen.coulls@ascept.org)  
Web: [www.ascept.org](http://www.ascept.org)

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