



October 2012 E-Newsletter

of the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists

Welcome to the October ASCEPT eNewsletter.

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

Nicole Jones
ASCEPT Newsletter Editor

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President's Message

I read two reports in the last week that are fascinating ... and maybe you will find them interesting too.

The first report was the Ernst & Young analysis of the future of Australian Universities. They start with the premise that our universities will no longer be viable in 10-15 years. The major threats are reduced government funding (as always) – but also the availability of knowledge and education over the internet. They call this the 'democratisation' of knowledge (although I think that often 'internet knowledge' is an oxymoron). So, it seems that Universities – just like travel agencies, book shops and music shops – will be replaced with websites and apps. Their solution is 'integration' with industry and further development of digital technologies for the delivery of education. One VC is quoted as saying 'our major competitor in ten years' time will be Google...if we're still alive'. Perhaps ASCEPT should invest in buying rights now to

www.PhD.edu.au and www.DegreeinPharmacology.edu.au?

The second report was the consultation paper for the [Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research in Australia](#) i.e. the 'McKeon Report'. Unlike the Ernst & Young review, this report recognises the need for significant increases in government funding for, and involvement in, health and medical research. We all support this! In addition, the report calls for integration of universities, medical research institutes and hospitals into 'Integrated Health Research Centres'. And it also calls for changing the bureaucracy to streamline and facilitate clinical trials and commercialization. Having worked with universities, hospitals, MRIs, commercialization and IP departments, and ethics committees – I think that somehow world peace seems more feasible! However these are all important goals and certainly worth fighting for.

And finally, congratulations to those of you who were successful with NHMRC this year.

David Le Couter
President, ASCEPT

University research in holding pattern

With the announcement of the NHMRC grants and the Mid-year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO), this month saw a focus on research funding. Below for Members' interest is a snapshot about what made the news in October.

[Taking research off the chopping block](#)

[Medical research grants to be unfrozen](#)

[Mid-year budget slashes \\$499m from research support](#)

[Medical funding gets green light as research sector braces for cuts](#)

[Medical research needs \\$30b funding boost: McKeon](#)

[McKeon review: we need to integrate research and health services](#)

[A better way to award NHMRC's medical research grants](#)

Review of products and medicines used in the treatment of diabetes

Call for submissions

The Australian government is currently reviewing products and medicines used in the treatment of diabetes and is seeking comment from organisations and individuals with an interest in this topic.

[Read more information](#)

The deadline for contributions has been extended to Thursday 15 November 2012.

New Special Interest Group

Thanks to the initiative of the ASCEPT executive and the collaborative work of Dr Nicole Jones and Dr Mark Hutchinson, along with support from Prof Phil Beart, Dr Peter Crack, Dr Karin Aubrey and Mr Jacob Thomas a new ASCEPT Special Interest Group for Neuro-and Behavioural Pharmacology research has been formed. Many of you also provided your support to fulfil the requirements of establishing a new SIG. A big thanks to you all!

To get the new SIG off the ground we need to officially enlist members. Please email expressions of interest to jen.coulls@ascept.org.

The first initiative of the SIG will be open drinks, 7pm 3 December (Monday night of the ASCEPT-APSA meeting in Sydney). The location is still to be determined but please lock this date and time into your calendars. It will be a great chance to meet the SIG leadership team, socialise with other researchers interested in Neuro- and Behavioural Pharmacology, and provide an opportunity for your students to network with other Neuro- and Behavioural Pharmacology research groups for potential future employment/fellowship opportunities. If you are interested in coming along please email mark.hutchinson@adelaide.edu.au to be kept up to speed with the details of the inaugural SIG event.

The team have a lot of very exciting ideas for expanding the Neuro- and Behavioural Pharmacology area in ASCEPT. If you are already active in this domain or are interested in being involved then sign up and get involved.

We look forward to seeing you in Sydney!

Dr Mark Hutchinson & Dr Nicole Jones
Co-convenors of the NBP SIG

Upcoming Events

Medicinal Chemistry/Drug Discovery Symposium 2012

Wednesday 14th November

Members are invited to a One-Day symposium on Wednesday 14th November between 9.30 am and 4.30 pm with a light lunch at 12.30 pm. We hope this symposium will foster research links between medicinal chemistry and pharmacology. The symposium will be held in Chemical Sciences Lecture Theatre M10, UNSW.

Abstracts are invited for 20 minute oral presentations (15 min lecture, 5 min question time) or poster presentations from students and postdocs with the deadline for submissions Monday 5th November 2012.

Abstracts should be no more than half-a-page and sent by e-mail as an attached file to n.kumar@unsw.edu.au with the header of the email 'MedChem Abstract' with your name also noted. Please also note your preference for an oral or poster presentation. There will be prizes for the best oral presentation and poster.

This symposium is jointly organised by the Schools of Medical Sciences and Chemistry, UNSW

and the ASCEPT Drug Discovery special interest group

RSVP to n.kumar@unsw.edu.au by Monday 5th November even if you are not presenting. There is no registration fee for this symposium.

Research Australia Awards

Wednesday 14th November 2012

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

Advances in Urogenital and Gut Research

Friday 30 Novemer 2012

The 4th Advances in Urogenital and Gut Research Symposium will be held at the Coogee Bay Hotel, in Sydney on Friday, 30 November, prior to the ASCEPT/APSA meeting in Sydney (2-5 December). This meeting continues the successful series "Advances in Urogenital Research", held since 2004. For more information visit the [website](#) Urogenital and Gut Research Forum.

Inflammation - the key to much pathology

Friday 30 November - Sunday 2nd December 2012, Melbourne

The Inflammation Conference 2012 has a high quality scientific program drawing on renowned international and national speakers focussing on the latest advances in inflammation research. The conference precedes the [Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Society for Immunology](#).



Accommodation bookings close Wednesday 31 October

Early bird discount ends Wednesday 7 November

Why attend?

- Hear from a stellar lineup of international and national speakers including Emeritus Prof Kim Oates AM, The University of Sydney; British Pharmacological Society speaker Dr Yoon Loke, University of East Anglia, UK; APSA speaker Prof Gregory Peterson, University of Tasmania; and ASCEPT speaker Prof Kathie Knights, Flinders University,

South Australia.

- Learn from dozens of other world class speakers presenting in 11 different symposia.
- Attend oral and poster sessions showcasing the high calibre of research undertaken by ASCEPT and APSA members.
- Network with colleagues and other leading international and national scientists.
- Support the achievements of those receiving awards and prizes from both ASCEPT and APSA

View the [draft program](#) and summary of conference symposia

Visit the [website](#) for information on the preconference workshops

View the program and register for the [optional satellite meeting](#) - Therapeutic drug monitoring fundamentals and emerging trends – focus on antimicrobials, on Thursday, 6 December

Pharmacogenomics SIG Workshop

Sunday 2nd Decemer 2012

The Pharmacogenomics SIG are in the process of organising a workshop for Sunday Dec 2 10am - noon prior to the start of the ASCEPT/APSA meeting. The format will be similar to last year's workshop with opportunity for ECRs / Postdocs to present, note that all members are welcome especially students. In order to finalise the venue we need to have preliminary numbers for attendance. Could you please reply by return email to Janet Coller: janet.coller@adelaide.edu.au to indicate if you are able to attend. Further announcements will follow with more details.

2nd ASCEPT Student Dinner

Escape your supervisors and colleagues you see every day! Come have a drink and some dinner with your fellow students -there will be nice views of the harbour and some good cheap pub food!

Where:

Pymont Bridge Hotel (down the road from the conference venue, across from the Maritime Museum)

When:

Monday 3rd December, 7pm-ish

Who:

Aimed at students (PhD, Hons, etc), but everyone is welcome.

RSVP:

Let me know if you are interested (so I can gauge approximate numbers), but feel free to just turn up on the night!

Contact: Claire -> cjoh8772@uni.sydney.edu.au

Career Opportunities

STA is looking for a new CEO

A recruitment process has commenced to find a new CEO for Science and Technology Australia. The position description and selection criteria are available on the STA website on both the homepage and in downloadable version at:

<http://scienceandtechnologyaustralia.org.au/about-science-australia/vacancies/>

Applications close 5 November 2012.

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer Pharmaceutical Sciences RMIT

The Lecturer is expected to contribute to the teaching and research efforts of the School, in particular that of the Pharmaceutical Sciences discipline. More specifically, the Lecturer will be responsible for leading the development and delivery of teaching activities of particular relevance to the Bachelor of Applied Sciences (Pharmaceutical Sciences). The Lecturer will be expected to maintain and advance their scholarly, research and/or professional capabilities relevant to this discipline. They may also be required to teach into other programs within the School. The Lecturer is also expected to actively promote the programs by establishing and maintaining memberships, links and partnerships with academic, industry and professional communities. The Lecturer is expected to work collaboratively and collegially with fellow academics within the teaching team, and update colleagues and students on developments in their subject area or specialisation.

Applications close 7 November 2012

Post-doctoral Research Scientist Victor Chang Cardio Research Institute

The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute (VCCRI) is seeking an enthusiastic post-doctoral scientist to join an international team who wants to forge a career in vascular physiology in the laboratory of Professor Roland Stocker, who recently joined the VCCRI to lead the Vascular Biology Division.

Applications close 12 November 2012.

Editor in Chief: Pharmacology Research and Perspectives

BPS is delighted to announce that the Society has agreed in partnership with the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) and publishers Wiley-Blackwell to publish a new open-access journal, Pharmacology Research & Perspectives.

It is intended that this agreement will provide an international open-access platform for pharmacology, publishing papers cascading from BJP and BJCP as well as the ASPET journals. We wanted to highlight to our members that we are seeking to recruit **two key roles** for a term of three years each: the first Editor-in-Chief and Deputy Editor.

About the vacancies

The Editor-in-Chief will work closely with the Deputy Editor, nominated by ASPET, and an editorial board to ensure the publication of high quality material. The successful candidate will

have extensive experience as a journal editor, an understanding of publication ethics, and knowledge of the evolving scientific publishing environment. The successful candidate will be an outstanding individual with an internationally-recognized track record of scientific publications and a commitment to the journal's stated aims. They will be an experienced peer reviewer, with strong critical analysis and appraisal skills. They will have proven success in building teams, and will collaborate effectively with colleagues internationally. They will be willing and able to commit up to 10 hours per week to the editorial work of the journal. They will be comfortable using modern communication tools.

Applications for the Editor-in-Chief role should be directed to the BPS, details below. Applications for the role of Deputy Editor should be directed to Rich Dodenhoff, ASPET Journals Director.

Job Description and Person Specification

How to apply

Please send an expression of interest, a CV including publication and editorial experience, and an outline of a proposed open access journal strategy for three years from launch (no more than two pages of A4) to Ruth Meyer at the BPS office.

Deadline for application: Monday 12 November, 5pm GMT

Provisional interview dates: 5/6 December 2012

Editor in Chief: Pharmacology and Physiology

Wiley is seeking to appoint a new Editor-in-Chief for Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology and Physiology. The successful candidate will be invited to be a member of the senior editorial team during 2013 as a transitional step until their full appointment as EIC on January 1, 2014. The Editor-in-Chief will oversee the selection of editorial content for publication in the journal, liaising with the Editors and the Publisher to maximize the journal's visibility, quality and scientific reputation. [Read more information](#)

Candidates are invited to submit their Curriculum Vitae and a covering letter outlining their suitability for the role. Applications should be sent by email to the Publishing Manager (Julia Ballard, jballard@wiley.com) **by 15 December 2012**. Shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete a questionnaire regarding their interest and aptitude for the role. Final interviews will take place by telephone or in person in January 2013.

For further details about all opportunities, visit the [Careers Page](#) on the ASCEPT website

International Events

51st American College of Neuropsychopharmacology Annual Meeting, Florida, USA, 2-6 December 2012

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](#)

World Healthcare Congress of Clinical Lipidology, Budapest, Hungary, 6-8 December

This is the first conference of this kind and aimed at health care professionals, who would like to increase their knowledge in lipid disorders. [Read more information](#)

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](#).

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](#)

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.

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