

Billboard

ECR PROFILES WANTED!

Are you interested in promoting your current work to fellow ECRs? Ever thought about publishing your profile in the ECRTimes?

Profiling yourself allows others to hear about your work and achievements and may even lead to new collaborations and friendships.

Email us at
ecr.AMREP@monash.edu

COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK?

Want to advertise an event in the precinct? Won an award or have published a paper?

Email us at
ecr.AMREP@monash.edu

ABOUT ECRTIMES

ECRTIMES is the quarterly e-newsletter of the early career researchers of Central Clinical School, Monash University.

ECRTIMES 03 is prepared by Megan Crane, Lachlan Gray and Edwin Leeansyah



2010 ECR Retreat

The inaugural ECR retreat was a huge success. Held overnight in the beautiful surrounds of The Country Place Retreat, Kalorama, the 2010 ECR retreat exceeded all our expectations; providing an opportunity to network with peers and arming delegates with information on how to be successful in grant and fellowships schemes.

Proudly sponsored by Monash University CCS School Executive, Becton Dickinson, Life Technologies and Thermo Fisher Scientific the ECR retreat was attended by close to 50 delegates from all the Monash centres at AMREP and covered the spectrum of PhD students, research assistants, ECR and mid-career researchers.

Three distinguished guest speakers (A/Prof Ian van Driel, Dr Michelle Dunstone and Prof Gail Risbridger) were invited to share their knowledge and personal experiences with the grants and fellowship schemes. This was a highly interactive and informative session with

many commenting on the refreshing honesty and positivity of the presenters.

Two conference-style presentation sessions showcased the research interests and technical skills of presenting delegates. The quality of the presentations was stellar and generated many thought-provoking questions from the audience. The lack of senior scientists and supervisors certainly made for a very relaxed and non-intimidating atmosphere.

The highlight of the retreat was undoubtedly the Amazing Race and Murder Mystery dinner with everybody thoroughly enjoying themselves! See page 3 for the evidence!

For the ECR committee the most important session was the final round table discussion. All the delegates had their say on the ECR committee activities. Having taken your comments and suggestions on board we are planning a really exciting program for next year so 'Watch This Space'.

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Your representative's contact details

BIOCHEMISTRY/BURNET INSTITUTE

LACHLAN GRAY

Lachlan.Gray@monash.edu

IMMUNOLOGY

TAMARA ETTO

Tamara.Etto@monash.edu

ANTONIA MILLER

Antonia.Miller@monash.edu

SARA PRICKETT

Sara.Prickett@monash.edu

MEDICINE

JULIANNE BAYLISS

Julianne.Bayliss@monash.edu

NICOLE MIFSUD

Nicole.Mifsud@monash.edu

MEDICINE/BURNET INSTITUTE

EDWIN LEEANSYAH (TO OCT'10)

Edwin.Leeansyah@monash.edu

MEGAN CRANE

Megan.Crane@monash.edu

MEDICINE/VAN CLEEF CENTRE

PERDITA CHESHIRE

Perdita.Cheshire@monash.edu

SURGERY

SHIVA AKBARZADEH

S.Akbarzadeh@alfred.org.au



Anna Hearps is a post-doc within the HIV Pathogenesis laboratory in the Centre for Virology at the Burnet Institute. She completed her PhD in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Monash University investigating how HIV translocates into the nucleus of infected cells. Dr Hearps is currently investigating the impact of HIV on ageing of the immune system, with the hope of identifying why HIV+ individuals are at an increased risk of age-related diseases such as cardiovascular disease, bone disease and frailty. The work is focused on the innate immune system and the key role played by monocytes in HIV-related inflammation and associated disease. She is also a scientist in the WHO HIV Drug Resistance laboratory for the Asia Pacific region (housed within the Burnet Institute) and performs training and monitoring activities to help prevent HIV drug resistance within the region.

Bridgette Semple has recently completed her PhD, working under the supervision of Associate Professor Cristina Morganti-Kossmann, at the National Trauma Research Institute and Department of Medicine at Monash University. Her passion lies in understanding the complex responses which develop in the brain in response to head injury. Specifically, her PhD has focused on the role of specific chemokines in attracting leukocytes into the injured mouse brain, and the contribution of this process to ongoing inflammation and neuronal degeneration. This work has resulted in four publications to date and the opportunity to present at several local and international conferences. Bridgette was awarded the 'Women in Neurotrauma' Prize for her oral and poster presentation at the International Neurotrauma Society Symposium in Santa Barbara in 2009, and is now the trainee representative for the society.

“profile – a concise biographical sketch; degree of exposure to public notice; visibility”

Every issue we will be highlighting the achievements of some of our own PhD students and ECRs.

NEWS AND EVENTS

ECR SEMINAR PROGRAM

This year we held several very successful seminars ranging in topics from career planning to media training, to information sessions from the Monash Research Office.

The ECR Seminar program has concluded for the year but stayed tuned for details of more exciting seminars in 2011!

AWARDS AND PRIZES

Congratulations are extended to the two ECR members who recently won awards at our inaugural ECR retreat.

Anna Hearps from the Burnet Institute and Bridgette Semple from the National Trauma Research Institute were both worthy winners.

You can read their profiles on page 2.

MRO e-RESOURCES

INFORMATIVE ECR PORTAL:

[HTTP://INTRANET.MONASH.EDU.AU/RESEARCH/ECR/](http://intranet.monash.edu.au/research/ecr/)

ECR-TARGETED SCHEMES:

[HTTP://MONASH.EDU/RESEARCHOFFICE/FOD/ECR-SCHEMES.PHP](http://monash.edu/researchoffice/fod/ecr-schemes.php)

PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS & PRIZES:

[HTTP://WWW.MONASH.EDU/RESEARCHOFFICE/PRESTIGE](http://www.monash.edu/researchoffice/prestige)

RESEARCHERS' ONLINE PROJECTS

ENQUIRY SYSTEM (ROPES):

[HTTP://WWW.MONASH.EDU/RESEARCHOFFICE/ROPES](http://www.monash.edu/researchoffice/ropes)



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The CCS ECR Committee 2010



Thanks so much to our photographer **Aislin Meehan!**