

Billboard**DATES FOR YOUR
CALENDAR**

AMREP ECR Retreat
Thursday 27th-Friday 28th
September
@ The Country Place
Retreat, Dandenong
Ranges
Registration closes:
Friday 3rd August

**Professional
Development Seminar**
(mid-October)
Level 5 Alfred Centre
Topic: *Career Options for
Researchers*
Presenter: Four guest
speakers from varied
backgrounds

**COMMENTS/
FEEDBACK?**

Want to advertise an event
in the precinct? Won an
award or published a
paper? We welcome
feedback, so let us know
your thoughts on what we
are doing. **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 is prepared by
Damien Saulep-Easton &
Mhairi Maxwell



The **AMREP ECR retreat** focuses on the **professional development** of the future leaders in medical research and **aims to promote collaborations and networking across the precinct**. The 2012 retreat will bring together approximately 120 registrants encompassing early to mid career postdoctoral scientists and final year PhD students from **Monash University, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute** and the **Burnet Institute**, all located at The Alfred Hospital precinct.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

The retreat program has been designed to inspire medical researchers and equip them with the necessary tools to sustain a successful career in medical research in these highly competitive and financially challenging times. Over the course of two days the program features **interactive workshops** (media engagement and presentation skills), **keynote addresses** from successful medical researchers and an **open forum with prominent speakers** from the State Government, NHMRC, Australian Society for Medical Research, Australian Academy of Sciences and Discoveries Needs Dollars society discussing issues that researchers face in the pursuit of excellence in medical research.

ECR Retreat **P.1**
Professional Development
Seminar Series **P.1**
ECR Symposium **P.2**
(NEW!) Web Comic **P.2**
Mentorship Program **P.3**
Inspiring Scientists Program **P.3**
Career Resources **P.3**
ECR Spotlight **P.4**

MORE DETAILS:

The retreat will be held on **27th-28th September** at the *Country Place Retreat*, in Kalorama in the Dandenong Ranges, only 40 mins from Melbourne. For those who can't stay overnight day registrations are also available. **Registration is essential and the deadline has been extended to Friday 3rd August.** Priority will be given to early/mid career researchers (up to 10 years postdoctoral) and final year PhD students, but others are also encouraged to apply if interested (eg. RAs, earlier PhD students or other researchers).

**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS**

On 26th July Wendy Lundgaard (Director, Win-Win Workplace Strategies) facilitated a session on **effective leadership and supervision skills**. She presented some great information on leadership styles, with plenty of time for discussion and reflection on personal style and how it impacts on your interactions with other colleagues. The **next seminar in this series** is scheduled for October and will focus on different **career options for researchers**, with 4 guest speakers from differing backgrounds giving an overview of job options in their area, followed by a Q&A session.

Your ECR Symposium Success!

Friday June 15th saw the hosting of the inaugural **Early Career Researcher (ECR) symposium**, bringing together ECRs from across The Alfred campus to present on their research and meet other researchers. The opening address was delivered by **Professor Fabienne Mackay, Deputy Head of the Central Clinical School**. She in particular emphasised the benefits of multidisciplinary research to address research questions in novel ways and deliver findings that have the broadest impact, something that she believed the symposium could play an important part in facilitating.

AWARDS: Central Clinical School / School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine

Best Oral Presentation:

- **Sebastian Dworkin** for his oral titled "Grhl3 regulates endothelin-1 to form the lower jaw"

Best Poster:

- **Evelyn Tsantikos** for her poster titled "The role of immune cells and lymphangiogenesis in chronic inflammatory disease"
- **Rebecca Segrave** for her poster titled "Emotive interference during cognitive processing in major depression: an EEG investigation of lower alpha 1 activity"



(Sebastian)



(Evelyn)



(Rebecca)

AWARDS: Burnet Institute

Best Oral Presentation:

- **Cath Latham** for her oral titled "Vesicle budding by protein coats: a membrane-bending tug of war"

Best Poster:

- **Anna Hearps** for her poster titled "HIV induces premature ageing of monocytes in young HIV+ men"



(Lachlan & Cath)



(Lachlan & Anna)

WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE 2ND ECR SYMPOSIUM? To be held on **Friday 16th November 2012**. The call for abstracts will be **coming soon** and we are hoping that more ECRs will get involved to share their research, hear about other research being done at The Alfred, and help in building our multidisciplinary capacity to conduct world-class science.

"Science Montage"

From xkcd.com



FACULTY ECR WEBSITE



WANT TO GET CONNECTED?

The Faculty ECR Information Gateway Website contains many useful links for ECRs and also advertises upcoming ECR events. It can be accessed directly via the following link:

<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/intranet/research/ecrinformationgateway/>

Your representatives' contact details

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Mentorship Program

The **2012 CCS ECR mentoring program** is being organised by ECR Committee members Maithili Sashindranath & Lachlan Gray with Prof. Jennifer Wilkinson-Berka as the CCS-ECR coordinator. It commenced in May 2012 with a seminar conducted by professional change management consultant Julie Warnock.

The objective of the mentoring program is to give ECRs the opportunity to interact with senior individuals outside their immediate area of work who can provide them with guidance in important aspects of research career development. These may include applying for fellowships and grants, writing manuscripts, applying for promotions etc; however the mentee may also seek the mentor's guidance on other specific aspects of their career that need further development.

The 2012 CCS ECR mentoring program will comprise a total of 11 mentor/mentee pairs across the AMREP campus. The program will run until June 2013 when feedback from mentors and mentees will be collated and reported to the ECR committee, the CCS executive, and the wider CCS community. It is anticipated that the CCS ECR mentoring program will provide the structure and foundation for a faculty-wide mentoring program in 2013.

Why participate in the mentorship program?

"The major reasons I joined the Mentorship program were to seek valuable career guidance and to become more fully informed about all the avenues and options that are available to assist me with the advancement of my career. I'm particularly keen in being assisted to identify the weak points in my CV and come up with strategies to help build these areas and others to continue a successful career in science". – Lachlan Gray

"I joined the mentorship program because I wanted to receive advice on how to effectively apply for fellowships and how to advance my career while still maintaining a healthy work-life balance. My first meeting with my mentor was very positive, and we discussed the importance of networking and exposure, as well as the types of fellowships that are available to me at this early stage of my post-doc". – Mellissa Brown

Call for Inspiring Scientists: 11-12th August 2012

The **Inspiring Scientists program** held at *Scienceworks* enables young people to interact with scientists from different fields in an effort to inspire them to pursue careers in science and help raise the profile of science in the community. Bring along any work-related objects, activities, demonstrations or equipment as display items or talking pieces to engage and inspire young people and their families.

The Inspiring Scientists program will run from 11am – 4pm on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th August, with the option of showcasing at least two scientists from your field each day (AM:11am-1.30pm and PM:1.30-4pm).

Lunch will be provided by Museum Victoria. For further enquires and to book a space please contact Avvy Banerjee
ph: 9392 4516
or email abanerjee@museum.vic.gov.au



ECR Spotlight!

*Congratulations to the following ECRs
for their recent achievements!*

Publications

Vincent F.B., Morand E.F., and Mackay F. BAFF and innate immunity: new therapeutic targets for systemic lupus erythematosus. *Immunol Cell Biol* 2012;90:293-303.

Sashindranath M, Sales E, Daglas M, Freeman R, Samson AL, Cops EJ, Beckham S, Galle A, McLean C, Morganti-Kossmann C, Rosenfeld JV, Madani R, Vassalli J-D, Su EJ, Lawrence DA, Medcalf RL. The tissue-type plasminogen activator-plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 complex promotes neurovascular injury in brain trauma: evidence from mice and humans. *Brain*. Accepted 5th June 2012.

Maxwell MJ, Tsantikos E, Kong AM, Vanhaesebroeck B, Tarlinton DM, Hibbs, M.L. Attenuation of phosphoinositide 3-kinase δ signaling restrains autoimmune disease. *J Autoimmun.* 2012 Jun;38(4):381-91. Epub 2012 Apr 25.

Lowthian JA, Cameron PA. Improving timeliness whilst improving the quality of emergency care. *EMA* 2012; 24:219-21.

Lee, H., Sturgeon, S., **Mountford, J.**, Jackson, S. & Hamilton, J. (2012). Safety and efficacy of targeting platelet protease-activated receptors in combination with existing anti-platelet drugs as antithrombotics in mice. *Brit. J. Pharmacol. In press*

Weller C, Evans S. Venous leg ulcer management in general practice - practice nurses and evidence based guidelines. *Aust Fam Physician.* 2012;41(5):331-7. Epub 2012/05/05.

Hooker DA, Masqura M, Anderson J, Reena R, **Gray LR**, Ellett A, Lewin S, Gorry P, Cherry C (2012). A new way of measuring apoptosis by absolute quantitation of internucleosomally fragmented genomic DNA. *Nucleic Acids Research*, ePub 2012

Z. Nasa, J.-Y. Chung, J. Chan, B.-H. Toh & F. Alderuccio. Nonmyeloablative Conditioning Generates Autoantigen-Encoding Bone Marrow That Prevents and Cures an Experimental Autoimmune Disease. *American Journal of Transplantation.* 2012.

Vincent F. and Mackay F. Explainer: Crohn's disease and intestinal immune balance. [online]. *The Conversation* 2012 July. <http://theconversation.edu.au/explainer-crohns-disease-and-intestinal-immune-balance-6596>

Grants

CIA **Carolina Weller**, in collaboration with Austin Health, received \$50,000 funding from the Department of Health for a 'Hospital in the Home' quality and efficacy project.

Charbel Darido received a CCS Travel Grant 2012.

Awards and prizes

Judith Lowthian received the prestigious **Stawell Prize**. Awarded by the AMA, the Stawell Prize is given for research published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* "on a medical subject of clinical significance... which is original, evidence-based and which is likely to advance knowledge, influence clinical practice and improve the health of Australians." This an exciting example of ECR research being formally recognised and generating plenty of buzz! Media release: <http://www.monash.edu.au/news/show/victorian-ambulance-study-wins-stawell-prize>

Lachlan Gray received the **International Scholarship Award**, World AIDS 2012. This \$5000USD award defrays registration, travel, lodging & living allowance expenses associated with attending the 19th World AIDS Conference, Washington, DC, USA on the 22-27 July 2012.

Lachlan Gray received the **Monash School Of Biomedical Sciences Travel Grant 2012**. This travel award provides \$2000 AUD toward registration, airfares and accommodation for attending and present work at an international conference of choice.

Sara Prickett received the EUR 200 'Best Presentation Prize' for her talk "CD4+ T-cell epitope peptides with MHC-restriction diversity: candidates for a peanut allergy therapeutics" at the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology Annual Congress in Geneva, Switzerland.

Hao Lu was awarded a **Junior Researcher Support Award** in HIV and hepatitis from the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.

ECR e-RESOURCES

INFORMATIVE ECR
PORTAL:

<http://intranet.monash.edu.au/research/ecr/>

ECR-TARGETED

SCHEMES:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/researchoffice/fod/ecr-schemes.php>

PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS &
PRIZES:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/researchoffice/prestige/awards.html>

RESEARCHERS' ONLINE
PROJECTS ENQUIRY
SYSTEM (ROPES):

<http://www.monash.edu/researchoffice/ropes>

THINKWELL RESOURCES
FOR MAXIMISING YOUR
PRODUCTIVITY

<http://ithinkwell.com.au/>

ECR WEBSITE

The ECR website has been recently updated and is a great resource for ECRs.

<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/cecs/ecr-committee.html>

