

## Billboard

### DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

#### AMREP ECR RETREAT

**Date:** Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>  
September – Friday 27<sup>th</sup>  
**Location:** The Country  
Place, Kalorama

#### AMREP ECR conference

**Date:** Monday August 26<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** All day  
**Location:** AMREP Lecture  
Theatre  
**Notes:** Submit an abstract  
[http://survey.burnet.edu.au/  
index.php?  
sid=22578&lang=en](http://survey.burnet.edu.au/index.php?sid=22578&lang=en)

### ABOUT ECR TIMES

**ECR TIMES** is the quarterly e-newsletter of the early career researchers of the Monash CCS, Burnet Institute and Baker IDI.

**ECR TIMES** is prepared by Damien Saulep-Easton, Tamsyn Van Rheenen & Jacqueline Flynn



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## THINKING BIG: the new AMREP-wide ECR network

### ECR Expansion

The ECR Committee would like to warmly welcome new members from The Baker IDI and Burnet Institute. The ECR is commencing a period of expansion, building firm relationships with other ECR and EMCR networks here at AMREP to ensure our resources are used to effectively deliver on initiatives important to EMCRs. See new member profiles on **page 2**.

### AMREP ECR Retreat

It's almost that time of year again – time for the annual AMREP ECR Retreat. Following the wonderful success of the AMREP-wide ECR retreat in 2012, this year will see ECRs from across the precinct convening once more to discuss research, career and network in the beautiful Dandenongs. See details on **page 3**.

### Revamped ECR Webpage

See what your ECR committee is up to and what your representatives have organised for 2013. Check out the new webpage, complete with all new navigation and design:  
<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/cccs/ecr/>

### Mentorship Program

The ECR committee has held two successful seminars. Firstly, the 'Mentoring Roadshow', promoting our program to other Monash Schools interested in adopting our Mentorship program model, and secondly, "An introduction to mentoring." Our mentee list is filling but we still have openings so if you're interested in joining the ECR Mentoring program in 2013, please email us and a representative will take you through the sign up process. For more details, contact **Sarah Charnaud, Carolina Weller or Lachlan Gray** (see last page for contact details).



We are pleased to announce our new Facebook page! This is a great space you to have your say - use the page to promote networking amongst your AMREP ECR peers, exchange information, post events, photos and opportunities for collaboration.  
<https://www.facebook.com/AmrepEcrs>

### COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK?

Want to advertise an event to the precinct? Won an award or published a paper? We welcome your input, so let us know what you have to say! [ecr.AMREP@monash.edu](mailto:ecr.AMREP@monash.edu)

# Fresh Faces

**Welcome to our new Baker IDI members:** Amanda Sampson, Andrew Carey, Anne Abbott, Helene Kammoun, Joon Lim, Kiymet Bozaoglu and Lina Gubhaju. Check out Joon, Andrew and Kiymet's research activities below. More profiles in the next issue of ECR Times!



**Name:** Joon Lim  
**Position:** Early career research fellow and Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes ECS president  
**Department:** Neuropharmacology lab, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute  
**Joon's Research:** Joon specialises in obesity related hypertension. Joon has a particular interest in the pathway or signalling of insulin and leptin within the brain and also the association to increased sympathetic nerve activity in obese subjects.

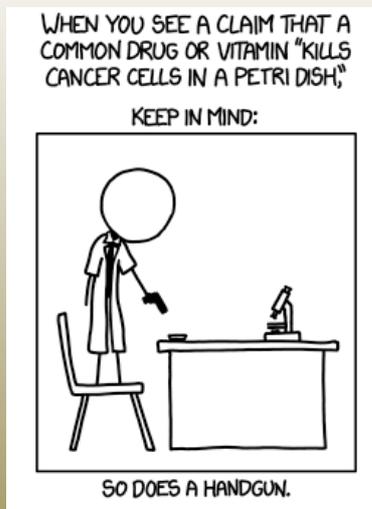
**Name:** Andrew Carey  
**Position:** Senior Post Doctoral Research Officer  
**Department/School:** Baker IDI, Metabolic and Vascular Physiology Laboratory  
**Andrew's Research:** Andrew has been at Baker IDI in Bronwyn Kingwell's MVP Laboratory for the past 4 years. The group is a clinical-translational physiology laboratory with a broad range of focus areas related to cardiovascular vascular disease, obesity and diabetes. Andrew leads a branch of research within the group which aims at manipulating brown fat tissue in humans as a potential therapeutic target for preventing and/or reversing obesity.



**Name:** Kiymet Bozaoglu  
**Position:** Group Leader, Genomics and Systems Biology  
**Department/School:** Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute  
**Kiymet's Research:** My research predominantly focuses on the genetics of complex diseases, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity. We use a multidisciplinary approach where we combine genetic analyses in large family studies to identify "new genes" that may be linked to a particular disease and then validate its function using *in vitro* and *in vivo* models. This can then be translated into the clinic to help develop new and improved therapeutic strategies to help ameliorate the incidence of complex diseases.



## Always remember...



Thanks to Mhairi Maxwell for the above submission from xkcd.com

## Can you draw? The ECR Comic Comp

Do you think you've got a funny idea for a mini comic strip or panel like the one above? From July 10<sup>th</sup> - August 20<sup>th</sup>, readers are invited to submit their own *science or research-themed* cartoon strip or single panel. The best submission will be determined by your ECR representatives. The winner will have their cartoon featured in our next issue of the **ECRTimes** in October 2013. The winner will also receive a **PRIZE**, to be presented at the AMREP ECR conference, on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Send your submissions to [ecr.amrep@monash.edu](mailto:ecr.amrep@monash.edu)

### GET INVOLVED!

Want to have a say in what happens to ECRs? Register your interest with us and become a member in 2013. Join us in making decisions that impact on ECR professional development here at AMREP.

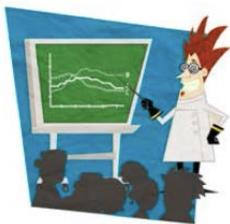
# Upcoming Events



The AMREP ECR Conference aims to bring together researchers, PhD, Masters and Honours students from the Burnet Institute, Baker IDI and Monash University, providing a forum for ECRs to present their work to fellow colleagues. The symposium also encourages cross-institute collaborations and enhanced networking across the entire AMREP site.

The conference will be held on **Monday August 26th** in the AMREP Lecture Theatre (between the Burnet and Baker buildings, Commercial Rd). Registration is **FREE** and includes, morning tea, lunch and a mixer as well as many amazing prizes for oral and poster presentations. **Prizes** include: Apple iPads, Gold Class movie tickets, Coles/Myer vouchers and coffee vouchers.

For conference registration and abstract submission please use the following link: <http://bit.ly/11wQ3wN>



## AMREP ECR RETREAT

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 27<sup>th</sup>

The AMREP EMCR retreat focuses on the professional development of the future leaders in medical research and to promote collaborations and networking across the precinct. This retreat will bring together approximately 100 registrants encompassing early to mid career postdoctoral scientists and final year PhD students from Monash University, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, the Alfred Hospital and the Burnet Institute, all located at the AMREP site.

### 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 an interactive workshop with a specific focus on NHMRC project grant reviews with a mock panel of assessors, as well as an interactive workshop on leadership. Keynote addresses from successful biomedical researchers and a panel discussion with speakers from academia, industry, government and defence will provide a balanced view of life as a biomedical researcher.

See **full coverage** of the Retreat events in our special October issue of *ECR Times*.

## National Science Budget: The political pot-hole

In May 2103 The Australian Academy of Science release it's critical evaluation of federal funding for scientific research, citing a lack of vision and long-term investment in the nation's most talented and highly trained scientific professionals. Academy President, Prof. Suzanne Cory, described the short-changing of future scientific research for more immediate quick-fixes. Despite \$135.3M for the ARC's Future Fellowships program and a further \$185.9M for NCRIS, neither of these two arrangements extend beyond 2-5 years funding, representing a relatively miniscule investment "against a background of a total \$3.3 billion in cuts and deferrals to research and education."

Prof. Cory went further, suggesting that any strategy failing to incorporate a vision of attracting, training and retaining scientific professionals was apt to fail. This would be especially pronounced in an Asia-Pacific region that is enjoying a robust economic prosperity. Any failure to invest now could hinder our national capabilities to respond to emerging health and environmental challenges.

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

## Publications

**Van Rheenen TE**, Rossell SL. Is the non-verbal behavioural emotion-processing profile of bipolar disorder impaired? A critical review. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*, 2013.

**Flynn JK**, Dore G, Hellard M, Yeung B, Rawlinson W, et al. Maintenance of Th1 HCV-specific responses and enhanced T cell effector function in individuals with acute HCV who achieve sustained virological clearance after treatment. *Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, 2013.

Jakobsen M, Cashin K, Roche M, Sterjovski J, Ellett A, Borm K, **Flynn JK**, et al., Longitudinal Analysis of Coreceptor Usage Alterations in a Cohort of Antiretroviral Therapy-Naïve Subjects with Progressive HIV-1 Subtype C Infection. *Plos One*, 2013.

**Flynn JK**, Paukovics G, Ellett A, Moore M, **Gray LR**, **Duncan R**, et al. The magnitude of HIV-1 resistance to the CCR5 antagonist maraviroc imparts a differential alteration in HIV-1 tropism for macrophages and T-cell subsets. *Virology*, 2013.

Cashin K, **Gray LR**, Jakobsen MR, Sterjovski J, Churchill MJ, Gorry PR (2013). CoRSeqV3-C: A novel HIV-1 subtype C specific V3 sequence based coreceptor specificity prediction algorithm. *Retrovirology*, 2013.

**Gray LR**, Tachedjian G, Ellett AM, Roche MJ, Brew BJ, Turville SG, Wesselingh SL, Gorry PR, Churchill MJ (2013). Zidovudine and stavudine have reduced HIV-1 inhibitory activity in astrocytes. *Plos One*, 2013 (8:e62196).

Roche M, Salimi H, **Duncan R**, Wilkinson BL, Chikere K, Moore MS, Webb NE, Zappi H, Sterjovski J, **Flynn JK**, Ellett A, **Gray LR**, Lee B, Jubb B, Westby M, Ramsland PA, Lewin SR, Payne RJ, Churchill MJ, Gorry PR (2013). A common mechanism of clinical HIV-1 resistance to the CCR5 antagonist maraviroc despite divergent resistance levels and lack of common gp120 resistance mutations. *Retrovirology*, 2013

Vincent FB, **Saulep-Easton D**, Figgett WA, Fairfax K and Mackay F. The BAFF/APRIL system: emerging functions beyond B cell biology and autoimmunity. *CGFR*, 2013 (doi: 10.1016/j.cytogfr.2013.04.003).

Weaver E, Horyniak D, Jenkinson R, Dietze P, **Lim MSC**. (2013) "Let's get WASTED!" and other apps: characteristics, acceptability and use of alcohol-related smartphone applications. *JMIR Mhealth Uhealth*: 1(1): e9.

Murielle M, Henri P, **Vincent FB**, Leon N and Marcelli C. Mesangial immunoglobulin (Ig)A glomerulonephritis in a patient with rheumatoid arthritis treated with abatacept. *Joint Bone Spine* 2013; doi:10.1016/j.jbspin.2013.05.003

## Grants & Awards

**Eric Tan**: Australasian Schizophrenia Conference Young Investigator Award for Excellence in Research.

**Tamsyn Van Rheenen**: Australasian Schizophrenia Conference Young Investigator Award for Excellence in Research

**Lachlan Gray**: CASS Foundation Travel Grant 2013; International AIDS Society Scholarship 2013; IAS "Towards an HIV Cure" Symposium Scholarship.

Congratulations to **Erica Neill** and **Hannah Lee** who have been awarded their respective PhDs. Erica is currently working as the Cognitive Neuropsychiatry lab manager at MAPrc and Hannah is currently studying postgraduate medicine.

**Megan Lim** received the Australian National Preventive Health Agency 2013 Preventive Health Research Fellowship. Megan's project focuses on reducing young people's alcohol consumption and other risk behaviours using social media.

Congratulations to **Michael Roche** (HIV Molecular Pathogenesis Lab, Burnet Institute) for winning the **2013 Mollie Holman Medal** awarded by the Monash Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. Presented at the Burnet Institute's AGM, this award recognised Michael's research into HIV-1 Envelope protein determinants of Viral Tropism and Antiviral Drug Resistance during his PhD which resulted in 5 publications.

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