

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:ecr.AMREP@monash.edu)

### ABOUT ECRTIMES

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

ECRTIMES 04 is prepared by Megan Crane and Lachlan Gray



## this issue

CCS ECR returns in 2011 **P.1**

New Head of School **P.2**

Help protect NHMRC **P.2**

New ECR representatives **P.3**

Upcoming ECR Seminars **P.3**

## CCS ECR returns in 2011

Welcome to the first CCS ECR newsletter for the year. After a fantastic first year the ECR committee are continuing to run the fortnightly CCS ECR seminar series. The quality of presentations so far this year has been impressive. We encourage you to come along and soak up the wisdom of your fellow ECRs as well as enjoying some free lunch. Alternate Thursdays 1-2pm Level 5 Alfred Centre Lecture Theatre (lunch from 12.30).

As part of the CCS ECR seminar series this year we will be hosting a number of workshops and guest speakers, including a statistics workshop to be held in May and a CV and paper writing workshop to be held in August. Watch out for flyers and emails for further details.

Following on from last year's hugely successful event we will be holding the second annual CCS ECR retreat on 29th and 30th September, at the Country Place Retreat, Olinda. Abstract submission dates will be announced soon. This year we are planning more cross-disciplinary

interactions as well as invited guest speakers ie less talking more networking!

First up in this newsletter we have a profile of our new Head of School, Stephen Jane. Check out all the details on page 2.

This year we have some new faces on the CCS ECR committee. Welcome to new ECR committee members Mhairi Maxwell (Hibbs Lab, Immunology), Anna Hearps (Crowe Lab, Burnet) Damien Saulep (Mackay Lab, Immunology) and Maithili Sashindranath (Mecalf Lab, ACBD). Check out their profiles on page 3. We are still inviting new members.

The CCS ECR is currently gauging interest in holding a "writing group" similar to a program run at Clayton and customised seminars on leadership, mentoring, time management and work-life balance (among others). If anyone is interested please contact a committee member. As always we welcome feedback and ideas so drop us a line at [ecr.AMREP@monash.edu](mailto:ecr.AMREP@monash.edu)



## Your representative's contact details

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Stephen Jane completed his medical degree at Monash. He entered the physician training program at the Alfred, completing clinical/laboratory haematology and a PhD under Hatem Salem. He then spent 3 years at the NIH in Bethesda, before joining the faculty at St Jude Children's Research Hospital In Memphis Tennessee for 2 years. He returned to Australia in 1995 as a Wellcome Senior Research Fellow to the University of Melbourne at the Bone Marrow Research Laboratories in the Royal Melbourne Hospital. He became Director of the laboratories in 2000, a Principal Research

Fellow of the NHMRC in 2005 and a Professor of Medicine University of Melbourne in 2006. He was appointed as the Head of Central Clinical School, Professor of Medicine, Monash University and Director of Research for Alfred Hospital in 2011. His research interests focus on developmental transcription using blood and skin as the model organ system. He has published over 80 papers including articles in Science, Nature Medicine and Developmental Cell.

## NHMRC Budget under threat

As most of you may already be aware the current NHMRC budget is under threat of being cut to the order of \$400 million dollars over three years, by the Gillard government. WEHI has been inspirational in starting up the Discoveries Need Dollars website, see the link below, to highlight the current situation and encourage people to petition their federal and local members to voice your concerns over what such a drastic measure could do to medical research in Australia. See an excerpt from the website below, and get involved today!

Discoveries Need Dollars is a grassroots campaign aimed at telling the government that protecting medical research funding is an investment in the future health of Australians.

### What's at risk if the budget is cut?

- people's access to future health benefits
- medical research jobs
- retaining Australia's best scientists
- reducing Australia's future health spend
- the long-term investment previous governments have made in large research programs



### What you can do to help

- [Tell Australia's politicians](#) that cutbacks in medical research funding are not an option.
- [Become a face of medical research](#). If you are a medical researcher or have benefited from medical research, share your story with us by sending it to [info@discoveriesneeddollars.org](mailto:info@discoveriesneeddollars.org).

Visit the website today! [www.discoveriesneeddollars.org](http://www.discoveriesneeddollars.org)

## New ECR representatives

**Maithili Sashindranath**

**Department:** Australian Centre for Blood Diseases (ACBD) **Position:** Post-doctoral Researcher. **PhD awarded:** 2009 **Years post-doc:** 3 **Research Interests:** Neuroscience, more specifically, traumatic brain injury and the role of proteases in the brain



**“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.*

**Damien Saulep-Easton (ECR Retreat)**

**Department:** Immunology. **Position:** PhD Student, Department of Immunology. **Research Interests:** The role of the BAFF cytokine system and B cell-mediated regulation of effector responses in autoimmunity and cancer.



**Anna Hearps (ECR Retreat)**

**Department:** Centre for Virology, Burnet Institute. **Position:** Post-doctoral Researcher, Burnet Institute. **PhD awarded:** 2007, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Monash University. **Years post-doc:** 3 **Research Interests:** HIV and immune ageing, HIV drug resistance.



**Mhairi Maxwell (ECR Retreat)**

**Department:** Immunology. **Position:** Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Department of Immunology. **PhD awarded:** 2005. **Years post-doc:** 5 **Research Interests:** Signalling pathways involved in immune cell development and function, in particular, aberrations in signalling that can lead to autoimmune and inflammatory disease.

## Upcoming CCS ECR Seminars

Date	Speaker	Department
28/04/11	1 Evelyn Tsantikos	Immunology
	2 Kirsten Fairfax	Immunology
12/05/11	1 Ping Fu	Medicine
	2 Anne Kong	Immunology
26/05/11	*Statistics workshop*	Eldho Paul
9/06/11	Greg Moseley (1 hr)	Biochemistry Clayton
23/06/11	1 Perdita Cheshire	Medicine/ Van Cleef
	2 Anna Hearps	Burnet

### ECR SEMINAR PROGRAM

This year we have a dedicated timeslot for the ECR Seminar Series. The seminars run fortnightly and are held on a Thursday lunchtime, 1-2pm (with lunch supplied at 12:30pm). Join us in the Level 5 Alfred Centre Lecture theatre for a range of talks covering research from ECRs, seminars on career planning, media training, to information sessions from the Monash Research Office.

### AWARDS, PRIZES & PAPERS

Have you recently won any awards or prizes for your work or had a paper published? If so we'd love to hear from you. Drop us an email with the details and we'll include it in an upcoming newsletter.

Email us at [ecr.AMREP@monash.edu](mailto:ecr.AMREP@monash.edu)

### 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)