ARC/NHMRC RESEARCH NETWORK FOR PARASITOLOGY

Network Newsletter, Monday, 5 June 2006

Dear Network Participant,

Please download the current Network Newsletter from our website
http://www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/Newsletter/Newsletter_050606.pdf
The June edition of the ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology Newsletter holds the following items for you:

## [1] 2006 ASP & ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology Annual Conference

The response to the 2006 conference has been sensational - over 250 registrations and more than 160 submissions for presentations – easily eclipsing even the 210 registrations at the First Network Conference last year in Melbourne. This is obviously a very strong indication that parasitology research is thriving in Australia but it has created a dilemma that has rarely before occurred at an ASP meeting (though is common in many other conferences) – the Organising Committee was unable to offer oral contribution spots to everyone who requested them and apologises to, and asks for the understanding of, anyone who was disappointed. The Committee is confident, however, that everyone will find the 2006 ASP & Network Conference inspiring, exciting and entertaining with a few novel initiatives being introduced this year.

*Awards*
There will be several prizes on offer for both students and early career researchers at the conference.

The ASP will be awarding three prizes to students: one for the best oral presentation; another for the best poster presentation; and a new award for the best 5 minute oral presentation accompanying a poster.

The Network will also be awarding up to two prizes to "Early Career Researchers". The prizes will be for the best conference presentations (whether poster or oral presentations) by postdoctoral researchers (currently based in Australian institutions) who are within 10 years of receipt of their PhD. To be eligible for consideration, candidates must be in non-tenured positions and be the first author and presenter of a talk or poster at the Conference. The prizes will be in the form of travel grants (valued up to $4000-5000) to attend, and present at, the annual meeting of one of our sister networks in Europe, Canada or Southeast Asia:

- BioMalPar – The Biology and Pathology of the Malaria Parasite: A European Union Network of Excellence - http://www.biomalpar.org/;
- European Union COST Action 857 "Apicomplexan Biology in the Post-Genomic Era" - http://www.iah.bbsrc.ac.uk/eimeria/COST%20857.htm;
- European Union COST Action B22 "Drug Development for Parasitic Diseases" - http://www.icp.ucl.ac.be/cost/costB22/;
- The Quebec Centre for Host-Parasite Interactions - http://www.mcgill.ca/chpi/;
- The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMO)– Regional Tropical Medicine and Public Health Network - http://www.tm.mahidol.ac.th/en/

If you would like to be considered for one of the Early Career Researcher Awards, please send me an email Lisa.Jones@uts.edu.au with the title of your presentation, a statement about your qualifications (i.e. date and place of

award of PhD) and your current position. Please note that if it is more than 10 years since the award of your PhD but you have experienced career interruptions, you may still be eligible for consideration – please include a statement explaining why you believe you should be eligible despite more than 10 years passing since the award of your PhD.

*Conference proceedings*
In the week prior to the conference I will circulate the conference proceedings as a pdf. Delegates should print this out to bring along to the conference as we will not have copies available there.

*Special needs, accessibility requirements or dietary requests*
Conference delegates please send me an email (Lisa.Jones@uts.edu.au) or contact me by phone 02-95144006 with details of any special needs, accessibility requirements or dietary requests that you have for the Conference.

## [2] Update your research information on our website

I am in the process of updating the online Network Participant Registry. You can review your research information and profile, including your *Ten Most Significant Publications,* on the Network website: http://www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/registry.shtml (select INDEX to view the whole list). Please email me any changes or updates you would like to make to your profile: Lisa.Jones@uts.edu.au

***Awards***

## [3] Geoff McFadden awarded a 2006 ARC Federation Fellowship

*Congratulations to Howard Hughes International Scholar, Professor Geoff McFadden, based at the Botany School, at the University of Melbourne who was recently awarded an ARC Federation Fellowship. These awards are highly prestigious and designed to develop and retain the skills of Australian researchers.*

*Geoff is the first parasitologist to win a Federation Fellowship and he talked to me about the award on 30 May 2006.*

*Why is your area of research important?*

> "I research the malaria parasite. Malaria is a major global health problem, with an estimated five million people dying from the disease every year. Existing therapeutic drugs are no longer as useful in treating malaria because, over the years, the parasites have become resistant to them. Our research involves finding new drugs and new parasite-specific targets through looking at plant evolutionary history and the history of the parasite. Our research group was the first to identify a relict chloroplast in malaria parasites and this revolutionised

our understanding of the parasite's evolution. Currently we have been identifying a whole new range of drugs that weren't previously considered anti-malarials, including herbicides. We've had a high success rate and have identified approximately 15 new drugs, including herbicides and antibiotics (like doxycycline). Identifying targets and leads is relatively easy – now it is a matter of their potency."

*What does being awarded an ARC Federation Fellowship mean for your research?*

"We will be able to expand our research group and do totally new things that we couldn't do before. The Federation Fellowship money will be used to create a malaria mosquito facility in Melbourne to enable scientists to study the parasite in the mosquito phase of its life cycle. The new facility will also be used to study insect-borne viruses and develop new and sophisticated gene targeting technologies for malaria parasite research."

"We will use the facility and funds to build a mosquito colony, using either *Anopheles stephensi* or *Anopheles farauti* (the latter is a vector for malaria that is found in Australia, SE Asia and India), infect them with malaria and then investigate what is happening to their organelles. This new knowledge of the basic biology of the malaria parasite will help in the development of new anti-malarial drugs."

"The ARC Federation Fellowship means that I will have more flexibility and be able to focus on my research. I think that the new facility will attract collaborators worldwide as there are few of these types of research facilities; the Institut Pasteur in Paris and Imperial College London offer similar research facilities."

*What will stop the malaria parasite from becoming resistant to the new anti-malaria drugs that you are developing?*

"Scientists are more prepared now and know how resistance to drugs works. We are a lot smarter about resistance and develop multiple-enzyme targets and cycle drugs to deter drug resistance."

*What are the steps you need to take once you have developed new anti-malaria drugs so that people infected with malaria can benefit from your research?*

"The process of identifying and developing new drugs to combat malaria might be a long process. Initially we will identify a lead or a target and then assess its economic viability…find out how cheap is it to make and how difficult to synthesise - herbicides are manufactured on a massive production scale so they are generally pretty cheap to make."

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*Supported by the Australian Research Council, the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Australian Society for Parasitology.*

"Next we test the lead against parasites in the lab (in culture); then test the lead in animal models (usually mice)."

"The next stage is to find out about the pharmacokinetics of the new drug and finally the drug goes to clinical trials."

"We will collaborate with other scientists throughout the process of identifying leads and testing them; we have good links with industry and NGO's like the Medicines for Malaria Venture (Initiative) who help our research"

"With this process in mind the ARC Federation Fellowship is not a bad timeframe (5 years) for the research work that I do."

*How does your research into anti-malaria drugs fit in with the malaria vaccine development at QIMR and why are both areas of research necessary?*

"We are using complementary approaches. Vaccines are better for long-term solutions; with a vaccine you are looking to totally eliminate the disease, it is the ultimate solution. However a vaccine for malaria may be a way off and in the meantime we use anti-malaria drugs."

"Malaria drugs are a short term fix, they can assist in short-term problems but people may be re-infected. There are currently drugs at various stages of development in the pipeline for treating malaria, these should help to alleviate the problem."

*What sort of advantages do you anticipate the new malaria mosquito facility in Melbourne will give to this area of research?*

"This facility will hopefully encourage collaborations within the malaria research community; scientists will be able to study parasite lifestyle, develop new drugs to target malaria, and study how these drugs affect motility of and invasion by the parasite."

"The malaria research community in Melbourne (includes scientists from Monash University, University of Melbourne, LaTrobe University, and WEHI) are leaders in malaria cell biology. There is already a critical mass in Melbourne who use sophisticated technologies, have a great knowledge in immunology and cell biology and have a strong bioinformatics facility. I hope that the facility will be a magnet, attracting additional staff and visiting scientists. We will bring scientists in to tap into new techniques and to share some of our own skills."

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*The ARC invests $41.5 million over five years into the Federation Fellowship award scheme; 90 Federation Fellowships have been taken up since the first awards in 2002. What sort of impact do you think this award scheme is having on science research both within Australia and internationally?*

> "The ARC Federation Fellowship is a fantastic scheme - it means that scientists are right up there at the top with world-class facilities and attractive remuneration, as most high-end jobs are. The Fellowship scheme is a great opportunity for me; and I think it helps to keep people in Australia. It would be good if there were even more opportunities available for Australian scientists – this would help Australia move away from being a resource-based country and to create more opportunities for scientific development."
>
> "Being involved in setting up the ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology helped my application. The ARC has supported my career since day one and the ARC Federation Fellowship will give me the independence and flexibility to enable me to direct malaria research."

*This interview is also published on the Network website* *http://www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/news.shtml*

Do you have a parasitology media story to share? Contact Lisa Jones Lisa.Jones@uts.edu.au or telephone 02 9514 4006.

**[4] Congratulations to Alan Cowman who was recently awarded the Lemberg Medal from the Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**

"Alan Cowman is recognised globally as a pre-eminent malaria researcher. He has made an enormous impact on infectious disease research, changing people's lives and health outcomes through his significant research breakthroughs."

So begins the citation that led to Professor Cowman being honoured with the most prestigious award of the Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the Lemberg Medal.

The citation continues: "[Professor Cowman] works in a highly competitive field on an organism that is notoriously difficult to manipulate and [he] publishes in prestigious international journals advancing understanding, knowledge and strategies to combat this devastating disease. The Cowman laboratory's innovative and pioneering work has driven the development of new technologies and opened up fresh avenues of investigation, discovery [and] knowledge that is essential in identifying the most appropriate vaccine and drug targets for the development of new therapeutics against malaria."

Professor Cowman is the Head of WEHI's Division of Infection and Immunity. His previous honours include the Gottschalk Medal for Medical Science and

Biology from the Australian Academy of Sciences and (twice) an International Research Scholarship from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, USA. He is also a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science.

## [5] Congratulations to Prof John Ellis who will be awarded Doctor of Science

Liverpool University is to award the degree of Doctor of Science (D. Sc) to Professor John Ellis at UTS for his research on the biology of the cyst-forming coccidia (*Neospora*, *Hammondia*, *Besnoitia*, *Sarcocystis* and *Toxoplasma*).

## [6] Network Travel Award Winners

Congratulations to the most recent Network Researcher Exchange, Training and Travel Award winners:

**Barbara Nowak,** of the University of Tasmania, who successfully applied to the Network for assistance for the Researcher Exchange visit of Prof Iva Dyková from the Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic to do research on *Neoparamoeba* spp. and run a short training workshop;

**Najju Ranjit** of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, **Nicholas Proellocks** of Monash University, and **Joanne McCoubrie** of the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute, who have all successfully applied to the Network for assistance to attend the Biology of Parasitism – Modern Approaches course at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL), Woods Hole, USA this year. We wish all of you the best of luck with this course;

**Leslie Anne Chisholm and Elizabeth Perkins**, of the University of Adelaide, who successfully applied to the Network for assistance for Researcher Exchanges to visit Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas del Noroeste in La Paz, México to investigate a genus of flatworm parasite, *Neobenedenia;*

**Jake Baum**, of the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute, who successfully applied to the Network for a Researcher Exchange to research malaria actin in the Pollard laboratory at Yale University, USA; and

**Craig Hayward**, of the University of Tasmania, who successfully applied to the Network for a Researcher Exchange to undertake collaborative research on parasites of farmed and wild tunas in the waters off Pacific and Atlantic Mexico in North America.

To apply for a Network Travel Award please download the Guidelines, to check your eligibility, and the application form from our website: http://www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/initiatives.shtml

***Requests from Network Participants***

**[7] Pavel Dolezal from the University of Melbourne has a request for Theileria genomic DNA**

*Pavel Dolezal from the University of Melbourne has the following request:*

"If anyone has Theileria genomic DNA we could use as a PCR template, with the aim being to clone a single ORF into a yeast expression vector please contact Pavel by email pdolezal@unimelb.edu.au

Thanks a lot,
Pavel Dolezal"

***Profiles***

**[8] Louise Randall from QIMR won a Network Travel Award in 2005**

***Louise Randall talks to Carly Johnson about her Network Travel Award***

***Tell me about your area of research?***

"I'm currently doing my PhD. I'm interested in cerebral malaria, which is a neurological complication that can arise when people are infected with the parasite, Plasmodium falciparum. I'm using an experimental cerebral malaria model to characterise the role of the immune response and the pathways leading to the development of this disease. I'm particularly interested in the role of cytokines, such as lymphotoxin alpha, in the development of experimental cerebral malaria. I'm also involved in a polymorphism study, which is investigating the possible association between polymorphisms within the lymphotoxin alpha and tumour necrosis factor genes in severe malaria."

***What interests you about working in this area?***

"Cerebral malaria causes a large proportion of the deaths in people, particularly children, with malaria. A significant number of patients die within the first hours at the hospital, before treatments can be administered. This disease is not fully understood. I like to think that our work can help to improve our understanding of the mechanisms involved in cerebral malaria, and ultimately help a lot of people. I also think the host's response to the parasite is really interesting, and I find this area of research challenging."

***How do you see your research developing in the future?***

"In the short term, I aim to understand the steps involved in the development of experimental cerebral malaria. Hopefully, the key factors and pathways identified in the experimental cerebral malaria

system can be translated to the human disease. In the long term, I see the research leading to therapeutics that can help to delay the development of cerebral malaria in humans, thereby allowing time for treatments to be administered, or to the development of preventatives."

***How has the Network travel award helped your research develop?***

"The Network travel award allowed me to attend the Biology of Parasitism Course at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole (USA). It's a really intense course with 8 weeks of parasitology lectures and research projects, all facilitated by researchers who are leaders in their fields. I didn't do parasitology during my undergraduate degree, so the course was a really good way to learn about parasitology and the different areas of research that are happening right now in the field. I learnt many new lab techniques, which I aim to use in my research project here. The course really helped me to review the way I've been looking at my data and to refocus my work. Also, I had the opportunity to get to know some interesting researchers. Our lab has since formed new relations with another group overseas, which will probably lead to future collaborations and hopefully some new and interesting work that wouldn't have happened otherwise."

***What advice do you have for other Network scientists who want to apply for a travel award?***

"I encourage them to apply because I got a lot out of my travel award and I also found the application process to be very straight forward."

***What advice do you have for science students who are considering parasitology as a career?***

"Parasitology is a really diverse field, with research happening at many different levels and angles. I advise science students to have a really good look around and to find an area and a project that they are really passionate about. They'll be spending a lot of time on their project so it's important that the project really interests them."

***What do you see as the benefits of being part of the Network?***

"The support offered by the Network allowed me to have the opportunity to improve my skills. I think it's really positive for Australian scientists to have a network through which interactions can take place between different disciplines and for collaborations to be formed based on the expertise that other groups have or need. Being able to share techniques and expertise is really important and will ultimately lead to new ways in answering some of the key research questions, and to move forward our understanding of parasitology. The Network allows the flow of communication between scientists."

***Tell me about the highlight of your science career so far?***

"Attending the Biology of Parasitism Course."

***What would you like to do in the future?***

"I would like to finish my PhD which will probably happen in August 2007. I would then like to do my first post doc overseas, hopefully in the area of immunoparasitology. I'd like to have the opportunity to do some field work. In 10 years time, I see myself returning and working in Australia."

***Conferences***

**[9] 4th Annual Conference for the Cost B22 action.**

The provisional dates for this conference are 10th – 13th June 2007 in Dundee, Scotland. Ian Gilbert, Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Dundee is organising this conference: Email i.h.gilbert@dundee.ac.uk

**[10] 3rd International Congress on Phthiraptera, Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 16 – 20 2006** at the Pestana Buenos Aires Hotel Carlos Pellegrini 877 (C1009ABQ) Buenos Aires. Argentina.

Conference information can be found at: http://icp3.phthiraptera.org

**Symposia**

- Morphology and Physiology of Lice
- Systematic, Population Genetic and Evolution
- Epidemiology of Human Lice
- Ecology and Epidemiology of Animal Lice
- Medical and Veterinary Aspects of Louse Infestations
- Microorganisms associated with Lice
- Prophylaxis and Control of Lice

**Invited speakers:** Steve Barker (Australia), Craig Burkhart (USA), Armando Cicchino (Argentina), John Clark (USA), Dale Clayton (USA), John Edman (USA), Alda Gonzalez (Argentina), Kevin Johnson (USA), Ke Chung Kim (USA), Hilde Lapeere (Belgium), Terri Meinking (USA), Kosta Mumcuoglu (Israel), Ricardo Palma (New Zealand), Alejandra Perotti (Argentina), Barry Pittendrigh (USA), Richard Pollack (USA), Lajos Rozsa (Hungary), Vincent Smith (UK), Noah Whiteman (USA), Eduardo Zerba (Argentina).

**[11] COST 854 FINAL CONFERENCE "Protozoal reproduction losses in farm ruminants"**

**2nd Announcement**

This Conference will be held at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Liège, Liège Belgium, **September 6th – 9th 2006**

**Please use the conference website: www.cost854liege.be to register and organise accommodation in Liège.** The website also has the preliminary programme.

The **final** deadline for registration is **Friday June 30th 2006**.

**[12] 2006 Diagnostic workshop on protozoal abortions in farm ruminants of COST 854 Action "Protozoal abortions in farm ruminants" will take place in Madrid, Spain from 14th-16th June 2006.**

The main objective of the Diagnostic workshop is to up date diagnosis of neosporosis, toxoplasmosis and trichomonosis, through practical class and exercises in the laboratory concerning recovery samples and histological diagnosis and complemented with introductive presentations, review presentations and short presentations by laboratory supervisors. Practical applications, future needs and differential diagnosis will be also contained in the programme together with a farm visit. The registration fee is 500 EURO and includes accommodation (3 nights), workshop fees, and meals but places will be limited.

Further details can be obtained from Professor Luis Ortega, the local organiser (luisucm@vet.ucm.es) or from Franz J. Conraths franz.conraths@fli.bund.de

**[13] EMBO PRACTICAL COURSE - RNAi and reverse genetics in Trypanosomes 27 Nov – 15 Dec 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya**

The course will consist of both theory and practical modules with some bioinformatics. It is intended for experienced PhD students, post-docs or independent investigators wishing to use trypanosomes as a model in their research, or molecular parasitologists who need to increase their knowledge of trypanosome reverse genetics.

Website: http://cwp.embo.orgw/pc06-01
Contact Christine Clayton, University of Heidelberg for more details: cclayton@zmbh.uni-heidelberg.de

***Award nominations, Positions vacant, Postdoctoral positions and PhD opportunities***

**[14] Nature Awards for excellence in mentoring**

Two new awards launched by the journal Nature will recognise excellence in mentoring in Australasian science. The scheme will acknowledge two scientists: one for lifetime achievement and another in mid-career. **Nominations for these awards are now open.**

While many science labs have leading individuals who have devoted thought and effort to nurturing young researchers, Nature believes that mentoring should not be taken for granted. The new awards are designed to recognise and reward good mentors.

Dr Philip Campbell, Editor in Chief at Nature says: “We are delighted to be launching these important awards in Australasia and are looking forward to seeing some of the innovative ways scientists in the region are encouraging young researchers in their labs.”

Candidates may be from any natural sciences discipline and will be judged by a prestigious panel chaired by Professor Kurt Lambeck, president of the Australian Academy of Science, and including Professor David Boger, Professor Paul Callaghan, Professor Suzanne Cory, Professor Adrian Lee and Nature’s correspondent Dr Carina Dennis.

There will be two awards, each of AUS$10,000: one for lifetime achievement and the other for a scientist in mid career. Researchers can nominate themselves or be recommended by research team members, past or present. Each candidate must include independent testimonials from five researchers who have been mentored by the nominee.

**Nominations will be open between now and 31 July 2006** and winners will be announced by Dr Philip Campbell, Editor in Chief of Nature, at an awards’ ceremony in Australia in December 2006. For full details and nomination forms please check: www.nature.com/nature/mentoringawards/australasia.

For more information contact Carina Dennis at: naturementor@gmail.com

**[15] Post-Doctoral Fellow and/or experienced Senior Research Assistant with experience in multiple PCR-based assays and molecular diagnostic**

Looking for a chance to work for a renowned biomedical institute situated in a tropical area and contribute towards improving the health of children in the developing world?

The **Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research** (PNG IMR) is one of the leading biomedical research institutes in the developing world and for over 40 years has conducted research into the health problems of the people of Papua New Guinea. Major, already well established research programs include malaria, respiratory diseases, HIV & STIs, enteric diseases, sexual health and women's health, thus addressing the major health problems of not only Papua New Guinea but other developing regions.

In collaboration with the Macfarlane Burnet Institute, the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute, the University of Melbourne and the Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, we have recently started a large study that aims at preventing malaria and anaemia in infants through intermittent preventive treatment (IPTi) with antimalarial drugs.

As part of this study, a new laboratory for PCR-typing of malarial infections in large field and intervention studies is currently being set up which will be using

a novel post–polymerase chain reaction (PCR)/ligase detection reaction–fluorescent microsphere assay (LDRFMA) (McNamara et al, 2006, Am. J. Trop Med. Hyg, 74, 413-421). This assay, which uses Luminex FlexMAP™ microspheres, provides simultaneous, semi-quantitative detection of infection by all four human malaria parasite species at a sensitivity and specificity equal to other PCR-based assays at a low unit cost. The same technology will also be used to genotype malaria infections for markers of drug resistance and for typing of human genetic polymorphisms.

In order to transfer this technology from the Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH, USA and set up the laboratory in Goroka, Papua New Guinea we are currently looking for an enthusiastic **Post-Doctoral Fellow** and/or experienced **Senior Research Assistant** with experience in multiple PCR-based assays and molecular diagnostic. Prior experience in malaria research is also beneficial but not a prerequisite, for this position.

The successful applicant(s) will be expected to set up and optimise assays and build local capacity by training a group of Papua New Guinean laboratory technicians and honours/masters students. In addition, the post-doctoral fellow will be expected to develop a research agenda in the fields of molecular diagnostics (malaria, bacterial STIs and/or host genetic polymorphisms) or antimalarial drug resistance, participate in the analyses and publication of results from studies involving the new laboratory and engage with other research groups at the PNGIMR and overseas.

Remuneration for this two year position will be in accordance with PNG public service salary scales. Post-Doctoral Fellows will be encouraged to apply for a NHMRC or similar fellowship through one of our Australian collaborating institutions (WEHI, Macfarlane Burnet Institute or University of Melbourne). The successful applicant is expected to start work in August or September 06. The position is based in Goroka, Papua New Guinea, but an extended stay at the laboratory of Dr. Zimmerman at CASE for familiarization with the technology is likely.

This position offers the unique opportunity to conduct cutting edge research involving an innovative technology in a stimulating, collaborative environment and contribute towards alleviating the burden placed by malaria and other illness on people in Papua New Guinea and beyond.

**Applications will be accepted until at least the end of June 2006. For further information, a job description and selection criteria, please contact Dr. Ivo Mueller, Head Vector Borne Disease Unit, PNG Institute of Medical Research, P.O. Box 60, Goroka EHP 441, Papua New Guinea. Tel. +675 852 2962, Fax +675 852 3289, Email: pngimr_ivo@datec.net.pg**

For informal background information contact Prof. John Reeder, the Macfarlane Burnet Institute of Medical Research and Public Health, GPO Box

2284, Melbourne, VIC 3001 Australia. Tel. +61 3 9282 2111, Fax +61 3 9282 2144, email: jreeder@burnet.edu.au

If you have any parasitology news stories please contact me by email Lisa.Jones@uts.edu.au or telephone 02-95144006. Don't forget that the Network newsletters can now be downloaded http://www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/Newsletter/Newsletter_050606.pdf

**The next newsletter will be a conference special.**

**Please send me items for the July newsletter by 14 July 2006.**

Best wishes,

Lisa
Communications Coordinator,
ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology