



Index

News

1 In this issue

2 2008 Annual Report

2 Conference

Program

Welcome Reception

Quiz Show - Itchies and Scratchies

Special meal requests

ECR and Student Workshop

4 Congratulations

4 Whose image?

D major

5 Announcements

10th International Coccidiosis Conference

BMEI 2009 & CISP 2009

5 Network Mentorship Scheme

6 Positions Vacant

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Parasitology CSU Wagga

Australian Seafood CRC Postgraduate Scholarship

PhD Studentship Scotland and NZ

Stanford University School of Medicine (U.S.A.) Postdoctoral position

In this issue...

Dear Network Participant,

The Sydney2009 Parasitology Conference is drawing closer at a rapid rate. The Contributed Paper and Poster Sessions are all but finalised now and you will be advised about your place in the programme very soon. Keep a close eye on the conference website for updates:

www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/conference

This issue of the Newsletter contains some important information about a couple of other events at the conference including a not to be missed Welcome Reception that will start with the ASP Presidential Address and then move on to a highly entertaining, yet informative, parasitological version of "Spicks and Specks meets RockWiz" that has been christened "itchies and Scratchies". Then, first thing Monday morning, there will be an equally important breakfast event for our research students and early career researchers – this third ECR Workshop has been put together by several of our energetic young Network Participants, Julie-Anne Fritz, Michelle Power, Liette Waldron and Alana Zakrzewski, who have my sincere thanks. They have designed an excellent programme and persuaded some fantastic speakers to participate.

For more details, plus the latest news on activities and achievements from Australia's parasitology community, see inside this issue of your Network Newsletter

Nick

(Nick Smith, Convenor, ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology;

nick.smith@uts.edu.au)

2008 Annual Report

Download the 2008 Annual Report for the ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology to gain a statistical "snapshot" of the Network for 2008, an up-to-date register of Participants, and to find out about contributions and achievements of Network Participants and plans and strategies for 2009. The 2008 Annual Report can be downloaded in three parts:

Network 2008 Annual Report Main Report (4.4MB)
http://www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/reports/2008AnnualReportweb_mainreport.pdf

Network 2008 Annual Report Participants List (1.23MB)
http://www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/reports/2008AnnualReportweb_participants.pdf

Network 2008 Annual Report Appendices (2.26MB)
http://www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/reports/2008AnnualReportweb_appendices.pdf



Louse image courtesy Cath Covacin, Stephen Barker and Rick Price

Conference

The Sydney2009 conference website is
www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/conference

register online www.conftool.net/parasitology2009

The Network is, once again, subsidising venue and invited speaker costs and, together with valuable support from a variety of sponsors, this has ensured that the meeting is as affordable as possible; we have been able to keep the same low levels enjoyed for Glenelg2008 including all lunches, tea breaks and evening meals & drinks in your registration fee. The conference will be from July 12-15, 2009 in the historic Holme Building and Footbridge Theatre at The University of Sydney, with the Conference Banquet being held in the superb Great Hall at The University of Sydney.

Opening Plenary Lecture

- Genevieve Milon (Institut Pasteur, France)

Elsevier Plenary Lectures - Host Cell Modulation (co-sponsored by Elsevier, the IJP and QIMR)

- John Boothroyd (Stanford University, USA)
- Alan Sher (National Institutes of Health, USA)

Human Helminthiases (sponsored by IBID, UTS)

- David Dunne (University of Cambridge, UK)
- Tom Nutman (National Institutes of Health, USA)
- David Rollinson (The Natural History Museum, UK)
- Jeff Bethony (George Washington University, USA)
- Banchob Sripa (Khon Kaen University, Thailand)
- Don McManus (QLD Institute of Medical Research, Australia)

Malaria Vaccine: Fact or Fantasy?

- Michael Good (QLD Institute of Medical Research, Australia)
- Richard Carter (University of Edinburgh, UK)
- Denise Doolan (QLD Institute of Medical Research, Australia)
- Louis Schofield (Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Australia)

Immunopathology

- Georges Grau (University of Sydney, Australia)
- Christian Engwerda (QLD Institute of Medical Research, Australia)
- Nick Hunt (University of Sydney, Australia)

Environmental Health

- Nigel Beebe (University of QLD, Australia)
- Bart Currie (Menzies School of Health Research, NT, Australia)
- Lydden Polley (University of Saskatchewan, Canada)

Ectoparasites and Resistance (sponsored by MLA)

- Greg Harper (CSIRO Livestock Industries, QLD, Australia)
- Gary Levot (Department of Primary Industries, New South Wales)
- Brian Horton (Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Australia)
- Barry Hosking (Novartis Animal Health, Australia)

Population Genetics and Epidemiology of Livestock Parasites (sponsored by Virbac)

- Una Ryan (Murdoch University, WA, Australia)
- Ala Lew (QLD Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, QLD, Australia)
- Aaron Jex (University of Melbourne, VIC, Australia)

Conference cont....

Welcome Reception, ASP Presidential Address and "Itchies and Scratchies"

The 2009 Welcome Reception will be held in the Holme Building and Footbridge Theatre at The University of Sydney 5:30 – 10:00pm, Sunday, July 12, 2009.

The Reception will open with the ASP Presidential Address by Peter Holdsworth, followed by a brilliant quiz show, "Itchies and Scratchies", which will keep you entertained as two teams of parasitologists battle it out to uncover the strange, unusual and not-so-secret life of parasites.

This event will be held in the Footbridge Theatre and is open to all conference delegates, their family members and the general public. Admission to the Footbridge Theatre event, quiz show "Itchies and Scratchies", is free.

Following "Itchies and Scratchies", conference delegates and their guests are invited to the Welcome Reception Cocktail Party in "The Refectory" in the Holme Building. This is included in your registration fee; additional tickets, for accompanying persons, are AUS\$60.00. Please indicate on the registration form or contact the Conference Coordinators by email wendy.relf@uts.edu.au or lisa.jones@uts.edu.au if you require extra tickets. There will be a complimentary bus to transport conference delegates back to hotels near Central Station after the evening events.

Special meal requirements

Please contact the conference coordinators, Lisa Jones (Lisa.Jones@uts.edu.au) or Wendy Relf (Wendy.Relf@uts.edu.au), if you have any special dietary requests or other special requests.



Prof. Brendan Crabb and Prof. Geoff McFadden at the 2008 ASP & Network Annual Conference

Student and Early Career Researcher Workshop

This year's workshop will comprise three main sessions where Early Career Researchers (ECRs) will discuss their experiences; Senior Researchers and ECRs will then join attendees for an over-breakfast discussion.

When: Monday 13 July 2009

Time: 7:00-9:00am

Location: Holme-Sutherland Rooms, The Holme Building, The University of Sydney

RSVP: 19 June 2009 to Lisa Jones (Lisa.Jones@uts.edu.au) or Wendy Relf (Wendy.Relf@uts.edu.au)

Session 1 - Our panel of early career researchers and an experienced examiner will share their knowledge and answer questions on the 'PhD experience':

- Stuart Ralph (The University of Melbourne)
- Magda Ellis (QIMR)
- Kate Hutson (The University of Adelaide)
- Una Ryan (Murdoch University)

Session 2 – Career Options

Our panel of early to mid-career scientists from Institutes and Industry will share their stories on different career paths post PhD, shed light on the importance of track records and give tips for building your CVs:

- Jake Baum (WEHI)
- Graham Robertson (Concord Hospital)
- David Witcombe (Wyeth Australia)
- Tiggy Grillo (Australian Wildlife Health Network)

Session 3 – Mentorship

The importance of mentoring: we will hear from a young scientist and their mentor about their experience with the Network Mentoring Scheme:

- Alex Maier (La Trobe)
- Kieran Kirk (ANU)

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Professor Kiaran Kirk** who has been appointed as Director of the ANU's Research School of Biology, and takes up the position on June 1 of this year. The new Research School - formed by a merger of the ANU's Research School of Biological Sciences, School of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and School of Botany and Zoology - encompasses some 70 senior academic staff, approximately half of whom have traditionally been research-only and half of whom have teaching/research roles.

Congratulations to **Dr. Aaron Jex**, Department of Veterinary Science, University of Melbourne, who has been awarded the WAAVP Peter Nansen Young Scientist Award. The award has been established in memory of late Professor Peter Nansen, to reward innovative and outstanding work by promising young professionals in the field of Veterinary Parasitology.

Congratulations to Charles Sturt University recently awarded \$34M from the EIF fund to construct the new National Life Sciences Hub (total project cost \$44M), comprising teaching laboratories and PC2 level laboratory and support facilities. Network participants **Professor Nick Sangster, Dr Dave Jenkins and Professor Terry Spithill** will benefit with new PC2 research labs. (see <http://news.csu.edu.au/director/latestnews.cfm?itemID=372F2E68AD5A32E8A620D2623309B734>).

The CSU research team **Prof TW Spithill; Prof NC Sangster; Dr V Grillo; Dr GR Anderson** were also awarded an ARC Linkage grant with Virbac to work on *Liver fluke: improving disease control through understanding of parasite diversity, drug resistance and better diagnosis*.

Whose image?

Can you help?

We would like to use the photograph below "D major" as part of the Intimate Aliens parasitology exhibition but we need to find the owner of this photograph and gather more information about the parasite.

Please contact Lisa Jones (Lisa.Jones@uts.edu.au) if you have more information about this image or it's source.

Thank you!



Image title "D major"

Announcements

The Tenth International Coccidiosis Conference

November 14-18, 2009, Guangzhou, China.

The International Conference of Coccidiosis (ICC) is held every 4 years for the scientists in the fields of *Eimeria*, *Toxoplasma*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Plasmodium*, *Neospora*, *Sarcocystidia* and other apicomplexan parasites to discuss science and exchange ideas. The coming 10th Conference (ICC10) will be hosted by Guangdong Academy of Agricultural Sciences and the Chinese Association of Veterinary Parasitology, and held jointly with the 10th Conference of the Chinese Association of Veterinary Parasitology in Guangzhou, China from November 14 – 18, 2009.

Visit <http://www.icc10.net/> for more details.

The **2nd International Conference on BioMedical Engineering and Informatics (BMEI 2009) and the 2nd International Congress on Image and Signal Processing (CISP 2009)** will be jointly held in Tianjin, China, from 17 to 19 October 2009.

The registration fee of US\$420 includes lunches, dinners, and banquet.

BMEI'09-CISP'09 aims to provide a high-level international forum for scientists and researchers to present the state of the art of biomedical engineering, biomedical informatics, multimedia, and signal processing.

For more information, visit the conference web page:

<http://www.tjut.edu.cn/cisp-bmei2009>

secretariat email: bmei2009@tjut.edu.cn

Network Mentorship Scheme

Early career researchers are encouraged to apply to the Network Convenor (nick.smith@uts.edu.au), in strict confidence, for funding to participate in the Network Mentorship Scheme. The scheme allows young investigators to be paired with experienced, successful researchers to discuss, plan, prioritise and set targets for their career. Typically, the early career researcher will fly to the institute of a senior parasitologist and spend a day there. Arrangements for professional development and progress to be reviewed by the pair annually can also be arranged.

Importantly, mentors need not be from an individual's home institution but can be drawn from across the Network. The scheme has proved very valuable for several young researchers and their mentors already.

To apply, simply write to Nick with a brief outline of your research interests and aspirations. You can also indicate a preferred mentor or ask Nick for advice on whom amongst the Network participants may be most suitable.

Positions Vacant

Check out the latest parasitology jobs on the Network website

www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/jobs

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Parasitology at Charles Sturt University-Wagga Wagga

Position Number: 633575

A Full Time, Continuing position is available in the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at CSU-Wagga Wagga (<http://www.csu.edu.au/faculty/science/savs/>).

Since 2008, CSU has invested over \$17M in a new Veterinary Clinical Centre and the new Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory will be completed in October 2009. Salary: \$82,618 – \$116,697 (Incl. Super.).

Apply online for this position: <http://www.csu.edu.au/jobs/vacancies/acad-vacancies.htm>

Contacts:

for further information please call Prof Nick Sangster by telephone 61-2-6933 4107, or email nsangster@csu.edu.au

Applications Close: 19 July 2009

Australian Seafood CRC Postgraduate Scholarship

In collaboration with the University of Tasmania and CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research, the Australian Seafood CRC offers a scholarship of \$26,140 per annum (indexed yearly) for three years for a Postgraduate Student to investigate the mucosal antibody response to the fish parasite, *Neoparamoeba perurans*. The scholarship has an additional operating budget of \$5,000 per year for three years and \$300 towards thesis binding in the third year. A further \$1,000 per year is also available for defined mentor activities to be approved by the CRC. As a Seafood CRC student the successful candidate will be fully engaged in the CRC PhD program which will support the development of the student as a scientist in a number of innovative ways through annual workshops and mentoring programs (see www.seafoodcrc.com).

Information about selection criteria and how to apply should be sought from Assoc. Prof. Barbara Nowak, National Centre for Marine Conservation and Resource Sustainability, University of Tasmania, Launceston, TAS Email: B.Nowak@utas.edu.au

PhD Studentship

Molecular genetics of multiple drug resistance in parasites of sheep and goats Scotland and New Zealand

Ref: AGR931

The Moredun Research Institute (Scotland) and AgResearch's Hopkirk Research Institute (New Zealand) have recently agreed on a formalised programme of scientific collaboration. The primary focus of this relationship is to conduct multidisciplinary research into diseases of ruminant animals and deliver effective animal health solutions to the livestock farming industry. As part of this collaborative research programme the institutes have agreed to fund a research position to study diseases of livestock of importance to both countries.

Applications are invited for a PhD Studentship which has been established to investigate the molecular basis of multiple drug resistance in nematode parasites of sheep and goats. We are looking for a molecular biologist, preferably with an interest in parasitology.

The studentship will be registered at Moredun but will involve research work to be undertaken both in Scotland and in New Zealand.

The studentship includes an initial stipend of £12,940 p.a. tax exempt for 3 years (plus all reasonable travel and relocation expenses between Scotland and New Zealand).

For more information about this position please visit www.moredun.org.uk/job-vacancies.asp

To read more about the Hopkirk Research Institute go to www.hopkirk.org.nz

To read more about the Moredun Research Institute go to www.moredun.ac.uk

Applications close 31 July 2009.

Stanford University School of Medicine (U.S.A.) Postdoctoral position

A postdoctoral position is available to apply molecular, genomic, and cellular approaches to study the biology of *Entamoeba histolytica*. Qualified candidates should have a PhD or MD with experience in molecular biology and genetics. Please send a CV with names of 3 referees to:

Upinder Singh, M.D. (Email: usingh@stanford.edu)

Assistant Professor

Departments of Internal Medicine and Microbiology, Stanford University School of Medicine (<http://singhlab.stanford.edu/>)