



Friday June 2, 2005

The Entertainment Centre, Port Road, Hindmarsh

## ASMR SA Scientific Meeting

### Plenary Speaker:

Professor Judith Whitworth AC - "**Hypertension, a global problem**"

'Hypertension is a major global health problem. Contrary to popular belief, it causes more deaths and disability in low and middle income countries than in high income countries. World wide there are over 7 million premature deaths each year attributable to hypertension and many of these deaths are preventable.' *Professor Whitworth is the Director of the John Curtin School of Medical Research. Bio information at <http://www.asmr.org.au/media/JWbio.pdf> INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES!*

### Abstracts available on request

**TIRED, GRUMPY, INFERTILE? - working long hours may affect your health**—Disrupted sleep patterns can cause a range of health problems including metabolic, cardiovascular abnormalities and infertility problems. *MJ Bowden, University of Adelaide, Centre for Reproductive Health, Dept of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*

**BREATH TEST FOR BOWELS? - simple breath test and find out if your bowels are healthy** - inflammation and ulceration are both signs of an unhealthy intestine and bowel. Detecting the problem is difficult without invasive tests. The development and use of a sucrose breath test (SBT) is being investigated as a non-invasive alternative. *C.A. Maguer University of South Australia, School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences and KL Tooley Adelaide University, Dept of Physiology.*

**SKIN TEST TO DETECT LEARNING DIFFICULTIES** – Skin conductivity changes in children with sleep disordered breathing and is an indicator of autonomic activity. Results suggest potential clinical usefulness in identifying learning difficulties. *S Coussens, Dept of Molecular and Biomedical Sciences, University of Adelaide.*

### This years conference also includes South Australia's Leading Lights Showcase -for outstanding mid-career scientists in SA-

This group of young up and coming scientists will be tackling the growing epidemic of obesity, with talks to cover "early origins, potential causes and future generations" along with "metabolic syndrome and obesity".

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# The Australian Society for Medical Research

ASMR Medical Research Week® June 2 - 9

Friday June 2, 2005  
The Entertainment Centre, Port Road, Hindmarsh

ASMR SA Scientific Meeting  
presents:

## South Australia's Leading Lights Showcase-for outstanding mid-career scientists in SA-

As the western world wrestles against the growing obesity epidemic, 3 of South Australia's outstanding mid-career researchers or "*Leading Lights*" fight the crisis in their own ways, and will discuss their research into:

### Obesity;

### Early Origins, Potential Causes and Future Generations

**Obesity and Infertility: Effects on oocyte quality and early embryo development** –We know that diet-induced obesity triggers insulin resistance and subsequent diabetes along with chronic inflammation. There is now evidence to show that these disease states directly impact ovarian function, including ovulation rate, oocyte competence and early embryo development, which may lead to decreased fertility. **Dr Rebecca Robker** of Adelaide University, Dept Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Research Centre for Reproductive Health.

**Early origins of cardiovascular disease: Finding the link between low birth weight and adult health** - exposure to an adverse environment at critical periods during development can increase the risk of developing adult onset diseases. This work looks at how low birth weight can affect cardiovascular development, including both regulation of blood pressure and development of the heart. **Dr. Janna Morrison**, University of Adelaide, Centre for the Early Origins of Adult Health

**Inflammation and Obesity, what is the link?-** Obesity is related to the onset of many diseases including cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes and many more. There is also a link between obesity and inflammation, in which all components are not well characterised. There is now a potential role emerging for compounds in food which are metabolically active and can affect the inflammation state. **Dr. Alison Coates** University of South Australia, School of Health Sciences

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