



ASMR
Medical Research Week[®] 2006
www.asmr.org.au

Regional School Visits

Gippsland

DATES: 14th and 15th June, 2006

AIMS: Teams of young medical researchers will visit regional Victoria and provide stimulating profiles of their experience in medical research. The school visits are free of charge and sessions run for around an hour.

PARTICIPANTS:

- **Adam Bilney**, mechanical design engineer, Baker Heart Research Institute, specialises in the design and manufacture of interventional devices for use in heart surgery. He is involved in all stages of development from the initial concept through to clinical trials.
- **Brian Drew**, PhD student, Baker Heart Research Institute, explores the therapeutic potential of good cholesterol (HDL) in the treatment of diabetes and heart disease.
- **Michelle Bishop**, PhD student, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, examines midwifery practice around genetics. This involves looking at their current practices and assessing their needs in genetic education.
- **Faten Zaibak**, post-doctoral fellow, Stem Cell Research Laboratory, Dept. of Pathology, University of Melbourne. Faten's research is concerned with cord blood (the blood left behind in the placenta and umbilical cord after birth) which has recently been shown to contain primitive cells that can form most types of cells in the body. She wants to determine if stem cells derived from cord blood can be used to treat inherited diseases such as cystic fibrosis.

SCHEDULE:

14th June, 1.40pm – Bairnsdale Secondary College

15th June, 9.15am – Sale College

15th June, 1.40pm – South Gippsland Secondary College

MORE INFORMATION:

About Medical Research Week[®] – www.beamedicalresearcher.org.au

About logistics – Mike Pickford, ASN Events, T 03 5983 2400, M 0411 699 422, E mp@asnevents.net.au

About speakers – Kathy Davidson, Monash Uni, T 03 9271 1155, E kathy.davidson@med.monash.edu.au

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Regional School Visits

Kyneton

DATE: 13th June, 2006

AIMS: Teams of young medical researchers will visit regional Victoria and provide stimulating profiles of their experience in medical research. The school visits are free of charge and sessions run for around an hour.

PARTICIPANTS:

- **Jenny Chow**, PhD student, Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research, Jenny is researching obesity using a mouse model. In particular she is studying the effect the female hormone 'estrogen' has on the way our bodies process fat.
- **Johanna Wapling**, PhD student, Burnet Institute, investigates the HIV virus in particular the Reverse Transcriptase enzyme, which has an essential role in virus replication. Johanna hopes to learn more about the enzyme and identify new targets for antiretroviral drugs.
- **John-Luis Moretti**, Masters degree student, Baker Heart Research Institute, specialises in neuropharmacology. He is investigating the role of the nervous system in the maintenance of high blood pressure.
- **Rishika Pace**, PhD student, Murdoch Children's Research Institute is interested in detecting mutations and protein defects in children affected with a severe form of muscular dystrophy called Ullrich Congenital muscular dystrophy.

SCHEDULE:

13th June, 10.00am – Kyneton Secondary College

13th June, 11.20am – Kyneton Secondary College

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Regional School Visits

Northern District

DATES: 13th and 14th June, 2006

AIMS: Teams of young medical researchers will visit regional Victoria and provide stimulating profiles of their experience in medical research. The school visits are free of charge and sessions run for around an hour.

PARTICIPANTS:

- **Cathryn Hogarth**, PhD student, Monash Institute of Medical Research, Centre for Molecular Endocrinology. Cathryn's research is focused on how proteins get shuttled around the cell.
- **Daniella Brasacchio**, PhD student, Baker Heart Research Institute, studies the genetic complications that occur within individuals with type 1 diabetes, such as heart disease. Her work specifically looks at how high blood sugar levels can effect the long term development of these complications.
- **Natalie Hannan**, PhD student, Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research, is interested in the early stages of human pregnancy, in particular embryo implantation, with a focus on infertility.
- **Chelsea Stoikos**, PhD student, Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research, is researching a protein called Activin and the role it plays in early pregnancy and infertility.

SCHEDULE:

- 13th June, 9.00am – Bradford Secondary College
- 13th June, afternoon – Benalla College
- 14th June, 9.00am – Yarrowonga Secondary College
- 14th June 11.00am – Wangaratta High School
- 14th June 2.00pm – Ovens College, Wangaratta

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Regional School Visits

Western District

DATES: 14th and 15th June, 2006

AIMS: Teams of young medical researchers will visit regional Victoria and provide stimulating profiles of their experience in medical research. The school visits are free of charge and sessions run for around an hour.

PARTICIPANTS:

- **Marina Alexander**, PhD student, University of Melbourne, uses a molecular biology approach to investigate how the HIV virus makes protein components in human cells. These protein components must be made in a certain way to allow the virus to replicate and spread throughout the body; understanding this process may aid in developing therapies to treat HIV.
- **Senem Eren**, PhD student, psychologist and research coordinator at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute investigates the cognitive and emotional difficulties children and adolescents experience after suffering a head injury. She uses brain imaging techniques to examine underlying brain structure and function associated with the types of difficulties these children encounter.
- **Belinda McClaren**, PhD student, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, researches community attitudes to genetic carrier screening, using cystic fibrosis as a model.
- **Alex Umbers**, research assistant, Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research, uses gene technology to understand the reproductive system in males and females in an effort to identify and treat infertility.

SCHEDULE:

- 14th June, 11.00am – Geelong High School
- 14th June, 2.30pm – Derrinallum P12 College
- 15th June, 9.00am – Ballarat High School

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