

Tuesday June 7, 2005

FJ Clarke Lecture Theatre Complex, QEII Medical Centre

## ASMR WA Medical Research Symposium

WA's best and brightest present a wide range of research from  
neuroscience to indigenous medicine

Keynote speakers (further information from [www.asmr.org.au/media/](http://www.asmr.org.au/media/)):

Professor Charles Watson talking about why our understanding of how the brain works has been hampered by preconceived ideas of how it *should* work!

Dr Mina John a noted HIV/AIDS researcher who coordinates a global vaccine design project funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

and much, much more.....

How sunlight can affect the immune system. Shelley Gorman and Jacqueline McGlade

Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

While many people know that sunlight can cause cancer by directly damaging cells, it is not well known that sunlight can also affect the immune system. Just a single dose of sunlight (UV light) can have a significant effect on immune responses.

Identification of genes that are specific to leukaemias. Joanne Boag

Telethon Institute for Child Health Research / University of Western Australia

This study has used a new and very powerful technique to identify genes specific to leukaemias - this information can now be used to understand how the genetic changes cause cancer.

Identifying the causes of neuromuscular diseases. William Wallefeld

Western Australian Institute for Medical Research, University of Western Australia

Neuromuscular disorders are inherited diseases that can range from very mild symptoms of muscle weakness to severe and eventually fatal disease. Finding the exact mutations that cause neuromuscular diseases is important for development of treatments and for helping families who have affected children.

Discovering how bush medicine works. Dhanushka Hettiarachchi

Curtin University of Technology

Snake vine is an indigenous medicine used by Aboriginal communities in Northern and Western Australia.

Study of medicines used in Aboriginal communities has revealed remarkable properties of the medicines, which are often derived from plants. Results of the work so far have identified specific extracts of snake vine that have antibiotic properties and further work may discover the substance in these extracts that is able to kill bacteria.

Contact : Dr Marc Thomas on

Or Dr Nicolette Binz on