



Friday June 2, 2006

The Entertainment Centre, Port Road, Hindmarsh

## ASMR SA Scientific Meeting

Each year a small group of young investigators are selected as finalists for the Ross Wishart Memorial Award. The winner of the award will be selected based on the most outstanding presentation at the South Australian Division's Annual Scientific Meeting during Medical Research Week.

### South Australia's Prestigious Ross Wishart Memorial Award Finalists:

**The fetus: why isn't it rejected by the mother?** Since a fetus, like an organ transplant expresses proteins which are foreign to the mother, the growing fetus should be rejected by the mother's immune system. Although most mothers are tolerant towards their baby, rejection can result in miscarriage or pre-term labour. **Lachlan Moldenhauer**, the Research Centre for Reproductive Health and the University of Adelaide

**Biotin is an essential vitamin required for a healthy metabolism.** By attaching to specific proteins in the body biotin, also known as Vitamin H or B7, helps to carry out important functions in glucose and fat metabolism. This work examines one of the key proteins that regulate how this vitamin is used in human cells. Defects in biotin metabolism cause severe diseases in babies and young children. **Lisa Bailey**, School of Molecular and Biomedical Science, the University of Adelaide

**Is the tongue important in obstructive sleep apnoea?** This study aimed to determine a potential cause for obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), specifically, the ability of the tongue to open the airway during sleep. For the first time a unique reflex pattern of the tongue was observed with greater suppression during sleep. This would likely be disadvantageous in OSA. **Danny Eckert**, the Adelaide Institute for Sleep Health and the University of Adelaide

**The placenta: a controlled cancer?** The early placenta is highly invasive and analogous to cancer. Unlike cancers, placental invasion is normally tightly controlled. However, many disorders of pregnancy can occur when placental invasion is either insufficient, such as miscarriage or when the invasion is too extensive, such as choriocarcinoma, or "cancer of the placenta". **Kirsty Pringle**, the Research Centre for Reproductive Health and the University of Adelaide

For **photos and profiles of the finalists** or more information about any of the ASMR Medical Research Week® events visit [asmr.org.au](http://asmr.org.au) or contact:

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