



“ We are still looking for research volunteers for the hormone modulator drug trial in Sydney – For a criteria factsheet email I.moore@neura.edu.au ”

Prof. Cyndi Shannon Weickert

World First Schizophrenia Library finds new areas of focus

The Schizophrenia Library, a free online one stop shop for a wide range of information on schizophrenia was launched on 21st June by the Hon. Carmel Tebbutt, MP, Minister for Health and the Hon. Barbara Perry, MP, Minister for Mental Health. The brainchild of Professor Vaughan Carr, the world first Library was given full support and funding of \$1,075,000 over five years from NSW Health to the Schizophrenia Research Institute.

Launching with the reviews of the first 100 topics, on completion the Library will allow the general public, researchers, clinicians and policy makers to search from over 400 topics to discover more information on diagnosis, treatment, risk factors and course and outcomes of the illness.

“We need a medical

evidence-based resource for the clinical and research professional communities that collates the vast range of existing research so that we can identify what we know and where the gaps are in the knowledge base,” said Professor Vaughan Carr, CEO of the Schizophrenia Research Institute and Professor of Psychiatry at the University of New South Wales.

The Library has already announced the importance of family intervention in improving the short and long-term outcomes for people living with schizophrenia, and the value of brain stimulation in effective treatment of patients who are resistant to antipsychotic medication.

The Library will also serve as the Institute's first service to the community



Sandy Matheson, Prof. Vaughan Carr and Alana Shepherd

as an online encyclopaedia on all aspects of schizophrenia.

The Institute's Patient Ambassador, Richard Schweizer, spoke at the launch, describing what it is like to live with schizophrenia and emphasizing the importance of strong family support and the value of maintaining hope for better treatments, prevention and a cure. “May we heal the minds that are ill and cure the brains that are sick,” he said.*

For more information visit www.schizophreniaresearch.org.au or to subscribe to the monthly free enewsletter email m.diallo@schizophreniaresearch.org.au

Richard will be talking at the ASC2010 Public Forum on Tuesday 21st September 2010 as part of a panel discussion. www.asc2010.com

Invitation to free Public Forum to launch ASC2010

Register now to reserve your place at the ASC2010 Public Forum to hear ABC's Kerry O'Brien lead a panel of experts to discuss “*Has research been of benefit to people with schizophrenia?*”

Speakers at the forum include: Prof. Vaughan Carr, Australian of the Year Prof. Patrick McGorry, Prof. Cyndi Shannon Weickert, Prof. David Penn, Mr Richard Schweizer and Ms Elaine Goddard.

The Public forum will be held at the Garvan Institute Auditorium at 6-8pm, Tuesday 21st September 2010. Entry is free but places are limited so you must register first at M.Diallo@schizophreniaresearch.org.au

ASC2010, the Australasian Schizophrenia Conference, commences on 22nd September, is attended by clinicians and researchers and hosted this year by the Schizophrenia Research Institute. www.asc2010.com

CEO's Report

2010 brings new milestones for the Institute. The Australian Schizophrenia Research Bank has now opened its doors to Australian researchers, both within and outside the Institute's network of scientists, allowing information on large samples of people with schizophrenia to be available for a wide variety of studies. To date many Australian studies are completed on samples of less than 100-200 people – now we have over 600 available with this figure constantly growing.

My team, studying Epidemiology and Population Health, moved into the new O'Brien Mental Health building at St Vincent's Hospital in

April this year. We have been joined by Dr Kristen Laurens and Dr Melissa Green. Kristen comes from the Institute of Psychiatry in London and brings extensive experience from her longitudinal study of children at risk of psychosis. Melissa has relocated from the Black Dog Institute, holds an ARC Future Fellowship and brings a high level of expertise in social cognition and the cognitive neuroscience of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Next month in September the Schizophrenia Research Institute is hosting the Australian Schizophrenia Conference at the Sheraton on the Park in Sydney. This is an



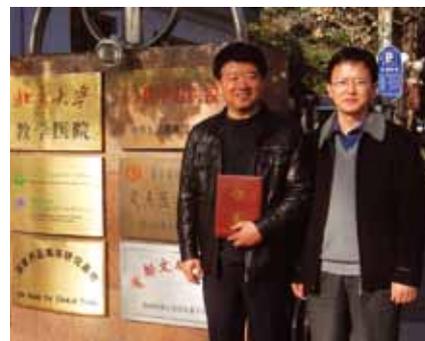
Prof. Vaughan Carr, Chief Executive Officer

important conference for those of us who are searching for the causes of schizophrenia, providing a key opportunity to hear the latest studies, compare our progress and forge new collaborations. We will provide a special edition of HeadLines in October this year to give our supporters highlights of the conference.

China-Australia Collaboration

Schizophrenia researchers at the University of Wollongong are partnering with a large psychiatric hospital in Beijing, China. Led by Prof. Xu-Feng Huang, Schizophrenia Research Institute researcher Ms Mei Han will travel to China to work with Prof. Xiang Yang Zhang at the Psychiatric Research Centre at Beijing Huilongguan Hospital, a psychiatric hospital with more than 1400 beds. Studying 500 male patients with schizophrenia, the project aims to understand the role of the gene neuregulin-1 (Nrg1) variation in patients with schizophrenia.

Studies show that Nrg1 gene variation may play a significant role in the underlying causes of schizophrenia. Genetic studies show that a particular form of Nrg1 is present in 13% of cases of schizophrenia. Altered Nrg1 can lead to cognitive dysfunction particularly related to the prefrontal cortex and hippocampus. No studies have been done on whether patients with altered Nrg1 differ from others in their symptoms and response to antipsychotic drug treatment. Understanding how Nrg1 gene variations affect symptoms and antipsychotic efficacy and side effects



Prof. Huang and Prof. Zhang

may help the team to develop new therapeutic targets for patients.

The research with leading expert Prof Zhang who has access to a very large number of research volunteers will allow application to human studies of knowledge gained from basic laboratory research.

This Australian and China exchange program is a positive long-term collaboration for the Institute.

Meet our Researchers



Alana Shepherd is a Research Assistant for the Schizophrenia Library. Alana has a first class Honours in Neuroscience from the University of Sydney, has completed meta-analysis training and is also undertaking a PhD in schizophrenia at the University of New South Wales.

Q. How do you begin to compile such a comprehensive Library on Schizophrenia?

A. It's such an enormous task. We began by searching the top six most comprehensive online medical databases. Sorting the reviews we identified a network of 9 categories with over 400 topics.

Q. What has been the greatest challenge with the Library?

A. The sheer volume of information continues to be an ongoing challenge. We conduct searches every 3-4 months and each search is bringing about 10 new topics and we include everything that is relevant. To achieve this you need to be extremely organised with great attention to detail.

You need a wide understanding of subject matter but you learn a lot through the nature of what you're doing.

Q. When do you expect the Library will be complete?

A. We aim to have all 400 topics uploaded and have the Library at its most comprehensive by the end of 2011. However we will always be updating the information with the latest research so it will continue to grow.

Q. Why did you choose schizophrenia research?

A. It is an interesting illness – although we do know a lot, there is so much we don't know so I see it as a real opportunity.



Don McDonald

Don McDonald, who worked tirelessly for many years to raise awareness and much needed funds for the Schizophrenia Research Institute, has recently been awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the recent Queen's Birthday honours.

Don's efforts were driven because his son suffers from the illness and he is a founding member of the Schizophrenia Research Institute.

He left his career as a union official in the 1990s to commit his energies to the cause of schizophrenia research. Over the years he has helped develop strong relationships with both

government and corporate and has recruited some of Australia's most prominent corporate leaders onto the Institute's board. He raised over \$2 million from the community to support the Institute's research and gave over 400 presentations to over 40,000 people before his retirement in 2004. Don continues to support the Institute as one of its Life Governors.

Another passionate Institute supporter, Mr Norbert Schweizer, received an order of merit from the German government for his dedication to the German community and works of philanthropy in Australia. He received

his medal at a private function at the German Vice Counsel General's residence in Sydney.

The board and staff of the Institute send Don and Norbert their heartiest congratulations.

Honours for Institute's **HEROES**

PATIENT Supporter



Clare Hooper

Clare Hooper developed schizophrenia in her teens and now uses her artistic talent to help raise funds for the Institute. Clare's family create greeting cards from her artwork and this year they raised almost \$2,000 from taking part in Garden Australia's Open Gardens day in March. The Hoopers and

their neighbours took advantage of the beautiful day by letting visitors to their garden know that part of the proceeds of the day would go towards the Schizophrenia Research Institute. As well as the entry fee, the family sold packs of Clare's greeting cards and provided a raffle prize. Many thanks.

If you would like to hold a fundraiser please contact Sharne Nicholls at s.nicholls@schizophreniaresearch.org.au



John, Sophie and Judy

The Jack Gibson Cup

Institute founding member, Jack Gibson, is commemorated each year with the Jack Gibson Cup, a trophy match played by the Parramatta Eels and the Sydney Roosters. The Institute has been chosen as the community partner for this annual event and NRL players Ben Smith and Nate Myles spoke on the importance of schizophrenia at a media conference which resulted in great public awareness with TV, print, radio and web coverage. The Institute's ambassador, Miss World Australia, Sophie Lavers, spoke to the sell out crowd of 20,000 at Parramatta Stadium on 31st July,

Thanks to Mark Warren of Warren Media who enthused the crowd on the day, to Medibank Health Solutions for supporting our SMS campaign, to Accor Hospitality for sponsoring a suite and to the Gibson family who attended on the day. The event raised \$2,200 and a generous donation of \$10,000 from Roosters sponsor, Steggles.

Fundraising Events

The Sunday Mail Suncorp Bridge to Brisbane 2010 29 August, 2010

The Sunday Mail Suncorp Bridge to Brisbane is on again and is set to be bigger and better than ever. You don't need to be an elite athlete to join in, just choose the 10km or 5km course then run or walk your way to the finish line.

To enter, visit:
www.bridgetobrisbane.com.au or
pick up an entry form from a Suncorp
Bank Branch from Sunday 30 May.

Blackmores Sydney Running Festival – Run for Free 19 September, 2010

Take part in the Sunday Telegraph Family fun run in Sydney on 19th September and if you fundraise for us you get your entry fee back. Visit www.sydney-marathon.org

Thanks for your support and get training.

Warren Media Hawkesbury Race Day 11 November, 2010

Warren Media is holding its annual charity lunch again at Hawkesbury Races on Thursday 11th November. Meet institute ambassadors, win great prizes, meet some NRL footy legends and have a fantastic day out.

For tickets and more information contact: info@warrenmedia.com.au

art &
science

We will be hosting two more Art & Science events in November in Perth and Sydney. If you would like to be included on the invitation list to these exclusive events, for an evening blending corporate art collections with psychiatric interpretation, please call Megan Diallo on 02 9295 8688 to register your name.

ASX Thomson Reuters Charity Foundation 22 October, 2010

The Institute has yet again been selected as one of the recipient charities from this year's fundraising. The Foundation is holding its annual sailing regatta on 22nd October in Sydney Harbour – for more information contact brocklehurst@thomsonreuters.com

Part of the fundraising activities is selling raffle tickets – If you would like to volunteer to help us with this please contact Sharne Nicholls on s.nicholls@schizophreniaresearch.org.au



Our thanks

Our Partners

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For privacy reasons we do not list individual donors' names but are grateful for their ongoing support. Many thanks also to our government and major corporate supporters who have renewed their commitment to us and donated recently (February – July 2010)

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Investment and Financial Services Association	Warren Media
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 Shoalhaven Schizophrenia Fellowship

Bequest

Estate of the Late Joyce Beryl Lewis

In Memoriam

We offer our condolences and send thanks to the families who have asked mourners to donate to the Institute in lieu of flowers and in memory of their loved ones. We have received gifts in memory of the following people:

Jane Faulkner	Mark Jolliffe	Chance Mullins
Clarli Hatt	Peter Kleintz	Stephen Thew

Families and friends who may wish to set up a tribute page for a lost loved one and raise funds for the Institute can do so at a new branded webpage <http://www.everydayhero.com.au/event/inmemoriam>

The Schizophrenia Research Institute is the only national medical research institute solely dedicated to discovering the ways to prevent and cure schizophrenia. A registered charity throughout Australia, we rely on donations to continue our work.

Please help by completing and mailing this form to:

Schizophrenia Research Institute
 405 Liverpool Street,
 Darlinghurst, NSW 2010

or fax to (02) 9295 8689

You can also donate online at www.schizophreniaresearch.org.au or contact us by phone on (02) 9295 8688 or by email at contact@schizophreniaresearch.org.au

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