

Vale Warwick Nicholas

Some very sad news out of Canberra this week; ASP Fellow, Warwick Nicholas ("Nick" to almost everyone who knew him) died early Wednesday morning, May 5, 2010. Nick leaves behind his wife, Evelyn, daughters, Susan and Nancy, sons David and Paul, and grandchildren, Jeremy, Alice, Sophie, Lucy, Sophie, Emily, Josh, Kalen, Emma, Ben and Callum. One of the great minds and characters of Australian Parasitology, Nick will be badly missed. An obituary will be published in a future issue of the ASP Newsletter.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 From the President's desk
- Network news
- 2 News from the Convenor
- 2 OzEMaR and Travel Awards
- 2 Profiles
- 3 Congratulations and Research news
- IJP Feature article
- 4 Jessica King and her collaborative *Neospora caninum* research
- 5 Events: Parasites in Focus
- 6 State news
- 11 Closing dates and nominations for ASP prizes
- 12 Conference news
- 14 Jobs in Parasitology
- 14 Network Mentorship Scheme
- 15 ASP contact details

Hello members,

Plans for ICOPA XII continue to develop. We have received over 820 abstracts to date. Please note that Abstract submission closed today and the Program Committee will then assess all abstracts for oral or poster presentation. The Timetable is now posted on the website and it is clear that the Conference will be a busy week for attendees with a wide variety of topics from which to choose, including 5 Plenary sessions, 121 Symposia, 20 Workshops, 3 Debates and 4 formal Poster sessions, in addition to the informal poster viewing sessions.

Outreach is an important element of the Conference and the ICOPA Outreach Committee have opened the "ASP Schools Program - Art, Science and Parasites" see ICOPA website (www.icopaxii.org) and refer to the "Schools Program" page for details. School students can enter their parasite-art pieces for an Art prize and to try their luck in the "Parasites in Focus" Quiz. A flyer promoting the Schools Program will be posted to all ASP members and we hope that you will encourage budding young parasitologists and artists to compete.

The applications for the ASP Student Travel Grants are now open and will support ASP student members registered at an Australian University to attend the Conference. Students can download an application form from the ASP website at www.parasite.org.au/student_travel.html. Applications should be submitted to Lisa Jones at lisa.jones@uts.edu.au. Please note that the deadline for applications is 15 May 2010.

Another exciting development for the ASP was the creation of the Australia - Europe Malaria Research Cooperation – OzEMaLaR, a collaborative research network supported by significant funding from the NHMRC-European Union Collaborative Research Grants scheme. OzEMaLaR will support scientific exchanges between malaria researchers, students and postdocs in Europe and Australia and will be managed by the Network Management Committee. A call for applications will be announced soon. This is a significant benefit to ASP members and credit is due to Geoff McFadden, Kevin Saliba, Nick Smith and Lisa Jones who put the application together. Well done team!

Members will be aware that Council has entered into negotiations with Elsevier for a new contract for the International Journal for Parasitology.



I am pleased to report that negotiations with Elsevier are close to completion and I will be able to announce the conditions for the new contract in an upcoming newsletter.

I am also pleased to announce that Council has appointed Ms Lynn Wynn as our new Secretariat responsible for memberships and our database. Lynn takes over from Maree Conway who did a superb job at reorganising the membership database and creating a web-based system that will serve the ASP well into the future. On behalf of members, I want to give a big thanks to Maree for her service to the Society. Welcome aboard Lynn!

On the Strategic Planning front, we have received the report from Thinking Futures on the Planning Workshop and this has been circulated to attendees for comment. We are now starting to develop a draft Plan for submission to Council and members for comments. The Plan is a work in progress. I previously circulated the documents that informed the Workshop and invite all members to send me your thoughts on any matters raised in those documents. Council is keen to capture the thoughts of members in this process.

Finally, please note in your diaries that the 2011 ASP Annual Conference will be held in Cairns from Sunday 10th July – Wednesday 13th July.

Regards

Terry Spithill

News from the ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology

News from the Convenor

The 2011 ASP Annual Conference will be held in Cairns from Sunday 10th – Wednesday 13th July, at the Pullman Reef Hotel Casino. The first conference organising committee meeting took place in April and this conference is shaping up to be a fantastic line-up of speakers and events centred around the "One Health" concept.

This issue, our featured research story from Australian parasitologists who publish in *The International Journal for Parasitology* is from collaborative researchers Jessica King, Jan Slapeta, Peter Windsor, David Jenkins, Sarwat Al-Qassab and John Ellis and their *Neospora caninum* research. Be sure to check out the other Editor's choices too.

http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/L04_423.cws_home/main

Below is the fantastic news about OzEMalaR - our Australia - Europe malaria research collaborative grants scheme, congratulations to Kevin Saliba (ANU) and Geoff McFadden (University of Melbourne) for putting together the successful grant application and giving our malaria researchers more opportunities for collaborative research with their European partners.

Finally, our next closing date for Network Travel Awards is Friday 28 May 2010, we hope to see lots of applications including those eligible for OzEMalaR Travel Awards.

Nick Smith
Convenor, ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology

Australia - Europe Malaria Research Cooperation - OzEMalaR

25 February 2010

The NHMRC - European Union (EU) Collaborative Research Grants scheme supports Australian participation in leading international collaborative research under FP7.

Seven applications involving Australian researchers based in Australia have been chosen for funding by the EU, and will be awarded funding by NHMRC commencing in 2010.

Congratulations to Geoff McFadden (The University of Melbourne), Kevin Saliba (Australian National University) and colleagues who were successful in their project grant application for Australia - Europe Malaria Research Cooperation - OzEMalaR and were awarded \$830,000 over 5 years.

Malaria is a global problem with no single solution. A large, but sometimes disjointed, research community is addressing the problem, but more collaboration is vital. OzEMalaR will link 34 Australian labs with 47 European, African & Indian malaria researchers. Funding will enable exchange of modern technologies by supporting early career researchers (PhD and postdocs) from Australia to work and be trained in top European labs. European trainees will work and be trained by Australian malariologists using reciprocal EU support.

Geoff said "I anticipate that we will be able to fund collaborative exchanges of Australian malaria research laboratory members into EviMalaR (= BioMalPar) laboratories shortly. The process will work in a very similar manner to the research exchanges funded by the ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology. To check which laboratories are eligible as hosts visit www.evimalar.org. More information will be available shortly with the funding conditions from the NHMRC but in the meantime start planning your researcher exchanges to utilise this great opportunity."

Travel Award Application dates for 2010

The Network Researcher Exchange Training and Travel Award scheme has been an outstanding success and young researchers are particularly encouraged to apply for assistance.

Closing Dates for Network Travel Award applications in 2010

Friday 28 May 2010

Friday 1 October 2010

Applications will be assessed by a specific assessment committee and applicants will be advised of the outcome, where possible, within 4 weeks.

The best application from an eligible student in each round will be selected as a winner of the prestigious J.D. Smyth Postgraduate Travel Award.

Eligible applications will be assessed for an OzEMalaR Travel Award, our Australia - Europe malaria research collaborative grants scheme

All applicants must be current ASP members to be eligible to apply for the Travel Awards.

For more information see the Network website www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/funding

Download an application form
www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/funding/travel_form.doc

Guidelines for the Network Researcher Exchange, Training and Travel Awards can be found at www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/funding/travel_guide.pdf

Profiles

Three shining researchers have made the "tree-change" with **Mark Sandeman** moving from La Trobe to Monash University in Gippsland, **Alex Loukas** moving along with his research group to James Cook University in Cairns, and **Kate Hutson** moving to James Cook University in Townsville and heading up a new group.

Parasite Control laboratory, Monash University

After 28 years at La Trobe **Mark Sandeman** has changed jobs and now you can find him at Monash University Gippsland heading the School of Applied Science and Engineering. Mark said "Believe it or not this move was to find more time for research. Time will tell!"

Hayley Toet (nee Schwarz), **Will Ritchie** and **Mai Duong** are still working at La Trobe and so the lab is still active, with **Warwick Grant** taking on internal supervision and Mark is visiting each Friday to check progress. Hayley has also taken on some immunology and parasitology teaching in Mark's absence along with **Kate Richards** who has all but completed her PhD. They are holding the fort until a new Professor is appointed and a new animal science lecturer joins the fray.

Mark said "I plan to maintain strong contacts with the burgeoning Parasitology group(s) at La Trobe and with the DPI and the new AgriBio Research Centre, which will be a major site for agricultural parasite work in the future. With the entrails so positive I expect to be making lots of trips between Churchill and Bundoora (only 2+ hours as the car flies). Meantime there is a

Congratulations and Researcher news

good Biotech group down here and we will see where a new Animal Science course takes us especially in encouraging some local interest in things parasitic. Meantime if there is any interest out there in blowflies, nematodes, dairy cattle, brown coal or you want a short break in the La Trobe Valley just drop me a line. We welcome visitors!"

James Cook University, Cairns

Alex Loukas has moved his research group from QIMR to James Cook University, Cairns campus, in January this year. Along with Alex from QIMR comes **Jason Mulvenna** (starting his own group at JCU and heading up the new proteomics facility), **Mark Pearson** (currently a CJ Martin fellow in the UK), **Paul Giacomini** (currently a CJ Martin fellow in the US), **Soraya Gaze**, **Michael Smout**, **Henry McSorley**, **Ammar Aziz**, and PhD students **Leon Tribolet**, **Ivana Ferreira** and **Ponlapat Yonglithipagon**. Two new postdocs have joined the group in Cairns, **Nathalie Ruysers** from Belgium and **Annette Dougall** from the Menzies in Darwin. Alex's group has set up shop in the existing labs at the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Molecular Sciences building but will move into the new Queensland Tropical Health Alliance building in 12 months time when their new labs are built.

Alex said "If you are researching tropical diseases you might as well do it from the tropics. We will continue our work on development of vaccines against blood-feeding helminths of humans but will now expand our research efforts on the use of hookworms and their secretions as therapies for autoimmune and allergic diseases". Alex also said "JCU is actively recruiting high profile researchers on the Cairns and Townsville campuses, offering permanent professorial positions with no teaching responsibilities. For me, this is an exciting adventure and allows me to devote all my time to research with the luxury of a permanent position. It will be great to see an increase in the critical mass on the Cairns campus. We now have state-of-the-art equipment and will soon have a brand new building in which to house it all. JCU have been very supportive and are serious about improving their research profile, particularly in tropical diseases. I see a bright future for my group (and others) here."

James Cook University, Townsville

Following 7 years of postgraduate and postdoctoral research at the University of Adelaide, **Kate Hutson** moved in January this year to James Cook University, Townsville campus where she will be lecturing in Aquaculture as well as starting up her own research group. Although she has been intermittently distracted by terrestrial pursuits (a massive 13kg of cane toads captured and weighed in for 'Toad Day Out'), she hopes to coerce JCU researchers **David Blair** and **Leigh Owens** into collaborative projects on parasites of fishes. Students **Sarah Catalano** and **Emma Brock** continue working in the Marine Parasitology Laboratory in Adelaide, co-supervised by **Kate** and **Ian Whittington** (University of Adelaide/SA Museum).

We wish Mark, Alex and Kate all the best in their new positions and are looking forward to more research news from Gippsland and the Tropics!

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Matthew Dixon** (La Trobe University) who was awarded a Young Investigator Award at the 35th Lorne Protein Conference on Protein Structure and Function. Mat presented a talk on his work on "Disruption of the *Plasmodium falciparum* virulence complex".

Congratulations to **Alexander Maier** (La Trobe University) who was given a Commendation for Mid Career Researchers for his research on Malaria in the La Trobe University DVC (R)/VC Excellence in Research Awards.

Congratulations to **Andrew Peele** and **Leann Tilley** (La Trobe University) for their Super Science Fellowship, "Nanoimaging the cellular architecture of the malaria parasite, *Plasmodium falciparum*". The immediate benefit of this work will be in the understanding and treatment of malaria, a disease that kills approximately a million children annually. The ability to image the three dimensional structure of cells at high resolution will allow Andrew and Leann and their team to ask fundamental questions about the cellular architecture of the malaria parasite and to design novel antimalarial strategies. By developing new methods for correlating structure and elemental location, the work in this proposal will offer a new paradigm for the study of cellular function and disease. This represents

an important advance in the suite of investigative tools available to the biotechnology sector and will see a corresponding improvement in our understanding of a wide range of disease states.

Congratulations to **Prof Simon Foote**, **Dr Brendan McMorrnan** and **Dr Gaetan Burgio** (Malaria Genetics Laboratory, Menzies Research Institute, Tasmania) who were recently awarded a Bill & Melinda Gates Grand Challenges grant to study novel genes that provide resistance against malaria infection. This will provide excellent support towards the identification of several genes implicated in host resistance to malaria infection as part of a large scale mouse ENU mutagenesis screen currently underway in the laboratory.

Congratulations to **Rhea Longley** (Malaria Genetics Laboratory, Menzies Research Institute, Tasmania) who was awarded the prestigious 2010 Rhodes Scholarship for Tasmania. This follows a successful year undertaking her Honours research project in the Menzies Malaria Genetics laboratory where she gained a first class degree and the Dean's University Medal. She is currently continuing to work in the lab until she moves to Oxford University in August. There she will conduct her PhD studies in the laboratory of Prof **Adrian Hill**, a world leader in malaria genetics and vaccine development. Good luck Rhea!

Congratulations to **Aaron Jex** who received an NHMRC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (4th March 2010). See <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/media/media/rel10/100305.htm>

Congratulations **Neil Young** who received the 2009 Rob Lewis Medal for Excellence in Postgraduate Research from the University of Tasmania (AMC).

ASP membership website
renew your membership or join online

<http://asp.wildapricot.org>

ASP secretariat
50 Kansas Drive
Tolland, NSW 2650
Fax 03 9005 2824

E: pwynn@internode.on.net

IJP feature article



*Australian dingo (pictured left) is a possible definitive host for *Neospora caninum*, but whether its presence increases the risk of cattle abortions due to neosporosis remains to be determined. Image courtesy Jessica King (University of Sydney).*

Jessica King, Jan Šlapeta, Peter Windsor (University of Sydney), David Jenkins (Charles Sturt University), and Sarwat Al-Qassab and John Ellis (University of Technology, Sydney) have their *International Journal for Parasitology* article, "Australian dingoes are definitive hosts of *Neospora caninum*" in press. Jessica and her colleagues have been working to provide objective data on the potential role of dingoes (*Canis lupus dingo*) in the life cycle of *Neospora caninum* in Australia and Jessica talked to Lisa Jones about her research.

Neospora is a major problem for beef and dairy farmers worldwide. The parasite can be transmitted from pregnant cows to their unborn calves in *utero*, causing spontaneous abortions or, sometimes, neurological problems in newborn calves. Transmission can also be "silent" with no obvious affect on the calves but, in this case, female calves – once they reach maturity - can be a source of infection for their own calves. Another source of infection is via ingestion of oocysts of *Neospora*, which are shed in the faeces of the definitive hosts – dogs – and contaminate pastures.

Jessica said, "For the past four years we have been looking at wild canids (foxes, dingoes and domestic dog/dingo hybrids) as possible definitive hosts for *Neospora caninum*". Overseas research shows that coyotes, as well as domestic dogs, are definitive hosts and Jessica and her colleagues wanted to see if Australian wild canids are potential definitive hosts too.

Jessica said, "Our IJP paper showed that dingoes are possible definitive hosts of *Neospora* and, therefore, could potentially infect the food and water of livestock. We used an Australian isolate and infected calves with tachyzoites of this strain, raised them for 13 weeks, then fed the calf tissue to three dingo pups and three domestic dog pups. We saw low numbers of oocysts in the faeces of one of the infected dingo pups and confirmed, using a species-specific PCR, that these were oocysts of *Neospora caninum*. We were also able to induce roughly 50% of these unsporulated oocysts to sporulate and, therefore, become potentially infectious to cows. The number of oocysts produced, and the number of animals that produced oocysts was not great, but is in keeping with results seen in dogs and coyotes overseas."

Jessica's work on investigating the role of wild canids in transmission of *Neospora caninum* has received national interest after she presented a paper at the Global Biosecurity 2010 Conference: Safeguarding agriculture and the environment in Brisbane. Following a media release for the conference, a flurry of radio interviews and newspaper articles resulted, with the ABC radio broadcasting her work throughout Australia.

Jessica feels that there are still a lot of questions left to answer about dingoes and *Neospora*. "Just because we've shown that dingoes can be a definitive host for *Neospora*, does that mean that they play a significant role in transmitting *Neospora* to cattle in the real world? That's hard

to say at this point but probably domestic and, maybe, feral dogs rather than dingoes are a more likely source. Right now, we just don't have the data to tell." Hence, Jessica, would like to continue her research in this area and hopes to remain in research in invasive animals or wildlife. We wish her all the best for her PhD and future science career.



Australian dingo (pictured above held by researcher Jessica King). Photo courtesy Jessica King (University of Sydney)

International Journal for Parasitology

Impact Factor 3.75*

*©Journal Citation Reports® published by Thomson Reuters, 2009

www.elsevier.com/locate/ijpara

May and June 2010 issues include:

Rapid Communication: Non-archetypal Type II-like and atypical strains of *Toxoplasma gondii* infecting marsupials of Australia

N. Parameswaran, R.C.A Thompson, N. Sundar, S. Pan, M. Johnson, N.C. Smith, M.E. Grigg

Original Research Articles:

Investigations into human serum sensitivity expressed by stocks of *Trypanosoma brucei evansi*

De-Hua Lai, Qiao-Ping Wang, Zhi Li, Antony G. Lukins, Simon A. Reid, Zhao-Rong Lun

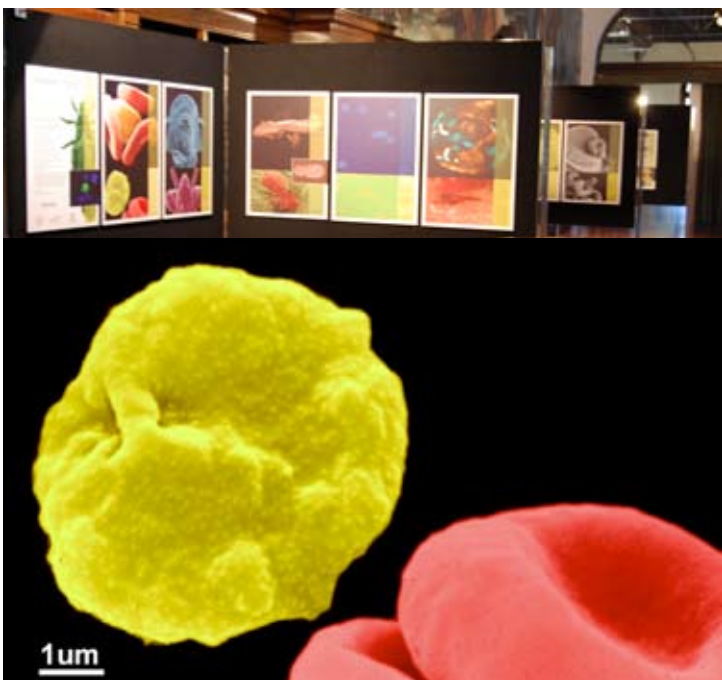
Identification of zoonotic *Giardia* genotypes in fish

Rongchang Yang, Anna Reid, Alan Lymbery, Una Ryan

Local immune response against larvae of *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* in *Bos taurus indicus* and *Bos taurus taurus* cattle

C.C. Constantinoiu, L.A. Jackson, W.K. Jorgensen, A.E. Lew-Tabor, E.K. Piper, D.G. Mayer, B. Venus, N.N. Jonsson

Events



Malaria parasite image from "Parasites in Focus". Copyright 2007 D J P Ferguson, University of Oxford, UK.

"Parasites in Focus" exhibition at Imaginarium Science Centre

19-23 MacFie Street (entrance off Wenvoe Street Car Park)

Devonport, Tasmania

Phone: (03) 6423 1466

Web: devonport.tas.gov.au (leisure & lifestyle)

Twenty-six superb photographic prints showing the amazing world of parasitology accompanied by three hands-on parasite exhibits: parasite game show "Who's my host?" and explore lots of different parasites found in Australia and around the world using "The microscopic world of parasites" and "Look closer at parasites".

Check Network Events on our website to find out when Parasites in Focus will be at a venue near you, or contact Lisa (Lisa.Jones@uts.edu.au) if you would like to host the exhibition.

<http://www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/events>

State news

New South Wales

University of Sydney

Laboratory of Veterinary Parasitology @ McMaster Building

We welcome two Honours students for 2010.

Patricia O’Keeffe is working on myxosporean in the Green and Golden Bell Frog using fluorescence *in situ* hybridization (FISH) to detect the presence of the parasite DNA and visualize its distribution in samples of affected tadpoles.

Matthew Van der Saag is now culturing *Tritrichomonas foetus* from cats and will be exploring the epidemiology and potential links between cattle and cats in an experimental setting. Our initial work on the ultrastructure work of *Chromera velia* is to be published in Protist, which is the direct outcome of a Honours work of **Kate Weatherby**, who has started her PhD and is aiming to understand the ecological importance of this fascinating motile form.



Is this how apicomplexa looked before they made the bold move to be obligate parasites? The motile and bi-flagellated Chromera velia from the One Tree Island, Queensland (scanning electron microscopy). Photo courtesy Jan Slapeta (University of Sydney)

Institute for the Biotechnology of Infectious Disease

Mike Lees will officially be awarded his PhD in a graduation ceremony at UTS on May 10 and has just had a major paper from his thesis accepted by *The Journal of Immunology*. Mike has now enrolled in graduate medicine at the University of Notre Dame Australia and we wish him all the best for the future. We are pleased to welcome, back from Ireland, **Sheila Donnelly** on a new IBID Fellowship. Sheila will be continuing her research on the effect of immunomodulatory proteins secreted by helminths on the activity of macrophages, dendritic cells and T cells. And, finally, IBID welcomes a new Director, Professor **Ian Charles**, from the University of Sheffield. Ian is keen to unify IBID’s research effort under the theme of “Systems Biology” with an emphasis on translating fundamental research into practical solutions for infectious disease problems.

Western Australia

Murdoch University and University of Western Australia

News from the west.....

Andy Thompson is currently spending time with the Vet school at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. He was given a Rausch Visiting Professorship to work with **Emily Jenkins, Lydden Polley** and others, to further the groups’ collaborations on parasites of wildlife and zoonoses. He will be helping to establish a similar approach to what the group is doing here at Murdoch, ie applying ‘molecular tools’ to address questions about transmission. A particular focus will be *Echinococcus* and *Toxoplasma* in the Arctic. He will also be giving lectures and seminars both there and at the University of Calgary for **Susan Kutz**. During his 6 weeks away he will also make a quick trip (5 days) to Zurich to visit **Peter Deplazes**

and Munich to give an invited lecture at the European College of Parasitology meeting in Munich.

In Feb/March we had a visit from Michael Grigg (NIH, USA) who was here to continue collaboration on *Toxoplasma* with **Andy, Alan LyMBERY** and PhD student **Shuting Pan**. This also involved finalising an ARC discovery submission, so was a very busy week for all involved.

Also in February we hosted a small gathering of WA parasitologists here at Murdoch Uni. It was a great opportunity for new ASP members to be introduced to others in their new chosen field. It was a great success and the feedback was positive with the wish for more of the same. It also sowed the seeds for a new collaboration with **Chris Peacock’s** group on *Leishmania* and *Trypanosomes* in wildlife.

Simon Reid and **Rob Dobson** have been busy giving training workshops on ‘Surveillance of animal influenzas’ in South east Asia. This is an FAO funded initiative and will be conducted throughout the year in countries such as the Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar and Indonesia.

New arrivals in to the group include two new students (PhD and Hons) and a Research Assistant. **Craig Thompson** is busy designing his PhD project around *Leishmania* and *Trypanosomes* in wildlife, while **Ben Zheng** has started his Honours research on an unknown flagellate which is infecting mice in the animal house. And finally **Linda Maccarone** will be joining us as a new RA to support the wildlife and *Giardia* projects.

Final bits of news include a new baby on the way. **Unaiza Parkar** has announced she is expecting both a baby and a thesis in the same year, while **Hanna Borowski** will be visiting (with her baby) to complete her EM for here PhD with **Peta Clode** at UWA.

State news cont...

South Australia

University of Adelaide

The Marine Parasitology Laboratory at the University of Adelaide has been particularly industrious recently with two PhD graduations in April. **Rissa Williams** was awarded her PhD for her thesis on 'Oral treatments for monogenean parasites of farmed yellowtails, *Seriola* spp. (Carangidae)'. Rissa was supervised by **Ian Whittington** (SA Museum/University of Adelaide) and **Marty Deveney** (SARDI Aquatic Sciences). In October 2009, **Elizabeth Perkins** completed and submitted her PhD thesis entitled 'Family ties: molecular phylogenetics, evolution and radiation of flatworm parasites (Monogenea: Capsalidae)', supervised by **Ian** and **Steve Donnellan** (South Australian Museum). Lizzie graduated at the same ceremony as Rissa in April. Congratulations Rissa and Lizzie. We hope the productivity will continue in 2010 with a number of publications resulting from each thesis.

Honours student **Sarah Catalano** also graduated in April. Sarah successfully completed her thesis 'Parasite assemblages of the Arripidae in southern Australia' with First Class Honours (supervised by **Kate Hutson** and **Ian**) and has published two research papers from her thesis with another on the way. She recently secured an Australian Postgraduate Award to begin a PhD in mid-2010. Great work Sarah!

Emma Brock (graduate from a Bachelor of Marine Biology) joins the Australian Society for Parasitology and the Marine Parasitology Laboratory at the University of Adelaide for her Honours project in 2010. An ABRs Capacity-Building Scholar, Emma is studying ontogenetic influences on parasitism in King George Whiting this year. So far Emma has examined over 250 specimens with some fantastic results.

Farewell to **Kate Hutson** and **Elizabeth Perkins**. Kate has been appointed to a lectureship in

the Discipline of Aquaculture at James Cook University. She left Adelaide in mid-January and took up her new job in February. Lizzie is now Station Assistant (Laboratory) at Heron Island Research Station. Congratulations girls and best wishes for success in your new roles.

South Australian Museum

On 12 February 2010, the new, long-awaited, permanent exhibition at the SA Museum, the South Australian Biodiversity Gallery, was unveiled to an eager audience of dignitaries, politicians, scientists, staff and members of the public. The opening ceremony included an address by **Dr Suzanne Miller**, Director of the SA Museum, **State Premier Mike Rann** and videotaped messages from **Sir David Attenborough** and **Professor Tim Flannery** (former Director). The ambitious gallery is a transect through South Australia from the deserts in the north to the deep oceans off the continental shelf in the south. Along the transect, the unique and diverse wildlife of South Australia is displayed in four discrete environments: arid, temperate, coastal and marine. Of course parasites make several appearances throughout the gallery sometimes as jars of specimens in front of their hosts, sometimes in videos and sometimes as model replicas. A well-known wildlife **parasitologist and ASP member** from Melbourne who also happens to be an Honorary Research Associate at the SA Museum, is part of the exhibition. Nothing strange like a wax model or robotic likeness but on video - whipping out the stomach of a kangaroo to reveal a writhing mass of nematodes. This has proven to be a crowd-pleaser, especially among school kids! Next time he's in Adelaide, he will have to wear dark glasses or he'll be chased for his autograph. There is also a small concept case about parasites displaying examples of fish flukes, tapeworms, hookworms, leeches, isopods and ticks. Thanks to all members of the ASP who contributed images, videos and advice over the last three years as the gallery was developed. Next time you're in Adelaide, please drop by and take in the Biodiversity Gallery.

Recently **Leslie Chisholm** was out and about in regional South Australia on an SA Museum Roadshow to Mt Gambier and Millicent in the state's south-east. Leslie was responsible for educating school children about the wonders of parasites and parasitology and took specimens,

videos and images that were shown to attendees during many 'show and tell' presentations over 2 days. A firm favourite was a 3 litre jar of cloacine nematodes from the gut of a common wallaroo courtesy of **Ian Beveridge**. It's estimated that the jar contains approximately 110,000 individuals! These worms are now part of the new Biodiversity Gallery (see above).

Lesley Smales (SA Museum) was visited by **Neil Chilton** briefly in April who was in SA to visit family at Murray Bridge. Neil took time off for good behaviour from his visit with Ian Beveridge in Melbourne where apparently he was chained to a freezer to retrieve frozen specimens to finish off a variety of papers with Ian B and Lesley.

Ian Beveridge ended his second semester sabbatical in which he toured various museums around the globe, especially Europe, at the SA Museum in Adelaide. He spent two weeks depositing new material from various collecting jaunts, working up old material and, among other things, completing a project started a year ago with Lesley Smales and **Marie-Claude Durette-Desset** (Paris Museum) on *Austrostrongylus*. He was instrumental in identifying the red mite (*Dermanyssus*) outbreak in Kate Hutson's pet chickens, although his suggested 'kerosene and lighted match' treatment wasn't applied. Or perhaps it was, which may account for two events: 1) the amazing smell of barbecued chicken in Adelaide before Xmas 2009; 2) Kate's hasty departure from South Australia to the tropics.

Queensland Animal Research Institute

Applied Biotechnologies Animal group (DEEDI, formerly DPI&F). The tick vaccine group (Beef CRC) are currently busy screening antibodies and producing antigens for upcoming trials. Last year's Honours student **Olivia Weiss**, finished with a First Class. She looked at cattle skin immune responses to ticks as well as the analysis of tick antigen lymphocyte stimulation comparing tick resistant and susceptible cattle breeds. **Tao Xu** also completed a Masters Project in our lab working on tick gene expression in

State news cont...

Pichia pastoris (both students co-supervised by **Ala Lew** and **Manuel Rodriguez Valle** with UQ). **Sebastian Kurscheid** (CCG, Murdoch Uni + co-supervised by Ala) has almost graduated with his PhD (tick bioinformatics and RNAi) and commenced a post-doc at Yale in February.

Bartosz Wlodek completed a first class honours degree (UQ vet school + co-supervised by **Jess**) on *Eimeria* species competition and population genetics. Ala's lab hosted **Felix Guerrero** (USDA) on an OECD Fellowship late last year which helped progress research and publication drafts associated with the tick research. Jess was invited to Indonesia in February to attend a United Nations hosted technical meeting on screw worm fly. The Applied Biotechnologies Animal group will be moving from Yeerongpilly to a floor in the Institute of Molecular Biology, University of Queensland next year. The group is busily planning new office and laboratory accommodation for up to 20 staff.

Wayne Jorgensen is travelling to BIO 2010 (Chicago) in April/May. Prior to the conference, he is visiting Seattle to attend the Queensland-Washington Global Health Symposium and then on to WSU at Pullman for collaborative discussions on parallel Pathogenic *E. coli* vaccine development projects.

The Parasitology section of Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory is preparing to move labs from the Animal Research Institute, Yeerongpilly to the Queensland Health precinct at Coopers Plains. The move is planned for mid-May but this could be delayed again! The lab passed the NATA audit in March with an extended list of species accredited for testing.

Acaricide resistance tests are keeping **Ralph Stutchbury** busy and we are always searching for the elusive ivermectin resistant ticks. Asian honey bees from northern Queensland are still flowing into the lab (79 hives detected so far and more to come) and still no exotic mites to be found. This is good news for the European honey bees of Australia. **Cath Covacin** has volunteered to help with the bee mite work. **John Allen** (Actest) is busy doing *in vitro* tests on potential acaricidal products and we have just started a clinical study with cattle at the UQ research farm.

University of Queensland

School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences

The parasitologists left in the Faculty of Science (**Steve Barker, Tom Cribb, Peter O'Donoghue**) are being shuffled around within and between buildings as laboratory and office renovations proceed. Who knows where they will end up? Nonetheless, their teaching and research continues unabated. The older the trio get, the more generalist their teaching allocations become (giving credence to the T&L adage: senior staff teach better at junior school - presumably because of their greater experience and broader content knowledge!?!). Pity it was not all restricted to parasitology - we saw Tom Cribb teaching about bacteria - heretic! Steve is teaching in various genetics courses, and POD drew the short straw by having to teach "Theory and Practice in Science" to 600 first-year students.

On the research front, **Sonja Hall-Mendelin** (candidate inherited by POD) has finally finished her PhD on the diagnosis and toxicology of *Ixodes holocyclus* in dogs, and is making the few required amendments. **Michelle Plant** continues her PhD with POD on blood parasites of native birds in wildlife parks and is currently writing up her findings. **Veronica Zhang** is beginning her PhD with POD, **Norm Waters** and **Marina Chavchich** at AAMI (Australian Army Malaria Institute) where she will investigate novel chemotherapeutics. **Linda Ly** is commencing her MPhil with POD on the taxonomy of endosymbiotic flagellates in native termites. Kalaivani Rethinasingham has begun her Honours project with POD on the rumen ciliates of farmed and wild deer in SE Qld, while **Ben Brimblecombe** has started his Honours work on the scanning electron microscopy of testate amoebae of mosses in regional Qld. POD and **Lynn Pryor** have finished their work on the PARA-SITE multimedia website and are currently editing the final product before official release at ICOPA.

School of Veterinary Science

The Vet School has moved into the new, but not quite finished facilities at the UQ Gatton Campus. Maybe by the end of semester we will

not be outnumbered by contractors in hard hats - it seems they think our working environment is dangerous! Under the guidance of **Lyn Knott**, the laboratory has been translocated successfully. Most research is back underway and we have already started some of our diagnostic work, although an occasional faulty fire alarm or a power cut means we all relocate to the coffee shop! The veterinary undergraduates have a new lab for their parasitology classes. It has excellent audiovisual features to aid in practical teaching.

Rebecca Traub is in New York attending the 5th Canine Vector Borne Disease World Forum Symposium organized by Bayer Animal Health and will be updating the congregation on the project in India.

We warmly welcome Dr **Zablon Njiru** to the Vet School. Zablon was awarded a UQ Postdoctoral Fellowship and will be working with Rebecca on the development a novel diagnostic platform for infectious diseases based on Isothermal DNA Amplification Technology. **Christian Gray** has started a collaborative project with **Malcolm Jones** at QIMR. Christian has had some recent success using the Vet School's new Deltavision Deconvolution Microscope to capture parasite images. This not only allows for high resolution images to be studied, but allows precise measurements to be taken. In addition, Christian is currently using this microscope to examine skin infiltrating immune cells using four colour fluorescent immunohistochemistry. Malcolm Jones celebrated a "0" birthday which provided the excuse for some of the parasitology group to check out the new surrounds and try one of the nearby pubs for lunch.

The parasitology postgrads are enjoying working in the new facilities. **Puteri Azaziah Megat Abd Rani (Aza)** is one step closer to prove a dog biting fly, *Hippobosca longipennis* is a biological vector of a novel species of canine filaria, *Acanthocheilonema ladakhii*, which she discovered infecting the Himalayan dogs (check out Parasites & Vectors 2010, 3:30). After a few complications getting the hippoboscids dissection right, she found a few larvae in the hippoboscids that morphologically resemble filarial larvae and is currently working for the molecular identification. She is looking forward to sharing her findings and excitement at ICOPA in August! **Leigh Cuttell** is heading to Fraser Island in May to attend the final Australian Biosecurity CRC for Emerging Infectious Disease annual workshop. Sean Corley from the Animal Genetics Lab has officially started his PhD program which will entail identifying molecular mechanisms conferring

State news cont...

resistance to acaricides in Australian populations of *Rhipicephalus Boophilus microplus* (cattle tick).

Tick Fever Centre

Benign theileriosis – an emerging problem? After a century of being considered to be little more than a nuisance, bovine *Theileria* has been incriminated in an increasing number of outbreaks of haemolytic anaemia in cattle in NSW over the past couple of years. A paper describing some of the cases was published recently by **Matt Izzo** and others of the Vet School in Sydney (Izzo et al., 2010) and is well worth having a look at. More in-depth studies are being planned to determine the distribution and prevalence of the problem as well as the reasons why it is apparently becoming a problem after all these years. The cause was long thought to be *Theileria buffeli* but, from molecular work done in 2009; we now know that we have at least 3 variants (??species) of the *T. buffeli/orientalis* group in this country, including 'Buffeli', 'Chitose' and 'Ikeda'. There is a short report of the early findings in the ICTTD newsletter No. 40 of October 2009 (http://www.icttd.nl/fileadmin/user_upload/Newsletters/ICTTD_Newsletter_40.pdf). Staff at the Tick Fever Centre collaborated in both studies and will participate in future work on the distribution and impact of the different variants. They will also be involved in efforts to have a minor use permit issued for use of a drug (buparvaquone) to treat affected animals.

Development of an improved frozen tick fever vaccine: This MLA-funded 3-year project ended in January 2010 and the aim was to develop a frozen tick fever vaccine which shared the positive attributes of the chilled vaccine and could ultimately replace it. The project team (**Bert de Vos, Peter Rolls, Susan Robinson, Jacqui Wigg** and **Taryn Fletcher**) applied technology used in human blood transfusion services to freeze human blood with glycerol and then to remove the cryoprotectant after thawing to bovine blood and tick fever organisms. A wide range of permutations were used in laboratory trials and field trials involving more than 1300 experimental cattle on co-operator properties. The three tick fever organisms had poor survival rates, so sadly the production of a standard chilled vaccine equivalent from a frozen concentrate is not commercially viable or cost-effective.

Jacqui Wigg will be heading to Washington State University in May thanks to funding from the 'Enhanced Scientific Skilling for Adaptation to Changing & Variable Climate through

International Linkages" initiative to meet with **Kelly Brayton** and others from WSU to find out about their current research into *Babesia* and *Anaplasma* and discuss collaborative projects. Jacqui's visit will not only help to strengthen the relationship between the two groups but will allow her to acquire and improve her skills in molecular techniques for use in active and passive surveillance as well as vaccine-related research.

Queensland Institute of Medical Research

Clinical Tropical Medicine Laboratory

James McCarthy has been responsible for a recent malaria outbreak at QIMR. James is project leader on an MMV-sponsored clinical trial in which healthy male volunteers are infected with blood stage *P. falciparum*. The aim of the study is to develop a method to test the efficacy of candidate antimalarials. All volunteers became infected with malaria, much to the delight of the research team, and came to no harm, much to the relief of all involved. Overall the trial has been very successful and provided much valuable data on kinetics of blood stage infection and parasite clearance. James is also happy to report the completion of the malaria survey on Isabel Island in Solomon islands. 8600 malaria slides were screened as part of a joint project between QIMR, AMI and UQSPH. The study was funded by Pac Misc.

Malaria Biology laboratory

Welcomes back **Rachael McGeorge** who is following on from the success of her honours project last year and has recently started her PhD with **Tina Skinner Adams** working on Plasmepsins. Rachael was awarded both an APA and a Queensland Smart State Scholarship.

Congratulations to **Don Gardiner** who is now A/Prof Gardiner (Griffith University, School of Biomolecular and Physical Sciences) and **Katharine Trenholme** who also recently became A/Prof (University of Queensland, School of Medicine).

Tropical Parasitology Laboratory

In January, **Kathy Andrews**, who is an ARC Future Fellow at Griffith University's Eskitis

Institute, was also appointed as a new Laboratory Head at the QIMR. Kathy's Lab is called Tropical Parasitology, and she will continue to work on malaria drug discovery and target identification at both institutions. A few changes to the group as well as **Thanh Tran** recently completed his PhD and **Linh Tran** started her PhD late last year.

Molecular Vaccinology Lab

The Molecular Vaccinology Lab at QIMR, headed by **Denise Doolan**, investigates the molecular basis of immunity to disease with a focus on malaria and model systems. We have three broad areas of interest including: 1) understanding the molecular basis of immunity to malaria and identifying the antigenic targets of this immunity; 2) evaluation of novel adjuvants, vaccine formulations and vaccine platforms; and 3) immunoregulation of T cell function. The lab has recently expanded with the addition of a new postdoctoral fellow and research technician to work on an NIH-funded project to identify novel *P. falciparum* proteins targeted by cellular immune responses. It now consists of 10 people from different areas of the world: four postdoctoral fellows: **Simon Apte** (originally from Sydney), **Angela Trieu** (born in Vietnam and raised in New Zealand), **Fernanda Caldas Cardoso** (Minas Gerais State, Brazil), **Bruno Douradinha** (near Lisbon, Portugal); two research technicians: **Penny Groves** (Hamilton, Victoria) and **Joanne Roddick** (Townsville); three PhD students **Andrew Redmond** (Sydney; also an infectious diseases clinician), **David Pattinson** (Canberra), and **Sophie Schusseck** (Vienna, Austria); and **Denise Doolan** (PNG highlands/ Queensland). Bruno will soon be going to Madang, PNG, for a couple of months field work to collect PBMC samples for the NIH project, in collaboration with **Ivo Mueller, Leanne Robinson** and colleagues at PNGIMR.

Australian Capital Territory

Staff in CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems and CSIRO Entomology were stunned by an email from Dr. **Megan Clark**, CEO, on Tuesday morning April 6th advising that the two Divisions were to merge as of 1 July 2010 into a single Division of about 800 staff located on 21 sites including 2 overseas. The merger brings together

State news cont...

ecology, evolutionary biology, molecular biology, agricultural sciences, forest systems sciences, economics, social sciences and urban engineering and technologies with **Dr. Mark Lonsdale** (currently Chief of Entomology) as the foundation Chief of the as yet unnamed Division.

Peter Holdsworth [Animal Health Alliance (Australia) Ltd] headed off to Europe for the second half of April to participate in the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) Guidelines Committee which oversees the development of internationally harmonized efficacy guidelines to underpin study data generation supporting registration of veterinary parasiticides. The Committee meeting at the University of Ghent will consider, among other things, guidelines for:

1. ectoparasiticides used in/on fish
2. protozoal parasiticides used in mammals with possibly a stand alone guidance for *Giardia*
3. vaccines targeting *Eimeria* and other protozoals in poultry
4. acceptable bioequivalence data
5. generic parasiticides
6. combination anthelmintics
7. validity and application of faecal egg count reduction tests results.

In the second half of June, Peter Holdsworth will also find himself in Paris chairing a workshop at the International Cooperation for the Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH) conference in the OIE offices. The workshop will review, among other things, the success of existing harmonized efficacy guidelines for anthelmintic development.

Work is also progressing in "rallying the troops" for the August ICOPA XII Congress in Melbourne where Peter Holdsworth will chair the symposium on "Parasiticide regulation and efficacy standards of drugs" Speakers are working on their abstracts and presentations. All have promised their presentations will move out of the "comfort zone" and aim to challenge the existing convention on efficacy standards.

Natalie Spillman, a PhD student with Professor **Kieran Kirk** at the Research School of Biology (ANU) was selected for a week-long exchange course at the University of Copenhagen on International University Governance. The course

combines lecture and workshops on the concept and role of a university, national and international university policies, and the different governance issues related to these roles. She is also taking the opportunity to visit Dr **Peter Ellekvist** and Professor **Dan Klaerke** at the Department of Physiology and Biochemistry in the School of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen. They study K⁺ channels in *Plasmodium*, and hopefully there will be plenty of interesting discussions related to parasite physiology and some of Natalie's recent findings related to ion homeostasis.

Northern Territory

Menzies

The malaria group of the International Health Division of Menzies have been extremely busy over the past few months working with James McCarthy and colleagues on a human experimental malaria challenge at QIMR. They are continuing their collaborative malaria research in Timika, Papua with partners in Indonesia and extending their collaborations to other sites in South East Asia. The Vivax Working Group of AusAID's Asia-Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APMEN) has now been established at Menzies. This group will work with partners in the region to develop and coordinate operational research that will provide the evidence base for the successful control and ultimate elimination of *Plasmodium vivax* in APMEN countries and the greater Asia-Pacific.

On the scabies front, PhD student **Wajahat Mahmood** spent three weeks in the lab of our collaborators **Katja Fischer** and **Angela Mika** at QIMR in March. Their expertise in the expression and characterisation of scabies mite enzymes was a fantastic help to Waji in his aim of investigating the role of an aspartic protease in the scabies mite. Waji has returned to the lab in Darwin with plenty of ideas to further his enzyme kinetic studies before heading to Florida and the lab of Prof **Ben Dunn** in May.

Congratulations must go to **Annette Dougall** who submitted her PhD thesis in January. Her project investigating the lifecycle of Australian

Leishmania was a huge challenge which Annette took on with gusto and did a fantastic job. We were very sad to farewell Annette from the Darwin lab after about 8 years as a Research Assistant and PhD student. However we are excited about her new position in **Alex Loukas's** lab which has recently relocated to James Cook University in Cairns. Before Annette left us we did manage to convince her to spend one more soaking wet season in the field insect trapping for our work characterising the vector of *Leishmania*. We are sure that she will miss the challenge of field work in the Top End wet season and expect that she will be keeping one eye on the native fauna in north Queensland, checking road kill for suspicious lesions and exposing herself to the full range of biting insects. We look forward to hearing what she finds.....

Tasmania

University of Tasmania

December awards

Barbara Nowak received UTAS research excellence award and Dean of Graduate Studies award for supervision of postgraduate students.

December graduations

Two PhD students: **Hamish Aiken** and **Neil Young** graduated in December. Hamish is currently working for PIRSA in Adelaide and is still involved sometimes with fish parasites. Neil Young moved to University of Melbourne where he is working with Prof Robin Gasser on *C. elegans*.

New members

Three PhD students from National Centre of Marine Conservation and Resource Sustainability UTAS: **Laura Gonzalez**, **Victoria Valdenegro** and **Nicole Kirchoff** joined ASP. Laura and Victoria are working on different aspects of Amoebic Gill Disease and both already have considerable experience in parasitic diseases of fish. Laura has published on parasites in Chile, in particular *Caligus rogercresseyi*. Victoria did her Masters thesis on Southern bluefin tuna mortalities, which included monitoring of tuna parasites. Nicole is in the second year of her PhD and has been also working on tuna, focusing on effects of husbandry on tuna health, including immune response and parasite loads.

State news cont...

DAFINET meeting

Barbara Nowak was one of the three keynote speakers at the DAFINet (Danish Fish Immunology Research Center) meeting in Copenhagen (7-8 April). She presented two talks – one on parasitic diseases in fish mariculture in Australia and another on vaccine against yersiniosis. While the meeting focused on vaccination of early life stages of fish, there were a number of talks on fish parasites. This is most likely due to the high level of involvement of Prof Buchmann's group (University of Copenhagen) in fish parasitology. This included a presentation of the potential involvement of nematodes in cod larvae mortalities in the wild and tracking anthropogenic spread of fish parasites using molecular methods. The meeting was attended by 56 participants, mostly from Scandinavian countries.

Sea Lice conference

Barbara Nowak is a member of the scientific review committee for 8th International Sea Lice Conference which will take place in Victoria British Columbia in May this year.

Victoria

Walter and Eliza Hall Institute

Anu Sakthianandeswaren's PhD work has culminated in the publication of an article in *Infection and Immunity*. "Fine mapping of *Leishmania* major susceptibility locus *Imr2*: evidence for a role for *Fli1* in disease and wound healing." Sakthianandeswaren A, Curtis JM, Elso C, Kumar B, Baldwin TM, Lopaticki S, Kedzierski L, Smyth GK, Foote SJ, Handman E. *Infect Immun*. 2010 Apr 5. [Epub ahead of print]

This work maps a locus - to a single gene - that is responsible for resistance to leishmaniasis. This single gene is expressed at differing levels between resistant and sensitive mouse strains and polymorphisms within the promoter of this gene are responsible for this.

Work by **Michelle Boyle** from **James Beesons** group has resulted in the publication:

"Interactions with heparin-like molecules during erythrocyte invasion by *P. falciparum* merozoites." Boyle MJ, Richards JS, Gilson PR, Chai W, Beeson JG. *Blood*. 2010 Mar 10. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 20220119 [PubMed - as supplied by

publisher]

This work reveals that malaria parasites likely use Heparinised molecules on the surface of the red blood cell as receptor for invasion. They were able to identify that the parasite surface protein MSP1-42 bound to heparin and that treatment with this sulphated glycan prevented parasite invasion into red blood cells.

The University of Melbourne

Gasser laboratory

Researchers Aaron Jex and Ross Hall have recently published their paper entitled "An integrated pipeline for next-generation sequencing and annotation of mitochondrial genomes" **Aaron Jex, Ross Hall, Tim Littlewood and Robin Gasser**, [accepted for publication in *Nucleic Acids Research*.]

Closing Dates for ASP Awards

ASP Student Travel
15 May 2010

Network Travel Award
28 May 2010
1 October 2010

Bancroft-Mackerras Award
30 September 2010 (for award in 2011)

JFA Sprent Prize
30 September 2010

ASP Fellowships
By 9 January 2010

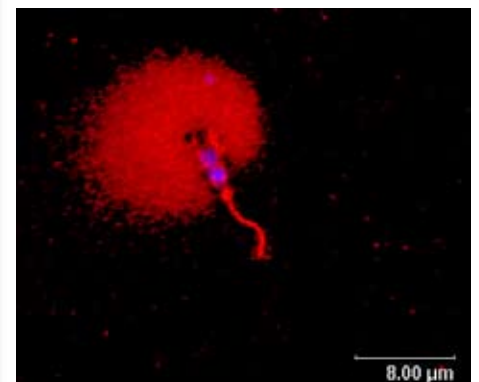
Visit the ASP website for more information
www.parasite.org.au

Science meets Parliament 2010

At the 2010 'Science meets Parliament' FASTS conference Chris Mooney, senior correspondent for *The American Prospect* magazine was the international keynote speaker who delivered the National Press Club address. His presentation was broadcast on ABC 1 this week.

Chris Mooney has achieved widespread acclaim as author of *The Republican War on Science* and *Unscientific America: How Scientific Illiteracy Threatens Our Future* and makes many salient points on the validity of science and the importance of science advocacy during his presentation.

The Science meets Parliament 2010 newsletter is available online at <http://www.fast.org/images/science%20meets%20parliament%202010.pdf>



Leishmania image is part of "Parasites in Focus" exhibition courtesy of Joan Curtis and Emanuela Handman, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (Australia).

Conference news

XIIth International Congress of Parasitology

15 - 20 August 2010

PROGRAM UPDATE

The committee of the XIIth International Congress of Parasitology (ICOPA) are pleased to announce that the preliminary program is now available on the conference website.

Earlybird registration will remain open until Monday 17th May.

ASP STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT

Apply for ASP Student Travel grant applications by 15 May 2010

The Australian Society for Parasitology Inc. provides support for full-time students enrolled in a higher degree at a recognized Australian

University, and for recent graduates of less than 1 year's duration, to attend the ASP annual conference which in 2010 will be incorporated in ICOPA XII.

http://www.parasite.org.au/student_travel.html

ASP SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Art, Science and Parasites

The Art of the Bodysnatchers Competition

Draw/paint/design or computer generate your version of a parasite – luscious-looking lice, heinous hydatids, tenacious tapeworms, or your own abstract parasitic interpretation.....

\$1000 cash first prize, along with four \$500 runner up cash prizes, and publication as the front cover of a prestigious scientific journal, International Journal for Parasitology. Great prizes for other competition winners also up for grabs!

Winners will be chosen based on their artistic merits, originality, and demonstrated research of

their chosen parasite.

"Parasites in Focus" Online Quiz

Fancy your chances in our online "Parasites in Focus" quiz? iPod prizes for the quiz winners!

Quiz closes Friday 13th August 2010.

"Parasites in Focus" - The Exhibition

"Parasites in Focus" hands-on exhibition, featuring the extraordinary world of the parasite, is on display at the The Gene Technology Access Centre (GTAC), The University High School, Parkville, Melbourne from Saturday 7th – Thursday 12th August 2010"

Visit the ICOPA website and refer to the "Schools Program" page for more information

For all conference information please visit the ICOPA website:

www.icopaxii.org

2011 ASP Annual Conference will be held in Cairns Sunday 10th July – Wednesday 13th July



Bancroft-Mackerras Medal guidelines

Nominations for Bancroft-Mackerras Medal

The Bancroft-Mackerras Medal may be awarded to a member of the Society who, in the opinion of the selection committee, has made an outstanding contribution to the science of parasitology, particularly in work published during the last five years.

Nominations should be made by a proposer and

seconder, and should consist of:

A detailed statement of nomination describing the nature of the "outstanding contribution to the science of parasitology" for which he/she has been responsible. The statement should be signed by the proposer and seconder, or each may submit a separate statement.

A curriculum vitae including a list of all publications.

Note that the Medal is intended for members

whose research program has been productive during the last five years. The permission of the nominee is not required and the nominee need not be aware of the nomination.

Nominations should be sent direct to the current ASP Executive Secretary. Detailed information on nomination and selection procedures is given in the By-Laws of the ASP Constitution. Nominations are due each year at the end of September.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you have changed your address, title or name; or if there is a mistake in your mailing label, please fill out the details below and send them to:

ASP Secretariat
c/- 50 Kansas Drive
Tolland, NSW 2650

Or Fax 03 9005 2824

Or Email: pwynn@internode.on.net

ASP Membership number.

Name as it appears on present mailing label (if possible, please enclose the old mailing label)

.....

Contact details for future mailing labels:

Title..... First Name Surname.....

Postal Address

.....

.....

.....

.....

State

Postcode.....

Tel:

FAX:

Email:

Fresh Australian science news each week

Job listings

Career information for Australian scientists

**In-depth analysis of the issues affecting
Australian science**



ScienceHub
Australia

www.sciencehub.com.au

Jobs in parasitology

See the latest jobs in parasitology on the Network website

<http://www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/jobs>

La Trobe University

Postdoctoral position to work in the ARC CXS Centre of Excellence

(<http://www.coecxs.org/>)

Research Officer at La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science, Level A/B Research Position in the Department of Biochemistry

This position will attract a remuneration package of approx. \$70,200 to \$96,100 per annum, which includes 17% superannuation.

Background:

This position will be funded by the Australian Research Council as part of the Centre of Excellence for Coherent X-ray Science (CXS) and Super Science Fellowship scheme for research into the use of novel imaging techniques to study the cellular architecture of malaria parasite-infected erythrocytes. The CXS is an interdisciplinary collaboration for high-resolution bio-imaging. The project involves applying cutting edge techniques for light, electron and X-ray microscopy. The successful applicant will work with colleagues from the Departments of Biochemistry and Physics at La Trobe University. Molecular and cell biological manipulation of samples will be used to enhance specimen preparation.

Primary Objectives:

This work aims to develop sample preparation protocols suitable for high resolution imaging and to use these methods to obtain information about the cellular architecture of parasitised erythrocytes.

In particular, we aim:

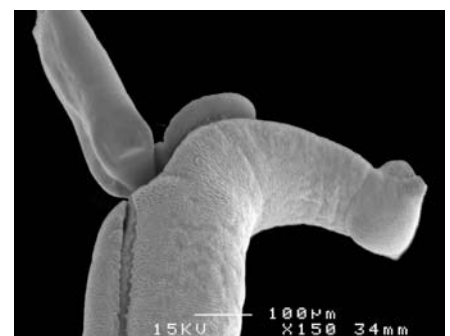
- (1) To develop sample preparation methods for transmission electron microscopy and cryo electron microscopy
- (2) To use electron tomography and X-ray microscopy to image cell samples
- (3) To use Super-Resolution optical microscopy methods to examine the sub-cellular distribution and organisation of structures in malaria parasites and other samples
- (4) To use and develop new microscopy methods

Further information,

Contact: Prof. Leann Tilley. Tel: 03-9479 1375.
Email: L.Tilley@latrobe.edu.au

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/biochemistry/lab/tilley/index.htm>

Closing date for applications: mid-June, 2010



Network Mentorship Scheme

Early career researchers are encouraged to apply to the Network Convenor (nick.smith@uts.edu.au), in strict confidence, for funding to participate in the Network Mentorship Scheme. The scheme allows young investigators to be paired with experienced, successful researchers to discuss, plan, prioritise and set targets for their career. Typically, the early career researcher will fly to the institute of a senior parasitologist and spend a day there. Arrangements for professional development and progress to be reviewed by the pair annually can also be arranged. Importantly, mentors need not be

from an individual's home institution but can be drawn from across the Network. The scheme has proved very valuable for several young researchers and their mentors already.

To apply, simply write to Nick Smith (nick.smith@uts.edu.au) with a brief outline of your research interests and aspirations. You can also indicate a preferred mentor or ask Nick for advice on whom amongst the Network participants may be most suitable.

Photographs are part of "Parasites in Focus" exhibition. Top is a tapeworm called Rhinebothrium, image courtesy of Clinton Chambers, The University of QLD (Australia). Middle is a tapeworm, and bottom paired schisosomes, images courtesy of Mal Jones, Queensland Institute of Medical Research and The University of QLD (Australia)

Council of the Australian Society for Parasitology Inc.

Executive

President

Terry Spithill
School of Animal and Veterinary
Sciences
Charles Sturt University
Locked Bag 588, Wagga Wagga
NSW 2678
Tel: (02) 6933 2439
Fax: (02) 6933 2991
Email: tspithill@csu.edu.au

Vice-President

Peter Holdsworth
Animal Health Alliance (Australia)
Ltd
Locked Bag 916
Canberra ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6257 9022
Fax: (02) 6257 9055
E: peter.holdsworth@
animalhealthalliance.org.au

Executive Secretary

Michelle Power*
Biological Sciences, Macquarie
University,
North Ryde, NSW 2109
Tel: (02) 9850 6974
Fax: (02) 9850 8245
Email: mpower@els.mq.edu.au

*Interim contact David Jenkins
Email: djenkins@csu.edu.au

Treasurer

Nick Sangster
School of Animal and Veterinary
Sciences
Charles Sturt University
Locked Bag 588, Wagga Wagga
NSW 2678
Tel: (02) 6933 4107
Fax: (02) 6933 2991
Email: nsangster@csu.edu.au

State Councillors

ACT

Simon Cobbold
Research School of Biology
Building #41 Linnaeus Way
Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200
Tel: (02) 6125 8589
Email: simon.cobbold@anu.edu.au

NT

Deborah Holt
International Health Division
Menzies School of Tropical Health
PO Box 41096 Casuarina, NT 0811
Tel: (08) 8922 8196
Fax: (08) 8927 5187
Email: d.holt@menzies.edu.au

SA

Kate Hutson
School of Earth & Environmental
Sciences
The University of Adelaide,
Adelaide, SA 5005
Tel: (08) 8303 5282
Fax: (08) 8303 4364
Email: kate.hutson@jcu.edu.au

VIC

Bernd Kalinna
Department of Veterinary Science
University of Melbourne
Parkville, Melbourne VIC 3010
Tel: (03) 8344 8805
Fax: (03) 8344 7374
E: bernd.kalinna@unimelb.edu.au

NSW

Jan Slapeta
Faculty of Veterinary Science
University of Sydney
Camperdown, NSW 2006
Tel: (02) 9351 2025
Fax: (02) 9351 7348
Email: jan.slapeta@sydney.edu.au

QLD

Tamsin Barnes
School of Veterinary Science
University of Queensland
Gatton Campus, QLD 4343
Tel: +61 7 5460 1965
Mob: +61 422 980499
Fax: +61 7 5460 1922
Email: t.barnes@uq.edu.au

TAS

Brendan McMorran
Menzies Research Institute
University of Tasmania
Private Bag 23
Hobart, Tasmania 7000
Ph. (+613) 62262769
Fax (+613) 62267704
E: brendan.mcmorran@utas.edu.au

WA

Amanda Ash
School of Veterinary and
Biomedical Sciences
Murdoch University, WA 6150
Fax (08) 9310 4144
Email: aash@murdoch.edu.au

Other Members

Incorporation Secretary

Katharine Trenholme
QIMR Herston QLD 4006
Tel: (07) 3362 0432
Fax: (07) 3362 0104
E: Katharine.Trenholme@qimr.
edu.au

IJP Editor

Alex Loukas
Queensland Tropical Health
Alliance, James Cook University,
Cairns QLD 4878
Email: editor@IJP.org.au
Tel: (03) 5256 1394

Webmaster

Jason Mulvenna
Queensland Tropical Health
Alliance, James Cook University,
Cairns QLD 4878
Email: Jason.Mulvenna@jcu.edu.au

Archivist

Julie-Anne Fritz
Research School of Biology
Building #41 Linnaeus Way
Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200
Tel: (02) 6125 2203
Fax: (02) 6125 0313
Email: julie-anne.fritz@anu.edu.au

Newsletter Editor

Lisa Jones
ARC/NHMRC Research Network
for Parasitology
IBID, UTS, PO Box 123, Broadway,
NSW, 2007
Tel: (02) 9514 4006
Fax: (02) 9514 4201
Email: lisa.jones@uts.edu.au

Bancroft-Mackerras Medal Convenor

Andrew Thompson
School of Veterinary and
Biomedical Sciences
Murdoch University,
Murdoch WA 6150
Tel (08) 9360 7423
Fax: (08) 9310 4144
E: a.thompson@murdoch.edu.au