

BRAIN HEALTH AND NATURAL MEDICINE CONFERENCE

Speaker Profiles

DAY 1 (6TH FEBRUARY 2012)

WELCOME TO THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY



Professor Andrew Scholey

Professor Andrew Scholey is director of the Centre for Human Psychopharmacology at Swinburne University. He is also co-director of the NICM Centre for the Study of Natural Medicines and Neurocognition. Andrew has published over 100 journal articles and numerous book chapters focusing on the potential mood and cognition enhancing effects of natural products (often the first human trial). Andrew's current research uses state-of the-art methodology, including neurocognitive assessment, brain imaging and various physiological analyses to disentangle the neurocognitive effects of specific nutritional interventions (focusing on plant extracts) to enhance cognitive performance. The aim is to understand the mechanisms and apply natural medicines as safe treatments for conditions where cognition becomes fragile, including ageing and dementia.



Dr John Miller

John has over 30 years experience in the Complementary / Pharmaceutical medicines industry. He has wide experience in the regulation, advertising, formulation and manufacture of medicines and foods, within Australian, New Zealand and international companies, most recently with Symbion Consumer (now sanofi-aventis Consumer Healthcare Australia). He is a longstanding member of the TGA / Industry interface committee which considers technical and regulatory issues influencing the regulation of complementary medicines in Australia. He also chairs various Industry Association committees dealing with GMP, advertising and technical standards. Additionally, John is the founding Chair of MediQ - an initiative of the Queensland medicines industry which is supported by the Queensland Government. This forum drives strategic development and research opportunities building networks between researchers, academics, industry and Government.



Dr. Ken Harvey

Dr. Harvey graduated in medicine from the University of Melbourne and initially specialised in medical microbiology and infectious diseases. Dr. Harvey then moved from The Royal Melbourne Hospital to the School of Public Health at La Trobe University where he focused on medicinal drug policy. Dr. Harvey was a member of the expert group that drafted the World Health Organization “Ethical Criteria for Medicinal Drug Promotion”. He has also been a member of the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Health and Rational use of Medicines (PHARM) Committee that formulated the Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) pillar of Australian medicines policy. Dr. Harvey currently holds the position of Adjunct Senior Lecturer in the School of Public Health, La Trobe University. He had been awarded life membership of Choice (the Australia Consumer’s Association) for services to the consumer movement and is a member of their Policy Advisory Group. He is also Chair of the Governing Council of Health Action International, Asia Pacific (HAIAP).

NUTRIENTS AND AGEING



Professor Con Stough

Professor Con Stough is the Co-Director of the Centre for Human Psychopharmacology within Swinburne University. Professor Stough has over 100 publications in a wide spectrum of research interests. A large body of professor Stough’s recent work focuses on understanding human intelligence and cognition. Professor Stough’s research examines pharmacologically active substances ranging from illicit drugs to herbal and nutrient medicines and their effects on brain function



Professor Stephen Myers

Professor Stephen P Myers is the Foundation Director of the Australian Centre for Complementary Medicine Education and Research (ACCMER). Prior to the commencement of ACCMER in 2001, Stephen was the Foundation Head of the School of Natural and Complementary Medicine at Southern Cross University. Professor Myers initially qualified as a naturopathic practitioner (ND) and later in western medicine (BMed, an Australian MD equivalent). He has a PhD in basic and clinical pharmacology having studied the effect of lyophilised garlic on pharmacologically modifiable cardiovascular risk factors. He is actively engaged in research in herbal medicine, nutraceuticals, therapeutic foods and in public health issues in complementary medicine.



Dr Andrew Pipingas

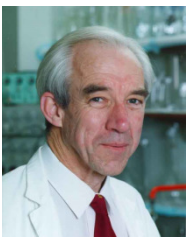
Dr Andrew Pipingas is a senior lecturer and researcher in cognitive neurosciences within the Centre for Human Psychopharmacology at Swinburne University. Dr Pipingas is expert in techniques of brain electrical activity mapping, computerised cognitive testing and biochemical markers. He is currently investigation of the effects of nutraceutical and pharmacological interventions on cognition and the prevention of cognitive decline.



Dr Lesley Braun

Lesley Braun has trained and worked as both a pharmacist and a naturopath in Australia. Lesley is the main author of “Herbs and Natural supplements – an evidence based guide” co-written with Prof Marc Cohen and twice short-listed for the Awards for Excellence in Educational publishing by the Australian Publishing Association. She sits on a number of advisory committees including The Advisory Committee on Complementary Medicines (ACCM), she is Vice President of the National Herbalists Association of Australia (NHAA), advisory board member of the Australasian Integrative Medicine Association (AIMA) and on the executive committee for the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA).

VASOACTIVE NUTRIENTS



Professor Franklin Rosenfeldt

Professor Frank Rosenfeldt is the Head of Unit for Cardiothoracic Surgical Research at Monash University and Alfred Hospital. Professor Rosenfeldt is a cardiac surgeon who has focussed on researching the field of cellular metabolism and more recently the supportive role that complementary medicine can play in cardiac surgery and cardiology. This has focused on the role of coenzyme Q10, fish oils, and antioxidants together with mind-body medicine, music and meditation, stress reduction and physical exercise in the management of heart disease. Protection of the heart against damage during cardiac surgery and transplantation has been a lifelong interest and one of which Prof. Rosenfeldt established an international reputation.



Professor Kevin Croft

Professorial Kevin Croft works within the School of Medicine and Pharmacology at the University of Western Australia. He is an extremely prolific researcher with over 200 peer reviewed publications. His research areas include; nutrition and cardiovascular disease, antioxidants and oxidative stress, arachidonic acid metabolism by CYP450 pathway, endothelial function, blood pressure, biomarkers of oxidative damage, dietary polyphenol metabolism.



A/Prof Dennis Chang

Dennis Chang is Associate Professor in Pharmacology at the University of Western Sydney (UWS). A/Prof Chang has established a strong track record in complementary medicine and anaesthesiology research. His recent research interests focus on clinical and pharmacological studies of herbal medicine for the management of cardiovascular (e.g. metabolic syndrome) and neurodegenerative (e.g. vascular dementia) diseases. As a founding member, A/Prof Chang has made significant contributions to the strategic planning and development of the Centre for Complementary Medicine Research, a designated University Centre of UWS.



Professor Peter Howe

Professor Howe works in the School of Health Sciences at the University of South Australia where he established the Nutritional Physiology Research Centre. He is an authority on cardiovascular and metabolic health benefits of omega-3 fatty acids and other bioactive nutrients, with almost 200 publications in his research career. His current research focuses on the role of diet and lifestyle in health optimisation: the impact of nutritional and exercise interventions on biomarkers of cardiovascular, metabolic and mental health, the elucidation of underlying mechanisms of action and the development of an integrated approach to risk factor management (including nutrients as adjunct therapy).



Professor Keith Wesnes

Professor Wesnes graduated in Experimental Psychology from Reading University in 1973, and then undertook a MRC-funded PhD using nicotine and scopolamine to identify the role of the brain cholinergic systems in human attention. He has held academic positions at Indiana University, Reading University, Guy's Hospital Medical School, East London University and Bristol University. He currently holds Professorships at Northumbria University (Newcastle, since 1997) and Swinburne University (Melbourne, since 2007). From 1976 to 1986 Professor Wesnes developed and validated a computer based cognitive assessment system (the CDR System) and established its sensitivity for assessing both improvements and impairments in volunteer and patient populations. In 2009 the CDR System was acquired by the United BioSource Corporation, and is now part of the company's broad offering to life science companies to facilitate the development and commercialization of their products.

DAY 2 (7TH FEBRUARY 2012)

DIET AND NUTRACEUTICALS FOR PSYCHIATRY AND DEMENTIA



Professor John Mamo

Professor Mamo is the director of ATN Centre for Metabolic Fitness within the Division of Health Science at Curtin University. His research interests are primarily chronic diseases including; cardiovascular, insulin resistance/diabetes and Alzheimer's disease. Professor Mamo has extensive involvement in Research and Development supported by a number of competitive granting agencies including the National Health and Medical Research Council, the National Heart Foundation, Meat and Livestock Association, Grains Research Development Corporation, Fish Research Development Corporation, Dairy Australia, the Australian Research Council and Cooperative Research Centres.



A/Prof Paul Amminger

A/Professor Paul Amminger is a psychiatrist. His research spans from traditional high-risk research in schizophrenia to indicated prevention studies in young people with incipient psychotic disorders. His most recent study on the efficacy of omega-3 fatty acids in young people at-risk for psychosis has received substantial media attention and professional attention. The study has been selected as one of The Most Important Studies of 2010 by Medscape Psychiatry; and by DynaMed as a trial most likely to change clinical practice.



Professor Gerald Muench

Professor Gerald Muench works within the School of Medicine at the University of Western Sydney. His major project focus is on Alzheimer's disease with a special emphasis on carbonyl stress in age-related and neurodegenerative processes, and also looking at brain inflammation as a major progression factor in Alzheimer's disease. He is also looking to discover and identify novel anti-inflammatory and neuroprotective compounds from marine macroorganisms and tropical rainforest plants, a project started through James Cook University's "Enhancing life in the tropics".

A/Prof Felice Jacka



Associate Professor Felice Jacka works within the Barwon Psychiatric Research Unit based at Deakin University. Over the last six years Dr Jacka has been developing an innovative program of research that examines how individuals' diets interact with the risk for mental health problems. A/Prof Jacka is responsible for the majority of the published studies worldwide concerning the association between diet quality and the common mental disorders, depression and anxiety, in both adolescents and adults. This is a very new area of research that is transforming the way the CMDs are conceptualised. She now collaborates widely, with researchers in Norway, the UK, Brazil, and Canada, as well as Australia, on an ongoing program of research examining the contribution of diet quality to the common mental disorders in children, adolescents and adults.

NUTRACEUTICALS, MEMORY AND GENETICS



Professor Michael Fenech

Dr Fenech works with CSIRO Food & Nutritional Sciences in Adelaide, South Australia. From his pioneering work, Dr Fenech has written reviews relating to biomarkers of genome damage relevant to cancer risk and the role of folate and B12 in prevention of DNA damage. Dr Michael Fenech has more than 20 years of experience in the field of nutrition and genetic toxicology. He is renowned internationally for developing the cytokinesis block micronuclei (CBMN) assay, which is a quick and reliable technique for detecting abnormalities in chromosomes. Dr Fenech proposed the novel concept that dietary recommendations should be based on genomic stability because damage to DNA is a fundamental cause of developmental and degenerative disease.



Dr. Chad Bousman

Dr. Bousman works within the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Melbourne. Dr. Bousman has been involved in studies aimed at identifying genetic biomarkers for a wide range of psychiatric illnesses (e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, methamphetamine dependence) as well as neurocognitive impairment. He is currently conducting research examining the effect of oestrogen receptor variability and memory decline as well as work aiming to identifying genotypic markers for persistent depression in the primary care setting as well as projects to uncover potential genetic markers of psychosis onset and antipsychotic treatment response.

FLORDIS SPONSORED SYMPOSIUM; HERBALS SUPPLEMENTS



Andrea Zangara

Andrea is a psychology expert in the neuropharmacology and effects on performance of natural products and complementary medicine. While working in UK between 2000 and 2008, Andrea gained experience in clinical investigations of herbal remedies and validation of health claims, an area where he collaborated with many International industrial and academic partners. Andrea has published several journal articles on herbal supplements and memory, and a book on Health, Diet and Food Supplements (in Italian). Andrea joined Flordis in 2008 as Flordis International Business Development Manager, and he is involved with the launch and development of new products and relationship with international partners.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

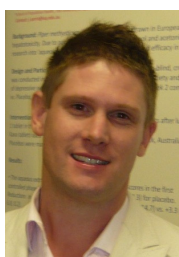


Professor Ralph Martins

Professor Ralph Martins is the Director of the Centre of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease Research and Care and the Foundation Chair of Ageing and Alzheimer's Disease within the School of Medical Sciences. His collaborative seminal research involved isolating and characterising beta-amyloid and its precursor, the amyloid precursor protein (APP), which are now recognized as central to the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease. He was the first to propose and demonstrate that the Alzheimer brain was under oxidative stress, which is now widely recognized by the Alzheimer research community.

PANEL DISCUSSION; TRANSLATING SCIENCE INTO BETTER MENTAL HEALTH

Sitting on the Panel will be Dr Felice Jacka and Dr Leslie Braun along with Dr Jerome Sarris who will chair this panel. The discussion which aims to encourage lively debate with the audience (hopefully many clinicians) about the best evidence-based recommendations for better mental health



Panel Chair; Dr Jerome Sarris

Dr Jerome Sarris is an NHMRC Clinical Research Fellow at The University of Melbourne with a doctorate in the field of in psychiatry from UQ. Jerome undertook postdoctoral training at The University of Melbourne, Department of Psychiatry; The Centre for Human Psychopharmacology, Swinburne University of Technology; and The Depression Clinic & Research Program at Harvard Medical School (MGH). He has a specialised interest in the use of complementary medicine and nutraceuticals in the treatment of mood and anxiety disorders. He is co-editor of *Clinical Naturopathy: an evidence-based guide to practice*, has over 50 publications, and has been awarded \$2.1m in personal and study grants. Jerome is a founding member and Vice Chair of The International Network of Integrative Mental Health (INIMH).



Conference Coordinator; Dr Lauren Owen

Dr Owen is a research fellow within the Centre for Human Psychopharmacology at Swinburne University of Technology. Dr Owens research is largely in the field of metabolic function and cognition with specific focus on the cognitively enhancing capabilities of nutraceuticals. In 2009, Lauren Organized an event entitled 'Promoting neuro-cognitive health across the lifespan'. Building on her previous success, this is the second conference Lauren has organized under the auspice of the Swinburne University of Technology.

For all further information regarding this event please contact

Dr Lauren Owen

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