Healthy Development Adelaide

A Research and Innovation Cluster in South Australia

Newsletter

Vol 13, Issue 6 – December 2017

https://twitter.com/HDA_SA

https://www.facebook.com/HealthyDevelopmentAdelaide

Upcoming Conferences / Scientific Meetings

7 - 10 March
Society for Reproductive Investigation - San Diego, US

14 - 16 March
Australian Early Development Census - Melbourne, Australia

17 - 20 March
Endocrine Society - Chicago, US

25 - 28 March
Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand - Auckland, New Zealand

21 - 22 May
Reproductive Health and Medicine - Vienna, Austria

2 - 8 June
Sleep - Baltimore, US

20 - 23 June
Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research - Melbourne, Australia

For further event info go to www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/events

To unsubscribe from event and news notifications contact HDA.

www.adelaide.edu.au/hda
☎ (08) 8313 8222
✉ anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu.au

Latest News

To all our Partners, Members and mailing list recipients we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

We look forward to another year of HDA activities in 2018!

.... HDA Partners ....

Robinson Research Institute – Healthy children for life.
The University of Adelaide
Children's Research Foundation
repromed – Fertility Specialists.
novita
University of South Australia
Flinders University
Government of South Australia
Department for Education and Child Development
Women's and Children's Health Network
SAHMRI – South Australian Health & Medical Research Institute
Healthy Mothers, Babies and Children

Healthy Development Adelaide and Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation PhD (top-up) Scholarships 2018

Vol 13, Issue 6 – December 2017

Value

Top-up scholarships are $5,000 per annum for up to 3 years only to augment an Australian Post-graduate Award or equivalent competitive scholarship.

Eligibility

Applications are invited for PhD Research Scholarships in the areas of *Healthy Development*: disciplines include, but are not restricted to, biochemistry, biomedical engineering, biostatistics, demography, dentistry, economics, education, endocrinology, epidemiology, ethics, genetics, indigenous health, law, nutrition, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, pharmacology, physiology, politics, psychiatry, psychology, public health and sociology.

Preference will be given to projects with a multidisciplinary focus and that enhance more than one discipline within the research topic.

Applications are invited from domestic and international students who are newly commencing a PhD in 2018 (commencing their PhD between January - March). Applicants should be eligible to enrol or be currently enrolled at either the University of Adelaide, University of South Australia or Flinders University in 2018, in addition applicants must satisfy each of the following criteria.

- Applicants must hold a first class Honours degree or equivalent in a discipline relevant to the chosen field of study
- Applicants hold an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) or equivalent competitive postgraduate scholarship
- Applicants must have a HDA member as their primary/principal supervisor
- Research projects must be aligned with the Healthy Development theme

Conditions of Funding

Successful HDA Scholars will be required to partake in the HDA Research Training Program during their candidature. The program consists of a 20 hour practicum placement, mentoring component, and attending HDA events.

Annual renewal of top-up funding will also be subject to meeting your University postgraduate requirements, and subject to funding availability from the Channel 7 Children's research Foundation.

Please submit the following documents by 5.00pm Thursday 18 January 2018 to:
Healthy Development Adelaide, Anne Jurisevic at anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu.au

1.Completed HDA Application (both in pdf and doc format in font Arial 12)
2.Current curriculum vitae
3.Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) or equivalent competitive scholarship awarded
4.Academic transcript

The HDA application can be found at **http://www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/students/**

HDA Recent Events

Vol 13, Issue 6 – December 2017

HDA & WCH Grand Round on 'A tale of omega-3s and ADHD'

On 18 October, HDA co-hosted a Grand Round with the Women's and Children's Hospital on *A tale of omega-3s and ADHD* presented by Dr Natalie Parletta a Senior Research Fellow within the Centre for Population Health Research at the University of South Australia. The grand round was chaired by Ms Naomi Dwyer, CEO of the Women's and Children's Health Network.

HDA & RRI Public Forum on 'Hot topics in allergy'

On 22 November, HDA and the Robinson Research Institute (RRI) held a joint public forum on *Hot topics in allergy* presented by Prof Michael Gold (RRI, University of Adelaide) on *Is there an allergy epidemic and what are the possible causes?;* Dr Pravin Hissaria (SA Pathology) on *BATting for better allergy diagnosis;* Prof Simon Barry (RRI, University of Adelaide) on *T-Regs, new drugs and cell therapies;* and Dr Merryn Netting (SAHMRI) on *Peanuts for babies? Updated feeding guidelines for allergy prevention.* The forum was chaired by RRI Director, Prof Sarah Robertson.

l to r: Prof Sarah Robertson, Dr Pravin Hissaria, Prof Simon Barry, Prof Michael Gold and Dr Merryn Netting.

HDA Travel Grant - Recipient Report 2017

Alex Agostini, PhD Candidate, Centre for Sleep Research, University of South Australia

I recently had the privilege of attending the World Sleep Congress in Prague, Czech Republic, with the help of a travel grant from Healthy Development Adelaide. While not specifically a paediatric conference, World Sleep has an entire paediatric track, allowing me to learn a great deal about sleep in children, including differences in sleep patterns across cultures, altitudes, and ages. For example, I was very happy to learn that Australian and New Zealand children aged 0 – 3 years have some of the longest sleep durations in the world.

Many people do not consider sleep to be important for health, however, sleep can have impacts on almost all aspects of health, wellbeing, functioning, and development. In adolescence, insufficient sleep has been shown to be related to depression and suicidality. Dr Colin Shapiro is currently conducting research into whether sleep measures can be used as an early screening tool for depression. His results are promising, with accuracy rates of up to 80%. This relationship between sleep and mood appears to be present from preschool age or younger. It isn't just mood that has been related to sleep. Short sleep durations are said to be a cause of high blood pressure and poor cardiovascular health, even in paediatric samples. Sleep has also been related to the increasing obesity crisis. Some researchers at World Sleep hypothesised that there is a relationship between sleep's impact on olfaction and a lack of satisfaction gained from consuming food, leading to food intake being unnecessarily increased, which is likely to result in weight gain.

School start times were an item of debate. Adolescents have a strong biological drive to sleep later at night than younger children therefore they are often sleep restricted when they wake early in the morning for school attendance. Many researchers are advocating for later school start times, especially in the US and some Asian countries, to alleviate some or all this sleep restriction. Research suggests that this has an initial positive impact on sleep duration, mood, sleepiness, school attendance, and academic performance, however, results are mixed as to whether these improvements are maintained over time.

I presented my research in poster form at World Sleep. In a very large sample of South Australian children and adolescents, I found that poor sleep quality had a stronger relationship with self-reported physical and mental health than poor dietary behaviours, and a similar relationship to bullying. I had the privilege of discussing my findings, and those of others, with many researchers who came to view my poster.

Researchers and clinicians at World Sleep argued that research into the sleep of infants, children, and adolescents was under published and that the importance of sleep in these age groups was under recognised. For this reason, I would like to express my sincere thanks to HDA for assisting me to present my research at World Sleep and to learn from some highly prestigious researchers and clinicians in the process.

HDA Travel Grant - Recipient Report 2017

Vol 13, Issue 6 – December 2017

Kathleen Wright, PhD/Masters Candidate: School of Psychology, University of Adelaide

In September, with the support of Healthy Development Adelaide, I attended the 47th Congress of the European Congress of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (EABCT), in Ljubljana (Slovenia). The Congress theme was "Bridging dissemination of scientific research and clinical practice". It incorporated both scientific research and clinical skills presentations and workshops, including leading scientist-practitioners and researchers from around the world.

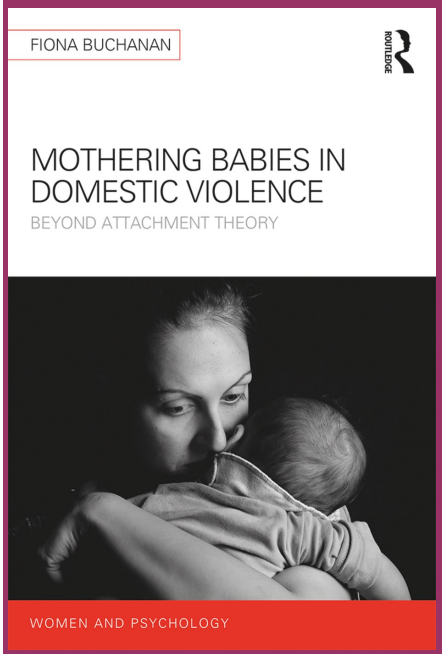
The quality of research presented was generally very good, based in science, with clear implications for translation to one's clinical practice. There were several standout presentations, including Prof Allison Harvey (University of California): "Developing Transdiagnostic Psychological Treatments for Better Practice in Insomnia, Depression, and Bipolar Disorder". Her first topic was CBT for insomnia, based around a finding that people with Bipolar Disorder can have a 3 hour sleep/wake variability. She presented results of a pilot RCT of CBT for insomnia added to usual care, for patients with Bipolar Disorder I. As well as improving sleep, the intervention led to a reduction in bipolar episodes.

Prof Harvey's research group are also exploring ways to boost depressed patient's memory of therapy sessions (because in depression patient recall of critical therapy points is generally poor). They tested a Memory Support Intervention, which in a nutshell is increased therapist focus on implementing basic memory support techniques (MST) such as repetition. At baseline, therapists used an average of 9 MST per session. Post-trial analysis revealed that this should increase to 19 for optimum patient outcomes. On the surface this sounds logical, but as an early-career researcher/therapist it was nice to see data to back it up. It also provides confidence that although we may fear that these repetitive MST may annoy clients, they can actually lead to greater engagement in therapy and improved outcomes.

Another great presentation was by Prof Keith Dobson (University of Calgary), who presented results of a large (n=4000+) Canadian validation study demonstrating a relationship between adverse childhood experiences (ACE's) and increased prevalence of mental health disorders and chronic health conditions (including Cardiopulmonary Disease and Obesity). A link was also quantified between ACEs and higher health service appointments (e.g. GP, screening tests), then quantified as a direct health care cost. To address this, they developed a 6-week group CBT program for adults with ≥ 3 ACE's and a chronic health condition. The early results are promising (small to moderate effects), and will lead to a full-scale RCT. The research is likely to be of interest not only to clinicians, but also government through a practical way of reducing health care costs. Prof Dobson is looking for international collaborators if this is of interest to any HDA members.

Within this, I presented results of a RCT that I ran within my PhD: ""Comparing Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy for Children (MBCT-C) to Cognitive Behavioural Therapy: A Randomised Controlled Trial of Australian School Children". This was an applied study that also helps to answer some important questions that have been raised within the literature: the performance of MBCT-C to an active control condition, and whether attention is the central mechanism of change for this program. The presentation generated some discussion with other researchers in the field, and an opportunity to network.

Research Member News



New Book by Dr Fiona Buchanan

Lecturer, School of Psychology, Social Work and Social Policy, University of South Australia

Mothering Babies in Domestic Violence: Beyond Attachment Theory. Women and Psychology Series, Routledge, UK (2018).

'Drawing on in-depth interviews and group discussions, this timely book sheds new light on the impact of domestic violence on the formation of mother/infant relationships by placing women's experiences of that violence at its heart. It challenges the dominant attachment theory paradigm, offering an alternative understanding of how primary relationships between women and infants are formed in these situations. It reflects current policy and practice focus on early intervention and prevention, but its unique analysis of real-life experiences provides new multi-disciplinary approaches to helping women, children, and anyone raised in a setting of domestic violence.'

For more information visit: www.routledge.com/9781138187672
20% Discount Available if you enter the code IRK71 at online checkout.

HDA Travel Grant - Recipient Report 2017

Erandi Hewawasam, PhD Candidate, FOODPlus Research Centre, University of Adelaide

In October 2017, I attended the bi-annual Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) international conference held in the architecturally intriguing Rotterdam city in Netherlands. DOHaD international conference was a fantastic opportunity to present the latest research findings of my clinical project, as this conference was aligned with my primary research interests in evaluating the impact of nutritional perturbations in early life on long term health outcomes. The conference started with pre-congress Sunday training workshops. I participated in the training workshop on new strategies for intervention in early life, where I learnt the strengths and limitations of running intervention studies and ways to improve my studies in the future. Then, the 3 day conference programme started on the 16th of October. There were about 1000 delegates participating in the conference. It started with a plenary session followed by 5-7 parallel sessions. There were interesting lunch time trainee sessions particularly tailored for early career researchers (ECRs) which was a fantastic opportunity for me to gain further skills and knowledge, as well as network with both other students and ECRs and senior DOHaD researchers.

I had the opportunity to present my poster on "Does fish oil supplementation in preterm infants in the neonatal period improve their attention at 18 months' corrected age?", which received a large amount of interest, and I was able to discuss and share my research with researchers from related fields from around the world. Overall, it was a fantastic learning and networking opportunity for me, and has provided me with a number of new contacts for potential post-doctoral opportunities and future collaborations.

After the DOHaD conference, I also visited Prof. Philip Calder's laboratory in Southampton general hospital. Prof. Philip Calder is an expert in the fatty acid biochemistry and nutrition fields. I met his staff and students and introduced myself to the group. He showed me around their laboratory and clinical research facilities, which were amazing. They had facilities available to do both *in vitro* studies and *in vivo* pre-clinical studies as well as human clinical trials. He had a multi-disciplinary group who worked together on big projects. I gave a presentation to Prof. Philp Calder and his team about some of the work that I have been doing during my PhD candidature, which prompted a great deal of interest and discussion. This was a fantastic opportunity for me to get some feedback on my PhD research as I enter the writing up phase, as well as develop collaboration with researchers at the international level and explore potential post-doctoral positions.

Finally, I would like to say thank you for the HDA travel grant which supported my attendance at the DOHaD international conference and Southampton laboratory visit. It was an invaluable opportunity, and would not have been possible without this support.

HDA Travel Grant - Recipient Report 2017

Ella Green, PhD Candidate, Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide

In September, I attended the 37th Annual Meeting for the American Society for Reproductive Immunology (ASRI), held in Chicago, USA. The meeting featured presentations by internationally renowned researchers and clinicians in the field of reproductive immunology and reproductive medicine. The focus of the meeting was 'Bridging Immunity with infection inflammation and implantation for better reproductive health'. This focus was especially relevant to my PhD studies which are centred around the involvement of the immune system in promoting healthy embryo implantation, leading to later pregnancy success. During the meeting I presented a poster of my latest research, titled "Reduced progesterone bioavailability at implantation compromises Treg cell tolerance, impairs fetal development and increases susceptibility to inflammation-induced fetal loss in late gestation". This was a worthwhile experience that generated a lot of attention from other researchers at the meeting, leading to some engaging discussions about my current research as well as ideas for future research and clinical applications of the work.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the dinner cruise around the Chicago pier, on Lake Michigan. Not only were we treated to breathtaking views of the city at night from the water, but it was a great opportunity to network with other conference delegates and make new connections with international research laboratories. During my time in the US I was also able to travel to San Francisco and visit a research group at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) that works on similar topics to my research group in Adelaide. During this experience I had the opportunity to give a presentation on my research progress so far, gain useful feedback on my work, and chat with laboratory members about their research.

I would like to thank Healthy Development Adelaide for the financial support of my travel and for making it possible to attend this international meeting and laboratory visit. This trip was a very worthwhile experience for me, that has aided in both my professional and personal development. I was able to present my research internationally, gain invaluable feedback and make important connections, all of which will be undoubtedly beneficial for my development as a researcher.

Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation 2018 Grant Recipients - *HDA Members*

Vol 13, Issue 6 – December 2017

Professor Sarah Robertson, Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide

Impact of Phthalate exposure in fathers on programming of offspring neurological phenotype.
$73,445

Professor Jenny Couper, Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide

Impact of overweight on cardiovascular risk in children with type 1 diabetes: a longitudinal study of 5000 Australian children with type 1 diabetes.
$75,000

A/Professor Rebecca Robker, Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide

Role of parental age on offspring health. $75,000

Dr Kate Fairweather-Schmidt, Flinders University

An investigation into eating and anxiety disorder risk factors and genetic architecture in adolescent twin girls. $74,906

Dr Alison Care, Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide

The utility of resveratrol for improving fetal growth in complicated pregnancies.

HDA Travel Grant - Recipient Report 2017

Dorothea Dumuid, PhD Candidate, Alliance for Research in Exercise Nutrition and Activity, UniSA

Thanks to the support of Healthy Development Adelaide, I was able to travel to Europe in November 2017. Firstly I visited the annual retreat of the Department of Mathematics and Applications of Mathematics at Palacky University in Olomouc of the Czech Republic, where I was invited to present a 1-hour lecture on my research. My talk was entitled *Statistical Adventures in the Emerging Field of Time-Use Epidemiology*. This was a fantastic opportunity to share about the 24-hour activity behaviour paradigm, and describe the novel application of compositional data analysis that I have been working on during my PhD research. Briefly, the 24-h activity behaviour paradigm moves away from considering the health effects of individual behaviours such as physical activity, screen time or sleep in isolation from each other, but rather the new paradigm recognises that these behaviours are all interconnected and therefore considers their combined effect.

As a result of my visit I was able to build collaborations with experts in compositional data analysis, who will support me to continue exploring new avenues of application within health research. A highlight of my stay was visiting researchers at the physical activity department of Palacky University, whom I had previously introduced to the compositional data analysts from the mathematical department at the same university. The two departments are now working together and have been successful in securing two national project grants using compositional data analysis in 24-h activity behaviour research.

Following my visit to the Czech Republic, I traveled to Zagreb, Croatia, to attend an international physical activity conference (HEPA Europe). I was invited to present a workshop on compositional data analysis for 24-h activity behaviour research. The workshop was a great success, with 67 registered participants. I also presented two oral presentations during the conference academic program, one of which won an award. There was a great deal of interest in the statistical methods and how I have applied them to investigate the relationship between time use and health. As a result of my participation in the HEPA Europe conference, I have made numerous international contacts. I was offered a job, was asked to contribute to two different UK- based projects, and was invited to a private dinner with six of the world's leading physical activity researchers. The experience was of unfathomable valuable to my research career and I feel I was able to make a positive impact in the field. I also enjoyed experiencing the first snow of the season and seeing some astounding architecture and beautiful countryside.

I am extremely grateful to Healthy Development Adelaide for their financial contribution towards my travel, which made this invaluable experience possible.

How childhood trauma changes our hormones, and thus our mental health, into adulthood

Vol 13, Issue 6 – December 2017

News - The Conversation, 17 October

Exposure to traumatic experiences in childhood can have a negative impact on the development of the brain when it's most vulnerable. Cases of childhood maltreatment are more common than reported; conservative estimates show over 45,000 Australian children were exposed to maltreatment in 2015 and 2016. Adversity in childhood can include experiences such as emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, neglect, and the sudden loss of a parent or caregiver.

Early life adversity is a major risk factor for the development of psychological and behavioural problems later in life. Higher rates of depression, suicidality, anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, and aggressive behaviour have been reported in adults who experienced childhood maltreatment.

Traumatic childhood events also contribute to increased drug use and dependence. Initiation of drug-taking behaviour begins at a much younger age in those who've experienced childhood trauma. Exposure to stressful events in childhood can increase the impact of stressful events throughout life. Add divorce or unemployment to childhood trauma and someone can be more likely to develop psychological disorders or addiction.

But not all children who experience early life stress go on to develop mental illness. It seems how you cope with stressful experiences is not only influenced by your prior experiences, but also your genes, coping responses and brain regulation. Chemicals in the brain such as cortisol and oxytocin are important for stress and emotional regulation.

For the full story go to **https://theconversation.com/how-childhood-trauma-changes-our-hormones-and-thus-our-mental-health-into-adulthood-84689**

Are you experiencing menopause hot flushes/ night sweats?

We want to find out whether sunlight can improve hot flushes. You are invited to participate in the research project to help answer this important question.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Currently Have **≥ 2 hot flushes daily** OR **14 hot flushes per week**
- Have experienced hot flushes for ≥ 30 days prior to study entry
- Currently employed at greater than 0.8FTE
- Will continue with the current work schedule for the next 6 months
- No diagnosis of severe mental illnesses OR major cardiac conditions OR diabetes OR thyroid dysfunction
- Not on any of the following medications/treatments in the past 2 months, now and in the next 6 months.
    a. Chemo and/or radiation therapy for cancer treatment (antiestrogen therapy for breast cancer is allowed depending on the circumstance)
    b. Hormone replacement therapy: estrogen/progestogen, androgen
    C. Bilateral oophorectomy

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

- Fill in one (1) baseline questionnaire (15-20mins)
- Complete one (1) 7-day Hot Flush Diary in both summer and winter (apprx. 15mins/wk for each diary keeping).
- Wear a light/temperature logger for 7 days **in all your waking hours** in both summer and winter
- Complete one (1) Indoor Outdoor Light Exposure Diary in both summer and winter (apprx. 15mins/wk for each diary keeping)

WHAT DO I GET FROM THIS STUDY?

- $50 shopping voucher for each successful data collection
- A free assessment of your light exposure pattern (particularly sunlight) and hot flushes

Dr Andie Xu; Tel: 08 83022531; Email: andie.xu@unisa.edu.au; Working hrs: Mons-Fridays, 0800-1700hrs

SIDS Breakthrough: why babies shouldn't sleep face down

Vol 13, Issue 6 – December 2017

Media Release - 25 October, University of Adelaide

International research involving the University of Adelaide has uncovered a developmental abnormality in babies – especially in premature babies and in boys – that for the first time has been directly linked to cases of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

Researchers believe this abnormality, in the brain's control of head and neck movement, breathing, heartbeat and the body's responses to deprivation of oxygen supply, could be the reason why some babies sleeping on their front are more at risk of SIDS.

The research was conducted by Dr Fiona Bright and Professor Roger Byard, Adelaide Medical School, University of Adelaide, in collaboration with Professor Hannah Kinney's lab at Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital.

The results of the study, which investigated 55 SIDS cases in the United States, are now published in the journal *PLOS ONE*.

"One of the reasons why SIDS is so devastating for families is that death often occurs with no warning and no obvious signs of illness," says Dr Fiona Bright, Research Associate in the Adelaide Medical School, University of Adelaide, who conducted her work at Harvard and Adelaide as part of her PhD studies. While the exact cause of death in SIDS has not been identified, multiple studies have pointed to a subset of SIDS babies that are not entirely 'normal' before death. These infants all seem to have some form of underlying vulnerability, exposing them to increased risk.

"Our studies have now discovered a significant abnormality within key regions of the brainstem in SIDS babies, specifically in parts of the brainstem that control breathing and movements of the head and neck. This abnormality is directly linked to SIDS cases," she says.

The abnormality is in the transmission in the brain of a neuro-peptide, known as "substance P", and its binding with an associated neuroreceptor, "neurokinin-1" (NK1R). Until now, worldwide investigations of the role of substance P in SIDS have been inconsistent and inconclusive.

"Substance P and the NK1R neuroreceptor play a critical role in the brain's control of the respiratory system, the cardiovascular system, and in how the body responds to hypoxia – that is, deprivation of oxygen at the cell level," Dr Bright says. An infant with this abnormality is likely to have impaired respiratory and motor responses to life-threatening challenges during sleep. While they may be otherwise healthy looking, there is an inability for that child's brain and body to respond appropriately to an event in which the child is deprived of oxygen in some way."

Study supervisor Professor Roger Byard, Professor of Pathology at the University of Adelaide, says this abnormality is a key reason why it is more dangerous for babies to sleep on their front.

"We've known for many years that babies sleeping face down places them at greater risk of SIDS – now we have a much better understanding as to why," Professor Byard says. If a child has this underlying vulnerability in its brain chemistry, and its breathing becomes compromised by sleeping on its front, that child is at greater risk of death because its body simply can't respond in the normal way. The baby can't lift its head, and its breathing and heartbeat will be compromised," he says.

The study has shown that the abnormality in substance P is significantly influenced by prematurity and male sex, which may explain the increased risk of SIDS in premature and male infants.

"This demonstrated deficiency in substance P highlights that the problem in SIDS infants is much more complex than was once thought, and most likely involves the interactions of a number of chemicals, including serotonin," Dr Bright says. Ultimately, we hope that future research could lead to the development of screening techniques or biomarkers to identify infants who may be at risk of SIDS," she says.

This research was funded under a Fellowship established by the River's Gift SIDS charity. River's Gift was founded in 2011 by two devastated parents who were searching for answers around the sudden death of their healthy four-month-old son, River. River's Gift has now evolved into a global movement, with fundraisers and supporters worldwide.

"The main objective of River's Gift is to fund world-leading SIDS research, to make a major contribution to the discovery of a cure for this heart-breaking loss of life," says River's Gift General Manager Karl Waddell.

"We are excited about these latest research findings, which show tangible evidence as to the underlying cause of SIDS in a number of cases. We hope this research will eventually assist in the quest to stamp out SIDS," he says.

Robinson Research Institute
Seminar series

Vol 13, Issue 6 – December 2017

Role of toll-like receptors in perinatal brain injury
Professor Carina Mallard, Head of the Perinatal Research Group, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
Wednesday 6 December, 4-5 pm
Queen Victoria Lecture Theatre, Women's and Children's Hospital
Cost: Free

Inflammation and Preterm Birth
Associate Professor Martha Lappas, Head of the Obstetrics, Nutrition and Endocrinology Group based at the University of Melbourne and located at the Mercy Hospital for Women.
Thursday 7 December, 4 – 5 pm
Joe Verco Lecture Theatre (G033), Adelaide Health and Medical Sciences (AHMS) building
Cost: Free

Robinson Research Institute

THE UNIVERSITY of ADELAIDE

Australian Early Development Census National Conference

Australian Early Development Census
An Australian Government Initiative

The 2nd National AEDC conference will be held in Melbourne on the 14-16 March 2018. ***Hosted by the Telethon Kids Institute***

The 2018 National AEDC conference is the second national conference to bring together a broad range of professionals to improve the lives of children and families across Australia.

In 2015, the National AEDC conference showcased the diverse ways the AEDC was being used to identify and respond to the needs of children and families, to inform research, and as a policy driver. The 2018 National conference seeks to build on this by consolidating the evidence base that is being built in Australia about what works for children and families in the early years.

Abstracts for the 2018 conference open on 1 November 2017, for more information please visit http://www.aedc.gov.au/about-the-aedc/aedc-national-conference-2018 **Call for abstracts closes 30 November 2017**

We invite presentations that have a focus on what works (or doesn't) in supporting children's development, and the impacts of different programs, service models or policies on children's outcomes.
Presentations are invited across four streams:

- Place-Based Early Years Service Models : Early Education and Care Pathways : Highly Vulnerable Families
- Health Systems

For further information about the AEDC, please visit www.aedc.gov.au
If you would like further information about the conference, please contact Dr Yasmin Harman-Smith at **yasmin.harman-smith@telethonkids.org.au.**

To celebrate the release of **The Conversation Yearbook 2017**, you're invited to our Conversation Starter in Adelaide. Join Dr Hannah Brown and The Conversation's Science + Technology editor Dr Sarah Keenihan as they dissect the best (and rest) of this year in science, medicine and technology.

Friday 15 December, 5.30-7.30pm
AHMS building G030 lecture room, University of Adelaide, North Terrace, Adelaide

Cost: Donation

Register online at **https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-conversation-starter-dr-hannah-brown-dr-sarah-keenihan-tickets-39211840671**