

University of Adelaide

Report on Special Studies Program

Name: Dr Jane Mathias

School: Psychology

Faculty: Health Sciences

Position: Senior Lecturer

Period of SSP Leave: 2/7/05 to 11/7/05, 21/7/05 to 30/11/05

No. days out of Adelaide: 26

Principal activity: Research

Travel destinations:
Dublin, Ireland (2/7/05 – 11/7/05)
Melbourne, Victoria (28/8/05 – 29/8/05)
San Francisco, USA (2/10/05 – 9/10/05)
Sydney, New South Wales (20/10/05 – 22/10/05)
Melbourne, Victoria (24/11/05 – 26/11/06)

SUMMARY

Consistent with the original aims of my SSP, most of my leave was spent pursuing research related activities. During this time, I completed 8 manuscripts and submitted these for review to international refereed journals appropriate to my discipline; clinical neuropsychology. A number of these were based on student research projects. Two additional manuscripts were drafted during my leave. These are in the final stages of completion and will be submitted for review shortly.

In addition, I attended one international (Dublin, Ireland) and one national (Melbourne, Victoria) conference on clinical neuropsychology, and made conference presentations at both of these. I was also a co-author of two other international conference presentations during my leave. While attending these conferences, I attended three professional workshops that related to the practice of clinical neuropsychology. In recognition of my work in the area of dementia, I was also invited by the Commonwealth Government to contribute as an expert to a National Dementia Research Workshop (Melbourne, Victoria), which developed guidelines for funding and research in this area. I was also invited to attend two investigator meetings (San Francisco, Sydney) for clinical trials investigating the efficacy of pharmaceutical treatments for dementia.

Finally, I commenced preparation of an NH & MRC grant application (to be submitted 2006); analysed data from my last NH & MRC grant; submitted two small grant applications; completed a number of reviews for international journals and grant funds; continued to supervise the research work of 2 honours, 1 Masters of Psychology (Clinical), 1 Master of Medical Science, and 1 PhD student; continued clinical consultancy work at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital; and attended a number of seminars relating to continuing professional development.

REPORT

Research

Consistent with the original aims of my SSP, most of my leave was spent pursuing research related activities. This period of leave was extremely beneficial, with the main outcomes of my leave being summarised below.

Manuscripts:

During my leave, I prepared and submitted 8 manuscripts for review and publication in international referred journals. The details of these are provided below. Where I am 2nd or 3rd author, these manuscripts were based on the research projects of my Honours, Masters, and PhD students. As such, I worked very closely with these students to develop their skills in manuscript preparation.

- Baldock, M R J, **Mathias, J L**, Mc Lean, A J, & Berndt, A (2005). *Self-regulation of driving and older drivers' functional ability*. Manuscript under review.
- Baldock, M R J, **Mathias, J L**, Mc Lean, A J, & Berndt, A (2005). *Visual Attention as a Predictor of On-Road Driving Performance of Older Drivers*. Manuscript under review
- **Mathias, J L**, Bowden, S C & Bigler, E D (2005). *Is performance on the Wechsler Test of Adult Reading affected by traumatic brain injury?* Manuscript under review.
- **Mathias, J L**, Bowden, S C & Barrett-Woodbridge, M (2005). *Accuracy of the Wechsler Test of Adult Reading (WTAR) and National Adult Reading Test (NART) when estimating IQ in a healthy Australian sample*. Manuscript under review.
- **Mathias, J L & Wheaton, P (2005)**. *A meta-analytic study of attention problems in adults following severe traumatic brain injury*. Manuscript under review.
- Mount, P H, **Mathias, J L**, Prakash, U & Lewis, P (2005). *Everyday Memory Abilities: Associations Between Self-Report, Informant Reports and Objective Tests in Elderly Persons with Osteo-arthritis*. Manuscript under review.
- Tucksock, J S & **Mathias, J L (2005)**. *Predictors of obsessive-compulsive symptoms in Parkinson's Disease: The contribution of executive function, negative emotional states and Levodopa therapies*. Manuscript under review.
- Ward, L, **Mathias, J L & Hitchings, S E (2005)**. *Cognitive effects of bereavement in the elderly*. Manuscript under review.

In addition, I commenced work on 2 other manuscripts, which are in the final stages of preparation. These will be submitted for review shortly. The details of these manuscripts are given below. Once again, where I am 2nd author, this represents a student project.

- Hutchinson, A & **Mathias, J L (2005)**. *Neuropsychological performance in frontotemporal dementia and Alzheimer's disease: A meta-analysis*. Manuscript in preparation.
- **Mathias, J L**, Bigler, E D, Bowden, S C, Brown, G, & Taylor, J (2005). *Information processing speed following mild, moderate, and severe traumatic brain injury*. Manuscript in preparation.

Conferences & meetings:

During my leave, I attended 1 international and 1 national conference in my discipline; clinical neuropsychology. I presented papers at both of these conferences and additionally attended 3 professional workshops that were held prior to these conferences. While attending the international conference, I also had extended research meetings with a co-investigator on my NH & MRC grant, Prof. E Bigler, who is based in Utah, USA. In addition, I was also invited to

attend 1 international meeting, 1 national meeting, and 1 national workshop on dementia and its treatment. The details of these conferences, meetings, and workshops are as follows:

- *International Neuropsychological Society (INS) mid-year conference*, Dublin, Ireland, July 2005 (conference attendee and presenter).
- INS professional workshops: 'Patient-Oriented Management of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury'; 'Competing Theories of Prefrontal Cortex Function' (attendee).
- Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, *National Dementia Research Workshop*, Melbourne, Victoria, August 2005 (invited attendee).
- Pfizer, *Lipitor Efficacy in the Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease, Investigator Meeting*, San Francisco, USA, October, 2005 (invited attendee).
- Voyager Pharmaceuticals, *Dementia Investigator Meeting*, Sydney, New South Wales, October 2005 (invited attendee).
- Australian Psychological Society's (APS) *College of Clinical Neuropsychologists (CCN) Annual conference*, Melbourne, Victoria, November 2005 (conference attendee and presenter).
- APS CCN professional *workshop*: Introduction to Forensic Neuropsychological Assessment (attendee).

I was also co-contributor two other international conference presentations while on leave:

- Baldock, **Mathias**, McLean & Berndt (2005). Self-regulation of driving and older drivers' functional abilities. Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference, Wellington, New Zealand, Nov 14-16, 2005.
- MacLennan, Henderson, Paine, **Mathias**, Ramsay, Ryan, Stocks, Taylor (2005) Hormone therapy, timing of initiation and cognition in women aged over 60 years. *International Menopause Society Conference*, Buenos Aires, October, 2005.

Grant preparation:

During my leave, I conducted a number of literature searches and reviews in preparation for a new multi-disciplinary *NH & MRC project grant application*, which involves a collaboration with both national and international colleagues working within the field of traumatic brain injury. This application is due to be submitted in April 2006. To this end, I have also been analysing data from our last research project and preparing the methodology for the new grant application, while also discussing these research plans with my co-investigators (Bigler, Utah; Bowden, Melbourne) at conferences that we attended. Final reports for our last NH & MRC funded research project were also prepared and submitted to the Alfred and Royal Adelaide Hospitals Ethics Committees.

Finally, in conjunction with Ms L McWha and Dr L Ward, I submitted two research grant applications on early dementia to the *Hazel Hawke Foundation* and the *SA Primary Health Care Research Network*.

Journal and Grant Reviewing:

While on SSP leave, I acted as an expert reviewer for papers submitted to two international journals, *Climacteric* and *Neuropsychologia*, and for a postgraduate scholarship application to the *Hazel Hawke Foundation*.

Supervision:

Throughout my SSP leave, I continued to supervise a number of postgraduate research projects, including those of two Honours students, one Master of Psychology (Clinical) student, a Master of Medical Science student, and one PhD student. This included developing their research proposals, reading thesis drafts, attending student seminars, conducting regular meetings with students to monitor their progress and plan their research, reading thesis drafts, and writing

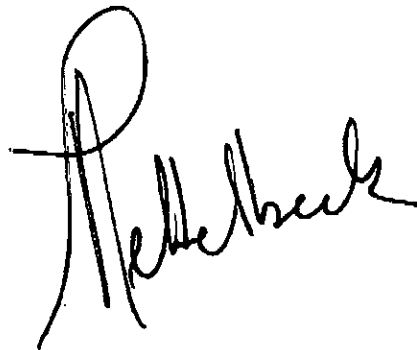
referee reports. The Honours and Master of Psychology students completed their theses under my direction during this time. Moreover, my research students were awarded 4 separate prizes for their high quality work during this period (Anna Florence Booth Prize, Frank Dalziel Prize, APS College of Clinical Neuropsychologists Student prize, Department of Psychology Postgraduate Research Award).

Professional practice:

I completed regular clinical consultancy work at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital where I provided neuropsychological assessments of patients who have been entered into clinical trials to assess the efficacy of new drugs to treat patients with Alzheimer's Disease, Vascular dementia, Parkinson's Disease, and mild cognitive impairment. As part of this work, I attended a dementia Investigator meetings in San Francisco (2/10/05 – 9/10/05) and Sydney (20/10/05 – 22/10/05).

Professional development:

Finally, I undertook a number of activities related to professional development. In addition to the workshops listed above, I attended a one-day South Australian Neuroscience workshop, three Women's Professional Development seminars, and two CPLD seminars on: plagiarism, how examiners assess postgraduate theses, and leadership and management in universities. I also attended monthly case-meetings and monthly journal club meetings held by the South Australian branch of the APS CCN throughout the period of my study leave.



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