



ASCEPT CAREERS WORKSHOP: A CAREER IN SCIENCE – A GUIDE TO THE IMPORTANT FIRST STEPS

Date: Sunday, 4 December 2011

Time: 1.30pm-3.30pm

Venue: Perth Convention Centre

Cost: Complimentary

Outline of Workshop: The workshop will feature successful scientists who are at an early-mid stage of their careers, ranging from a recent PhD graduate to an ARC Research Fellow. Importantly, all of the participants have been faced with the same questions that you are currently asking about your future careers – am I on the right track to completing a successful PhD, what's the next step after I hand in my thesis, do I want to stay in research, should I pursue a post-doctoral position in Australia or overseas, do I have what it takes to forge a successful career in research? Panellists will discuss issues including the career path leading to their current role, day to day tasks, positive and negative aspects of the job, remuneration packages etc. There will also be plenty of opportunities for questions including a panel discussion at the end of the session.

Facilitators:

Dr Barbara Kemp-Harper (Senior Research Fellow, Monash University), Ms Victoria Oliver (PhD Student, Monash University), Mr Zak Millar (PhD Student, University of Western Australia)

Speakers:

1. Mr Werner Jaeger (PhD student, Western Australian Institute for Medical Research)
"Times and trials of a PhD student"
2. Dr Nicola Smith (NHMRC/National Heart Foundation CJ Martin Fellow, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, NSW)
"Haggis, Highland Coos and Hard Work: a Scottish Post-doc Experience"
3. Dr Rebecca Haddock (NHMRC Doherty Fellow, John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU)
"Post-doc, parenthood and the boomerang effect: an Australian Experience"
4. Dr Mark Hutchinson (ARC Research Fellow, University of Adelaide)
"The journey rather than the destination"
5. Panel Discussion

Target Audience: Honours students, PhD students and early career postdoctoral fellows

Admission: Admission to the Careers Workshop is free and open to all registrants of the joint ASCEPT-AuPS Scientific Meeting.

For more information contact:

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Mr Werner Jaeger
PhD Student, The Laboratory for Molecular Endocrinology – GPCRs
Western Australian Institute for Medical Research

Werner Jaeger is a PhD student in the Laboratory for Molecular Endocrinology – GPCRs at the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research where he completed his Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree through The University of Western Australia in 2006. In 2007, he was awarded an Australian Postgraduate Award to support him through his studies investigating the orexin neuroendocrine system involved in the regulation of sleep and wake states, as well as energy metabolism. Work arising from this study has recently been published in The Journal of Biological Chemistry, presented at several international conferences, and has since been submitted for examination.

Dr Nicola Smith
NHMRC/National Heart Foundation CJ Martin Fellow
Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, NSW



Nicola was awarded a joint NHMRC/NHF C.J. Martin Overseas Research Fellowship in 2007 to train in the laboratory of Professor Graeme Milligan, a world expert on G protein-coupled receptors. She is 7TM-centric, with a career focussed on the dissection of receptor signalling through mutagenesis and functionally-selective ligands. After an Honours year with Professors Arthur Christopoulos and Patrick Sexton at the University of Melbourne, Nicola undertook a PhD on the mechanism of EGFR transactivation by the angiotensin receptor in cardiac hypertrophy with Professor Walter Thomas at the Baker Heart Research Institute before moving to Glasgow to examine the challenging pharmacology of low affinity orthosteric agonists and allosteric modulators at the Free Fatty Acid family of GPCRs. Her work has been cited more than 200 times and published in a number of highly ranked journals including the Journal of Biological Chemistry, Molecular Pharmacology, Hypertension and Nature Biotechnology. Concurrently, she has maintained several international collaborations and a critical presence in the review literature discussing functional selectivity and on- and off-target allosterism at GPCRs. In early 2011, Nicola joined the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute in Sydney where she is investigating the role of novel GPCRs in cardiovascular disease.

Dr Rebecca Haddock
NHMRC Doherty Fellow
John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU



Rebecca completed a BSc (Biomedical Science) at the University of Wollongong and then Hons/PhD (Medical Science) in the Dept. of Neuroscience with Prof Caryl Hill at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU examining the mechanisms underlying vasomotion in small blood vessels. She then undertook a short postdoctoral position with Dr Tom Cunnane in the Dept. of Pharmacology at the University of Oxford, UK using confocal imaging to examine vascular smooth muscle calcium transients associated with peripheral nerve activity before joining Prof Margaret Morris and Dr Shaun Sandow at the Dept. of Pharmacology, UNSW where she subsequently became a NHMRC Doherty Fellow. Here Rebecca's project investigated the effects of diet-induced obesity on the vascular endothelium. Most recently, she has returned to the John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU where her studies have focussed on the effects of obesity on sympathetic activity in the resistance vasculature. Rebecca has two beautiful children and an understanding husband.

Dr Mark Hutchinson
ARC Research Fellow, Neuroimmunopharmacology Lab Leader
University of Adelaide



Dr Mark Hutchinson completed a BSc majoring in Pharmacology, Microbiology & Immunology at the University of Adelaide (1998). He continued his studies in Pharmacology with honours (1999) & PhD (2004) examining opioid metabolism & opioid immunodulation, respectively. In 2004 he was awarded the FreshScience prize for communication of science in the media. He moved to Boulder, Colorado in 2005 to undertake Postdoctoral training in the world leading research group of Prof Linda Watkins in the Center for Neuroscience at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Here he pioneered with Prof Watkins the research which has led to the discovery of novel drugs activity at innate immune receptors. Moreover, his research has led to the implication of the brain immune cells in the action of drugs of dependence and the negative side effects of pain killers. Dr Hutchinson was awarded an NHMRC CJ Martin Fellowship in 2007. He returned to Adelaide in 2009 to continue his research in the Discipline of Pharmacology, University of Adelaide. In 2011 he was awarded an Australian Research Council Fellowship for research into sex differences in pain and drug response. He has numerous peer reviewed publications, review papers and book chapters, several patents and is frequently asked to speak at national and international conferences and symposia.