NHMRC - European Union (EU) Collaborative Research Grants / EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)

GRANT RECIPIENTS

The NHMRC – 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. The successful projects are outlined below.

App ID	Australian Investigator's Name	Administering Institution	Project Title	State	NHMRC Funding
567211	Professor Geoffrey McFadden	University of Melbourne	*Australia – Europe Malaria Research Cooperation – OzEMalaR*	Victoria	$830,000 (5 years)
567215	Professor Patrick McGorry	University of Melbourne	*Gene – environment interactions as predictors of clinical outcome in the At Risk Mental State*	Victoria	$997,875 (5 years)
567216	Professor Christos Pantelis	University of Melbourne	*Optimising current therapeutic approaches to schizophrenia: The OPTiMiSE consortium*	Victoria	$979,375 (5 years)
571456	Professor Anthony Rodgers	University of Sydney	*The Use of a Multidrug Pill in Reducing Cardiovascular Events (UMPIRE) trial*	New South Wales	$309,625 (3 years)
567205	Professor Norman Saunders	University of Melbourne	*Neuroscience on Barriers in Development (NEUROBID)*	Victoria	$590,436 (3 years)
633010	Professor Thomas Becker	University of Sydney	*Zebrafish Regulomics for Human Health*	New South Wales	$621,250 (5 years)
520700	Dr Stuart Ralph	University of Melbourne	*Targeting Protein Synthesis in the Apicoplast and Cytoplasm of Plasmodium*	Victoria	$445,530 (3 years)

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PROJECT SUMMARIES

Grant ID	Australian Investigator	Administering Institution	Title	Summary
567211	Professor Geoffrey McFadden	University of Melbourne	*Australia – Europe Malaria Research Cooperation – OzEMalaR*	EVIMalaR is a European Virtual Institute for Malaria Research that combines 42 of the European Union's leading malaria research groups plus 4 Africans, 1 Indian institution, and 1 Australian. EVIMalaR faculty will combine expertise to produce a Network of Excellence that enhances and harmonises experimental approaches through shared technological platforms, exchange visits, shared PhD students, shared resources such as databases, reagent banks and protocols across pathology, infection, immunology and biochemistry.
567215	Professor Patrick McGorry	University of Melbourne	*Gene – environment interactions as predictors of clinical outcome in the At Risk Mental State*	The project aims to identify the interactive genetic, clinical and environmental determinants involved in the development, severity and outcome of schizophrenia. Translation to clinical practice will be facilitated by experimental and risk assessment bioinformatics research. This will enable: (i) identification of modifiable biological and cognitive mechanisms; and (ii) construction of tools which can be used for the early prediction of transition to psychotic disorder and outcome monitoring.
567216	Professor Christos Pantelis	University of Melbourne	*Optimising current therapeutic approaches to schizophrenia: The OPTiMiSE consortium*	The OPTiMiSE Consortium, consisting of leading experts in schizophrenia research across Europe and a group in Australia, will commence a 5-year research program world-first in scale and scope. They will investigate the biological markers related to treatment response in over 1000 individuals with recent-onset schizophrenia.
571456	Professor Anthony Rodgers	University of Sydney	*The Use of a Multidrug Pill in Reducing Cardiovascular Events (UMPIRE) trial*	Patients who have cardiovascular disease are at very high risk of experiencing a heart attack or stroke, and current guidelines recommend the long-term use of aspirin, blood pressure lowering drugs and a cholesterol lowering drug in such patients to reduce their risks. The proposed research will investigate whether the availability of a "polypill" (a single pill containing all these drugs) will help ensure patients are appropriately prescribed these treatments, and keep taking them long-term. Australian researchers will have a pivotal role in collecting and interpreting the data in this trial.

Grant ID	Australian Investigator	Administering Institution	Title	Summary
567205	Professor Norman Saunders	University of Melbourne	*Neuroscience on Barriers in Development (NEUROBID)*	The project aims to understand normal and disturbed brain barrier function in development to devise ways of preventing or ameliorating neurological conditions in infants or adult neurological disorders with developmental origins. Unique features of transport mechanisms across brain barriers will be used to design novel methods of targeting therapeutic macromolecular and cellular agents to the brain barriers and transporting them into brain for treatment of neurological diseases in young and old. The Australian component provides unique expertise, not available in the EU, on in vivo, molecular and morphological methods of studying brain barrier function in fetal and newborn animals.
633010	Professor Thomas Becker	University of Sydney	*Zebrafish Regulomics for Human Health*	The main scientific focus of the proposal is on development and disease in the areas that generate the largest fraction of health related costs in Europe: diseases of neural and sensory systems, diabetes, obesity, cancer and infectious diseases. This proposal uses the zebrafish system. The Australian component will perform a systematic characterisation of enhancer elements of potential disease genes.
520700	Dr Stuart Ralph	University of Melbourne	*Targeting Protein Synthesis in the Apicoplast and Cytoplasm of Plasmodium*	New antimalarial drugs are desperately needed. Protein synthesis in *Plasmodium falciparum* is a validated target for existing drugs and is a promising target for new drugs. This project brings together malaria biologists with chemists and computer scientists to explore this promising field. Researchers will apply modern methods of drug target characterisation to find the most promising enzyme targets involved in protein synthesis and to identify inhibitors as leads for developing antimalarial therapies. Australian researchers involved in this project will provide expertise in bioinformatics prioritisation of Plasmodium drug targets from the aminoacyl tRNA synthetase family of enzymes.