

Tracker – 5 March 2010 edition

Human Frontier Science Program's Intergovernmental Conference 27-28 May 2010

On May 27 and 28, 2010, the NHMRC is hosting the Human Frontier Science Program's (HFSP) Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) in Canberra. NHMRC supports Australia's membership to the HFSP, promoting basic research focused on the complex mechanisms of living organisms.

In conjunction with the IGC, NHMRC is holding a "Scientific Session" at the Shine Dome, Canberra, on the morning of Thursday 27 May to showcase the achievements of Australian researchers supported by the HFSP.

This is a unique opportunity to hear about outstanding cutting edge research that is stretching the frontiers of health and medical research. Places are limited at this free session. If you are interested in attending this event, please RSVP by mid April 2010 to [Sarah Busby](#).

For further information please visit the [HFSP website](#).

Training (Postdoctoral) Fellowships – Indigenous Health Short Term Exchange Award

The Short Term Exchange Award has been introduced in this round of the Training (Postdoctoral) Fellowships, with funding commencing in 2011. This revised award will allow greater flexibility for Training (Postdoctoral) Fellowship awardees who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australians. Support is offered for study travel, either within Australia or overseas for a period of **up to six weeks** and may commence as soon as offers are accepted.

Further information on application for this award will be available on the NHMRC website after the announcement of the outcomes of the Training (Postdoctoral) Fellowships.

National Certification Scheme - NHMRC assessment of ethical review process

Institutions seeking NHMRC's assessment of their ethical review processes under the National Certification Scheme were asked to table their nomination by the end of February. To date, 28 nominations have been received and include 17 public hospitals, 4 private hospitals, 3 universities and 4 'other' institutions.

NHMRC will carry out a desktop assessment of each institution's nomination followed by verification on-site visits during May and June 2010. Further information about the National Certification Scheme can be found on the [NHMRC website](#).

Release of NHMRC Biobanks Information Paper

NHMRC has released an Information Paper to facilitate best practices for the management and governance of biobank and tissue bank facilities, specific to an Australian research environment. The Information Paper draws on relevant national and international documentation and uses case studies to provide relevant contextual detail. The Information Paper is available on the [NHMRC eGenetics website](#).

Clinical Practice Guidelines Portal launched

The Parliamentary Secretary for Health, the Hon Mark Butler MP, launched the new national Clinical Practice Guidelines Portal, developed by the NHMRC. It will provide links to current Australian health guidelines developed by governments, professional colleges, specialty societies and non-government agencies.

In addition to the Portal, the NHMRC has developed a national clinical practice *Guidelines in Development Register*. This Register contains information about clinical practice guidelines that are planned or currently being developed in Australia.

The Portal and Register can be accessed at www.clinicalguidelines.gov.au
