Mini Symposium

“Advances in Mind-Brain Research”

Wednesday, 22nd April 2015
16:00- 18.00
SAHMRI Auditorium, North Terrace, Adelaide

Prof. Cyndi Shannon Weickert is dedicated to helping those suffering from schizophrenia. Prof Shannon-Weickert obtained a BA in Biology and Psychology from Keuka College in upstate New York. She earned a PhD in Biomedical Science from Mount Sinai Medical School in New York City. Prof Shannon Weickert spent the next 11 years in the Intramural Research program at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) in Washington DC. In 2006, she became a Professor at the University of New South Wales. Currently, Prof Shannon Weickert leads a translational research program that uses insights from the molecular and cellular neurodevelopment of schizophrenia to design and test novel treatments for people with schizophrenia. Her work has broad impact beyond psychiatry including examining molecular mechanisms by which hormones and growth factors cooperate to control gene expression and experimental examination of how sex hormones impact social development in adolescence. She has made pivotal contributions to the conceptualization of schizophrenia as a neurodevelopmental disorder and is best known for her pioneering work on brain-derived neurotropic factor (BDNF) and estrogen receptor.

Recently, Prof Shannon Weickert and her team have identified that there is immune activation in the brains of people with schizophrenia suggesting anti-inflammatory agents may be of therapeutic benefit to those suffering with psychosis. Prof Shannon Weickert has a total of 151 papers often publishing in high ranking journals such as Molecular Psychiatry, Archives of General Psychiatry and Biological Psychiatry. She has a total of 7859 cites and an h-index of 52.

Prof. Bernhard Baune (PhD, MD, MPH, FRANZCP) is a Specialist Psychiatrist, Clinician and Researcher and holds the position of Chair of Psychiatry and Head of the Discipline of Psychiatry, University of Adelaide, Australia. Prof. Baune’s research approach in Psychiatry is at the interface between Clinical Research, Psychiatric Neuroscience and Molecular Psychiatry, stimulating forward and backward translational research in Psychiatry. Areas of major research activity and internationally recognized expertise include the neurobiology of mood disorders, cognitive dysfunction, medical comorbidities and immunology of major psychiatric disorders. A major research focus of his lab is on disease marker identification (genes, gene expression, proteomics, epigenomics) and on the modeling of biological, clinical and psychological markers for diagnostic and treatment predictions. His work proposes that a comprehensive and highly integrated clinical and biological assessment is required as early as possible at disease onset in order to make clinically meaningful decisions and predictions. This work is facilitated in the Adelaide Integrated Mental Health Biobank and Disease Marker Centre founded and lead by Prof. Baune. He has published more than 250 peer-reviewed articles, reviews and book chapters. Prof. Baune’s work is supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council, Australia and other national and international funding bodies. He acts as a Section Editor for psychiatry and neuroscience at PLOS ONE and is member of several editorial boards and a reviewer for numerous journals and funding bodies.

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>16.00-16.45</td>
<td>Professor Bernhard Baune “Are Depressed People dangerous? Challenges with diagnosis, classification and prognosis”</td>
<td>Chair of Psychiatry and Head of the Discipline of Psychiatry, University of Adelaide, Australia.</td>
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<td>16.45-17.15</td>
<td>Drinks &amp; Nibbles</td>
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| 17.15-18.00   | Professor Cyndi Shannon-Weickert "Translating Molecular Changes in Brain Sex Hormone Receptors in Schizophrenia into Novel Treatments" | Macquarie Group Foundation Chair of Schizophrenia Research
Faculty – School of Psychiatry, University of New South Wales
This is a joint position between Schizophrenia Research Institute and the Uni NSW Neuroscience Research Australia. |

Places are limited. Please contact carole.johnson@sahmri.com for free registration.