

UPDATE

Australian Rotary Health Research Fund

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S U M M E R • 2 0 0 4 / 0 5

Margaret Tobin Award

At the recent launch of Mental Health Week in South Australia, the inaugural Margaret Tobin Awards for excellence in Mental Health were presented to honour the memory of the former Director of Mental Health Services.

Rotary International received an award for "leadership and commitment to mental health reform", which was presented by the Minister for Health, Lea Stevens and accepted on behalf of Districts 9520, 9500 and 9780 by DG Euan Miller of District 9520.

DG Euan responded, saying that the initiative of the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund to focus on Mental Illness since 2000 was extending until 2008, as it had been so successful in its public awareness campaign



District 9520 DGE Arthur Manser (left) and DG Euan Miller with the Margaret Tobin Award

via community, school, workplace and Probus club forums.

This was in addition to funding research into the much neglected area of Mental Illness.

The award is significant in that it demonstrates that the work of ARHRF is being noticed in the community and also at government level. In fact Margaret Tobin was a true "Friend of the Fund" in that she met regularly with district committee

chairmen in the early stages of the mental illness focus and willingly offered to be the MC at forums, prior to her untimely and tragic death in 2002. Her enthusiastic support of ARHRF gave the Committee chairmen, John May (9520) and Ken Jones (9500) the confidence to develop the momentum behind the awareness campaign that is still being maintained today in South Australia.



ARHRF Funded Study Receives Prestigious American Research Award

Philip Hazell, Clinical Director of the Child and Youth Mental Health Service and Conjoint Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry with the University of Newcastle, is the 2004 recipient of the Elaine Schlosser Lewis Award for Research in Attention Deficit Disorder. He was presented with the award at the 51st Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) in Washington DC in late October.

The award is given for the best paper on attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) published in the Academy's journal in the preceding 12 months. The paper, titled 'A Randomized Controlled Trial of Clonidine Added to Psychostimulant Medication for Hyperactive and Aggressive Children' was also short listed for the Rieger award given for

the best paper on any subject. The Elaine Schlosser Lewis Foundation was established in 1994 through the generous gift of a private benefactor and is named in memory of AACAP member Dr Owen Lewis' late mother, who was a teacher and advocate of children.

In addition to receiving the award at the opening ceremony of the AACAP meeting, Philip

gave a one-hour presentation describing his work. In the presentation he expressed his indebtedness to the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund for choosing to support research into mental illness, and for funding the study.

The prize-winning study was conducted through 2000 and 2001 with children aged 6 to 14 years from the Hunter region who



ARHRF Funded Study Receives Prestigious American Research Award continued...

had hyperactive and behavioural problems. The aim was to find out whether adding clonidine to existing treatment with stimulant medication would improve the children's functioning. Clonidine, a drug originally developed to treat high blood pressure, is given to nearly one in five children treated with stimulants, but research to support its use is limited. Sixty-seven children entered the study, and were randomized to receive clonidine or an inactive drug. The study was blind, that is, neither the participants nor the research team knew which treatment the child was receiving. Ratings of behaviour and side effects were obtained each week for six weeks. Fifty-seven percent of the clonidine treated participants showed clinically important improvement in their aggressive behaviours compared with 21% of the placebo treated children, a difference that was statistically significant. More treated children (35%) than placebo control children (17%) also improved in their hyperactive symptoms but this difference was not statistically significant. Clonidine caused mild sedation and dizziness, but the effects were short-lived. In addition, clonidine reduced some of the side effects associated with stimulant treatment.

The study is important because there has been little research examining combined treatments for child and adolescent mental health problems. Philip and his colleagues also paid particular attention to finding out how much the participants would need to improve on the study outcome measures for the change to be clinically meaningful.

ARHRF Mental Illness Awareness Forums 2004/2005

February 2005

21 Rotary Club of Goolwa, SA – Centenary Hall, 6.30pm

March 2005

3 Rotary Club of Granville, NSW – Granville RSL, 6.30pm

9 Rotary Club of Sumerland Sunrise, NSW – tba, 6.30pm

COMPANIONS & FRIENDS OF THE FUND

Companions \$5,000

Jessica Rowe – from an anonymous donor, NSW

Diamond Friends - \$2,500

Phyllis Graham – Rotary Club of Melbourne Latrobe, Vic.

George Lee – Rotary Club of Crows Nest, NSW

Silver Friends - \$1,000

Barry Thompson – Rotary Club of Padstow, NSW

Rowan (Chippa) Kolpin / James Moore – Rotary Club of Irymple, Vic.

Adrian Ivory – Rotary Club of Ayr, Qld.

Fraser & Val Godfrey – Rotary Club of Glenhaven, NSW

Ross Witcombe – posthumously, from Rotary Club of Grenfell, NSW

Bronze Friends - \$500

Doug Beasy – Rotary Club of Merbein, Vic.

Mark Hancock – Rotary Club of Mildura, Vic.

David West – Rotary Club of Innisfail, Qld.

Friends - \$100

Robert Beck – no club, NSW

Susanne Sayers – Rotary Club of Melton, Vic.

Jim Johnson – Rotary Club of Young, NSW

Peter Angwin / Ian Baker / Lou Barberis / Peter Betros / Pamela Buxton / Jon Caneva / Eric Cohen / Doug Crittenden / John Damman / Dick Hardham / John Harris / Tony Harris / Geoff Heeps / Reiner Klapp / Hal Levy / Ross Liebmann / John Morey / Michael Morrison / Graeme Newton / Tara O'Brien / Constantine Panoussi / Pike Peters / John Plowright / Harry Raskin / Helen Robbins / David Rosenberg / Peter Schneider / Alex Sharp / Jim Smith / Stephen Smith / Chris Southall / Wendy Spry / Rosanna Tate / Claude Ullin / Andrew Wallace / David Watson / David Westerman / Lynne Wilton / Lewis Woolf / Frank Slutzkin / Adrienne Basser

– Rotary Club of Prahran, Vic.

Doug Barnier – Rotary Club of Grafton, NSW

Gordon Lukies – Rotary Club of North Sydney, NSW

John Wells – Rotary Club of Kyneton, Vic.

Theo Kruys – Rotary Club of Hyde Park, SA

Malcolm Nicklin – Rotary Club of North Sydney, NSW

Noeline Squires – Rotary Club of Sutherland, NSW

Mike Johnson – Rotary Club of Gawler, SA

Tony Pelosi – Rotary Club of Box Hill, Vic.



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