

February 2019

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Our Mission

The National Centre for Neuroimmunology and Emerging Diseases (NCNED) is a research team located at Griffith University on the Gold Coast. Led by Professors Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik and Donald Staines, the team has a focus on Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME).

Our mission is to translate research findings into preventative medicine, social and clinical care, and public health outcomes. By collaborating with local, national and international research institutes, we aim to create sustained improvements in health and health care for not only those affected by CFS/ME but also other immune disorders.

Seminar Presentation



The NCNED team is pleased to announce that Professor James Baraniuk, one of our invited speakers from the CFS/ME International Conference RID: Research, Innovation & Discovery held in November 2018, will be presenting a Seminar on the 8th of March, 2019 at Griffith University Gold Coast Campus Building G42, Room 1.04 at 11:00am.

The title of his Seminar is “*Your Brain on Exercise Versus Chronic Fatigue Syndrome*” and you are invited to attend. **Please RSVP to ncned@griffith.edu.au by the 5th of March, 2019.**

Professor James Baraniuk, MD, is a Professor with Tenure in the Department of Medicine at Georgetown University and the Director of the Chronic Pain and Fatigue Research Center, located within the Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, D.C. The Chronic Pain and Fatigue Research Center does research on Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS), Gulf War Illness (GWI) and other pain conditions, particularly in the areas of Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI), biomarker discovery through proteomic, metabolomic, and transcriptomic assays in blood and cerebrospinal fluid, autonomic testing and heart rate variability (HRV) and statistical analyses using machine learning, hierarchical clustering, and other data mining methods.

Conference Representation

Natalie Eaton-Fitch and Stanley Du Preez will be attending the 2019 Light Microscopy Australia Conference from the 6—8 March, 2019 in Brisbane. This will also include the Olympus Spinning Disc workshop which will discuss theory and practical aspects of imaging samples using the new SpinR and ScanR by Olympus, spinning disc technology, super resolution imaging, multiplexing image acquisition in high number samples and an introduction to the new SpinR and ScanR instruments.



ME/CFS/FM Support Association QLD Inc. Visit

Professor Donald Staines recently addressed the ME/CFS/FM Support Association QLD Inc. meeting held on the 6th of February, 2019 in Toowoomba. The event was very well attended and great interest was shown in respect to our research. Thank you greatly to all who were present.



Conference Representation



Cassandra Balinas, Natalie Eaton-Fitch and Dr Helene Cabanas will be representing NCNED at the very prestigious Keystone Symposia. This Conference series will be on Molecular and Cellular Biology and titled "*Innate Immune Receptors: Roles in Immunology and Beyond (M1)*". This Conference is being held in Taipei, Taiwan in March 2019.

Cassandra and Natalie are presenting novel research findings in the area of pharmacotherapeutics and receptor function.

Publications

Congratulations to our Co-Director, Professor Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik, on having the following publication as part of a national collaboration with the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Melbourne, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Monash Children's Hospital, Sydney, Children's Hospitals Network, Randwick and Westmead and the Adolescent Medicine Unit at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Perth:



Knight S, Elders S, Rodda J, Harvey A, Lubitz L, Rowe K, Reveley C, Hennel S, Towns S, Kozłowska K, Payne DN, Marshall-Gradisnik S, Scheinberg A: Epidemiology of paediatric chronic fatigue syndrome in Australia. *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, online 23 February 2019, doi: 10.1136/archdischild-2018-316450.

Grant Success

NCNED were successful in obtaining three Mason Foundation Grants in December 2018 titled:

- IMPAIRED ION CHANNEL FUNCTION IN THE PATHOMECHANISM AND PHARMACOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS (ME)/CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME (CFS)
- A MULTIMODAL NEUROMARKER OF MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS/CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME
- A NEUROBIOLOGY BASED MODEL OF MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS/CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME WITH ADVANCED NEUROIMAGING