NISAD Scientific Activity Summary
January – March 2002

Publications of NISAD-Supported Research

i. Published


ii. In Press


iii. Submitted


iv. In Preparation


• Tooney PA, Chahl LA. Increased density of parvalbumin and calretinin positive neurons in the prefrontal cortex of schizophrenia. *Neuroreport* (in preparation).

• Sarris M, Garrick T, Harper C. Quantitative analysis of brain volumes in schizophrenia - a post mortem study (in preparation).

Conference and Consumer Group Presentations / Submissions

• Seven abstracts describing NISAD-supported schizophrenia research submitted/accepted for:
  - Western Sydney Area Mental Health Service Conference, Sydney, April, 2002 (Mr Jim Sheedy).
  - 6th Research Nursing Festival, Sydney, May, 2002 (Mr Jim Sheedy).
  - 23rd Collegium Internationale Neuropsychopharmacologicum meeting, Montreal, Canada, June, 2002 (Ms Therese Garrick).
  - 3rd International Conference on Early Psychosis, Copenhagen, Denmark, September, 2002 (Mr Pat Johnston).
  - Mental Health Nurses Conference, Sydney, October, 2002 (Ms Margaret Boyes, Ms Therese Garrick).

• Seven conference presentations of NISAD-supported schizophrenia research given at:
  - Australian Neuroscience Society, Sydney, February, 2002 (Dr Paul Tooney, Dr Katerina Zavitsanou, Dr Gavin Dixon, Ms Tina Hinton, Dr Maria Sarris, Ms Therese Garrick).
  - Workshop on Brain Banking, Washington, USA, March, 2002 (Ms Therese Garrick).

• One presentation at consumer group meeting given at:
  - Nowra Consumer Group (Mr Jim Sheedy – Register)

Grants

• Two grants totaling approximately $60,000 have been awarded to NISAD and NISAD-affiliated scientists for projects and equipment. These include:
  - University of Newcastle, School of Biomedical Sciences infrastructure funding ($33,768 to Dr Paul Tooney and Prof. Rodney Scott for computer hardware and software for schizophrenia microarray study).
  - Ian Scott Fellowship, Australian Rotary Health Research Found ($26,000 for Mr Nathan Clunas for a study examining train mechanisms of attention problems in people with schizophrenia & bipolar disorder. NISAD previously provided a grant in aid to help develop Nathan’s research).

• The Neurobiology Panel awarded grants to develop additional research techniques of relevance to schizophrenia:
  - Can dietary intervention enhance drug efficiency in treating schizophrenia? *Huang XF, Zavitsanou K. University of Wollongong* ($10,000)
Other Research Activities

- Continued growth and development of major infrastructure initiatives:
  - Register: 522 enrolled, 304 participated in research, 282 clinically assessed, currently servicing 6 projects, new CSA launched in March.
  - Tissue Resource Centre: collection of cases continued, 2 schizophrenia projects supplied with tissue.
  - Tissue Donor Program: 90 expressed interest, 25 consented, 1 case collected.

- NISAD-supported research has continued/commenced at the following sites:
  - Clinical: James Fletcher Hospital, Cumberland Hospital, Westmead Hospital, Macquarie University, Liverpool Hospital.
  - Neuroimaging: Liverpool Hospital, St George Hospital, Westmead Hospital, James Fletcher Hospital, John Hunter Hospital, UCLA, University of Essen, University of NSW, University of Wollongong, University of WA.
  - Neurobiology: University of Newcastle, John Hunter Hospital, University of Sydney, University of Wollongong, ANSTO, The Garvan Institute, Stanley Foundation.

- New research positions:
  - Contract position to review literature on psychoactive substance abuse research in schizophrenia (in negotiation with applicant).
  - Four PhD scholarships in schizophrenia research (Neurobiology Panel) at Universities of Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong.
  - TRC Research Assistant to support case characterization and the Tissue Donor Program (Ms Lisa Azizi).

- NISAD has continued to support research development of University students including:
  - Two Rebecca Cooper doctoral scholarships for schizophrenia research (Universities of Sydney and WA).
  - Four PhD scholarships in schizophrenia research (Neurobiology Panel) at Universities of Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong.
  - Three Summer Student Scholars at NISAD CCHBR’s in Sydney and Newcastle.

- NISAD has agreed to provide / provided equipment infrastructure support for the following:
  - Establishment of a NISAD Server ($18,000)

- The following meetings / training courses have been held / planned / attended:
  - SAPS/SANS Training Course, February 2002 (Ms Carmel Loughland).
  - DIP Workshop, February 2002 (Ms Carmel Loughland).
  - AIMS Workshops, April 2002 (Dr Maria Sarris).
  - SPM training course, May, 2002 (Dr Jim Lagopoulos).

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5 April 2002