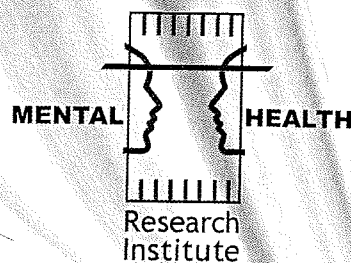


Towards

understanding



MESSAGE FROM THE Director

Professor Colin Masters



It gives me great pleasure to introduce our first Newsletter for 2008.

This year will be one of significant growth for the Mental Health Research Institute (MHRI).

We enjoyed considerable success in the round of competitive grants announced in November 2007 by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

As a result we have seven new projects commencing this year. Four of these address fundamental questions about Alzheimer's disease, one is pursuing a novel therapy for Parkinson's disease and two projects are investigating factors implicated in the onset of schizophrenia.

2008 will also be an important year in regard to our key role in the Neuroscience Project at the University of Melbourne and Austin Health. This major project will bring together over 500 researchers dedicated to making significant strides forward in the treatment of a range of brain disorders. The project will establish new research facilities in the medical precinct of the University of Melbourne and at Austin Health by 2011. Alongside the University and Austin Health, our partners in the Neuroscience Project are the Florey Neuroscience Institutes.

MHRI is the mental health arm of the Neuroscience Project. We will lead scientific programs in Neurodegeneration, focusing on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, and Neuropsychiatry, focusing on schizophrenia, depression and addictive disorders.

Importantly the Project will bring us closer to our collaborators at the University of Melbourne and the Florey Neuroscience Institutes and will give us ready access to the powerful platform technologies which underpin research today.

The Project will also provide excellent new accommodation for the Cunningham Dax Collection of Psychiatric Art, which operates under MHRI management. The Collection will be housed on the ground floor of the new Parkville Neuroscience Facility.

The Collection is one of the largest of its type in the world and is visited each year by thousands of secondary school students as part of their psychology studies. Being in the new Parkville Neuroscience Facility will enable the Collection to attract even more visits from students and members of the public. The Collection will also be better served by public transport than at present.

I look forward to meeting as many of the Institute's supporters as possible during 2008 and to keeping you informed about our progress towards better understanding the causes of mental illnesses.

Colin L. Masters MD
Executive Director and
Laureate Professor

FOOTY FEVER FUNDS EQUIPMENT



Disha's young members group

The Institute was delighted to receive funding for a new piece of equipment from Disha, who chose to support the Mental

Health Research Institute in addition to Alfred Foundation and the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Royal Melbourne Hospital.

The group's 2007 event "One Day in September" was a champagne brunch with a football theme. Disha's young members group entertained guests with a dance routine representing all the AFL teams

Disha, named from the Hindi word which founder Tara Chandramouli translates to "in the direction of hope", was founded when Tara's brother was diagnosed with lung cancer. She formed the fundraising group with the desire to give strength and courage to her brother and do something positive within the community.