



Examples of new *Linkage Projects* in 2010

Victoria

The University of Melbourne (Contact: 03 8344 4123)

Narrowing the scatter and assessing the uncertainty of climate change projections of Australian river flows (LP100100756)

Summary: Recent prolonged dry conditions in south-eastern Australia have triggered water restrictions in major cities, zero irrigation allocations in the Murray-Darling region and highlighted the importance of water to this country. This project represents an integrated package of research that will enhance our understanding of the uncertainty of future annual river flows, leading to more informed decision making for the sustainable management of Australia's increasingly scarce water resources. The outcomes from this project are highly relevant to the national research priority An Environmentally Sustainable Australia, particularly priority goals Water - a critical resource and Responding to climate change and variability.

Chief Investigator: Emeritus Professor Thomas McMahon

ARC funding: \$240,000 over 3 years

Deakin University (Contact: 03 5227 2776)

Healthy eating and obesity prevention for preschoolers: A randomised controlled trial (LP100100049)

Summary: Australian researchers can take a lead in the prevention of obesity during the formative preschool years when prevention intervention strategies have been evaluated systematically and rigorously. This will be the first study in Australia to evaluate the impact of a healthy eating and childhood obesity prevention program for parents of preschool children, regardless of weight status. The findings will assist in further developing evidence-based prevention strategies that can be rolled out extensively in the Australian community for maintenance of healthy weight gain in preschool children.

Chief Investigator: Dr Helen Skouteris

ARC funding: \$200,000 over 3 years

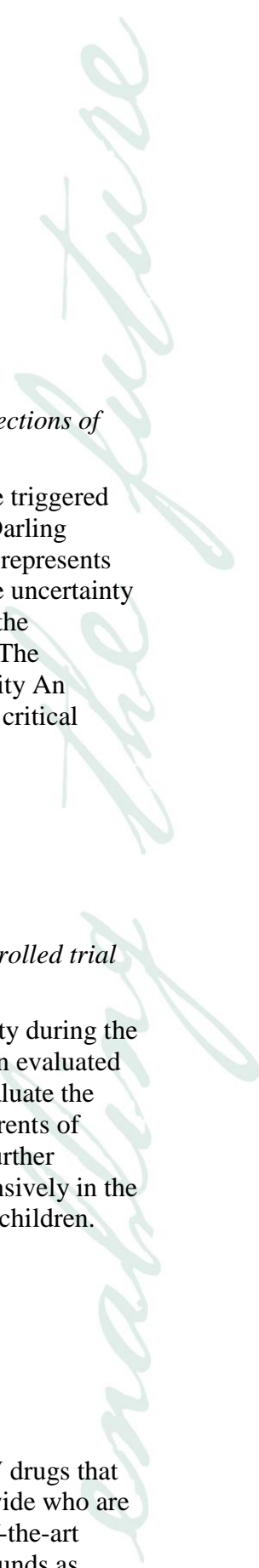
Monash University (Contact: 03 9903 4840)

New approaches to inhibition of activity of HIV integrase (LP100100194)

Summary: This project aims to assist in the development of novel anti-HIV drugs that will benefit the 17,000 Australians and more than 33 million people worldwide who are currently suffering with this terrible disease. The project will utilise state-of-the-art approaches in structure-based drug design to identify and synthesise compounds as leads for the development of anti-HIV drugs. Furthermore, the project will provide invaluable training for the researchers involved and enhance the relationship between the academic and commercial collaborators.

Chief Investigator: Dr Martin Scanlon

ARC funding: \$600,000 over 3 years





Swinburne University (Contact: 03 9214 5968)

Large-Scale Emulation for Enterprise Software Systems (LP100100622)

Summary: This project will deliver a key future software technology for scalable quality assurance of highly interconnected enterprise IT systems, significantly contributing to more reliable and effective business operations in all industry sectors. It will fill a market gap and give Australian businesses a world competitive advantage. The project will generate world-leading research outcomes and further cement Australia's leading research position in enterprise software systems engineering. In particular, it will make major contributions to research into complex large-scale system interaction, system performance and scalability, and system behaviour modelling. The project also provides an excellent training environment for young researchers.

Chief Investigator: Professor Jun Han

ARC funding: \$470,000 over 3 years

The University of Ballarat (Contact: 03 5327 9510)

Re-engaging disadvantaged young people with learning (LP100100045)

Summary: Having significant numbers of young people, especially those from contexts of socio-economic disadvantage, not experiencing a satisfying and worthwhile education, is a personal, social and economic loss the nation can ill-afford. This research will provide insights into the impediments confronting these young people, the circumstances in which they re-engage with formal learning, and the benefits of having done so. This will enable new policy and practice responses in the direction of reducing economic costs while seeking to ameliorate personal, health and social consequences. Reducing educational inequalities is one of the most salient ways of strengthening Australia's social and economic fabric.

Chief Investigator: Professor John Smyth

ARC funding: \$150,000 over 3 years

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (Contact: 03 9925 2373)

Optimising Exercise and Nutrition Throughout the Life Cycle (LP100100010)

Summary: During the past decade the proportion of Australia's population aged 65 years and over has increased to 13 per cent (2.7 million). During the same period, the proportion of the population aged 85 years and over has more than doubled and is now the fastest growing subpopulation in Australia. As the number of elderly persons continues to grow, sarcopenia-related conditions will have a dramatic and inevitable impact on the lives of all Australians. The novel dietary protocols developed from the results of the studies undertaken in this project will translate into better treatment options for reversing age-dependent muscle degeneration. This is a critical first step for improving the standard of living for a large portion of Australian society.

Chief Investigator: Professor John Hawley

ARC funding: \$324,851 over 3 years

