Australian Government
Australian Research Council

Examples of new *Linkage Projects* in 2010

Western Australia

University of Western Australia (Contact: 08 6488 2806)

Better bees for tomorrow: A proteomic and physiological characterization of male fertility in managed versus feral honeybees in Western Australia (LP100100438)

Summary: The importance of honeybees for food production is often undervalued as they pollinate more than 80 crops of economic interest. However, honeybee populations are on a worldwide decline and the beekeepers struggle to survive economically. Australia has so far been spared of major collapses but this seems merely a question of time. This project initiates a close collaboration between the only honeybee-breeding organisation in Western Australia and the University of Western Australia. Scientific research to ensure a future supply of managed and healthy honeybees is initiated to understand honeybee reproduction, diseases and immunity in more detail. The results are expected to be of interest for the entire Australian honeybee industry.

Chief Investigator: Dr Boris Baer

ARC funding: $640,000 over 4 years

Curtin University of Technology (Contact: 08 9266 2793)

School drug education for junior high school students in Victoria - Assessing the impact of a state-wide, evidence-based intervention (LP100100798)

Summary: Young people are faced with numerous and powerful influences to use both legal and illicit drugs, and drug education can play an important counterbalancing role in shaping a normative culture of safety, moderation and informed decision making in this group. The research will develop, implement and evaluate one all encompassing, evidence-based, drug education program for junior high school students across Victoria. The study is unique in its size and scope and will be of national benefit because its findings will influence the nature of future drug education in all secondary schools in Australia.

Chief Investigator: Associate Professor Richard Midford

ARC funding: $277,198 over 3 years

Murdoch University (Contact: 08 9360 1289)

Functional proteomics of Giardia (LP100100776)

Summary: This project will use the latest tools for dissecting and comparing genes and their protein products from Giardia one of the most common parasites infecting people, their pets, livestock and wildlife. This protozoan parasite is also of evolutionary and biological significance and analysis will provide further understanding of the origin of higher animals from bacteria as well as fundamental questions about the parasitic way of life. Giardia proteins will be identified and characterised on the basis of their value in understanding disease processes and treatment, and by working with appropriate industry partners, proteins of commercial value will be exploited.

Chief Investigator: Professor Richard Thompson

ARC funding: $255,000 over 3 years