

## 4::2 PLATFORM LEADER REPORTS 2003-04

### 4::2::1 Neuroproteomics and Neurogenomics

#### **Platform Leader: Professor Colin Masters**

Platform Manager: Ms Tiffany Cowie

The 2003-04 financial year has been a period of significant planning and implementation for the Neurogenomics and Neuroproteomics platform. Several key personnel have been appointed: David Steer, Tony White, Tai Du and Feda Ali provide momentum to collaborative and internal scientific developments within the platform, and the appointment of Tiffany Cowie as Platform Manager provides a critical resource in the management of platform activities. The platform intends to train junior staff in all platform technologies, in order to ensure that the platform is flexible and responsive to service demand.

During the year, initial Infrastructure Access Agreements were signed with both Monash University and the University of Melbourne. In preparation for the new facilities under construction at the University of Melbourne and Bio21, the platform is currently utilising space within the Centre for Neuroscience at the University of Melbourne. The capital works on level 4 of the Triradiate building at the University of Melbourne are expected to be completed and operational within the 2004-05 financial year.

Actively planning and implementing an operational model, with a view to achieving self-sustainability, has been a key focus of the platform throughout the year. A comprehensive business plan encompassing all platform activities has been drafted, based on an analysis of the industry, market trends and contextual pressures. A specific market niche has been identified in the provision of a suite of genomics and proteomics services through a single administrative channel harnessing expert neuroscientific and neurobiological knowledge in global expression analysis technologies. Based on the identification of specific target markets a promotional strategy has also been drafted.

Significant planning and development of operational processes has been undertaken to optimise sample processing, service efficiency and reporting within the platform. Consideration of an information management system has commenced with a view to further optimisation of these capabilities. Discussions have been held with each participating facility, consisting of an analysis of their capabilities and resources and the communication of each participant's visions of platform development. A schedule of lab meetings and training sessions will be drafted to improve skill sharing and knowledge transfer between participating facilities, and to enhance collegiality across the platform.

Looking ahead to the 2004-05 financial year, the Neuroproteomics and Neurogenomics platform will move into a period of full operational activity and growth. Investment in human resources and staff development will be expanded, with the planned appointment of a bioinformatician and continued emphasis on HR training and multi-skilling. Completion and implementation of the information management system will provide the platform with operational consistency and sample tracking across nodes. The imminent national promotional rollout will facilitate platform growth, and the completion of capital works will concentrate Neuroproteomics and Neurogenomics administrative, developmental and strategic activities.

Thanks to the Platform Management Committee for the effort throughout the year:

- ❖ Professor Colin Masters - Department of Pathology, University of Melbourne
- ❖ Professor Richard Cotton – Genomic Disorders Research Centre
- ❖ Dr Roberto Cappai – Department of Pathology, University of Melbourne
- ❖ Professor Geoff Tregear – Howard Florey Institute
- ❖ Associate Professor Seong-Seng Tan – Howard Florey Institute
- ❖ Associate Professor Brian Dean – Mental Health Research Institute
- ❖ Professor Ian Smith – Baker Medical Research Institute
- ❖ Dr Jamie Rossjohn – Department of Biochemistry, Monash University
- ❖ Professor Deon Venter – Murdoch Children's Research Institute
- ❖ Ms Tiffany Cowie – University of Melbourne
- ❖ Mr Simon Rabi – Neurosciences Victoria Ltd (Monash Node)

For more information on the Neurogenomics and Neuroproteomics platform please go to [www.nnf.com.au/genprot](http://www.nnf.com.au/genprot)