

4:2:8 Clinical Neurobiology of Psychiatry

Platform Leader: Professor Bruce Tonge

The Clinical Neurobiology of Psychiatry platform is currently in a developmental phase with funding due to be released in 2005. The platform has been approved by the Board of Neurosciences Australia Ltd and participants include the following psychiatric and neuropsychological groups:

- The Mental Health Research Institute
- Orygen Research Centre
- Melbourne Neuropsychiatry Centre
- Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory, University of Melbourne
- Centre for Developmental Psychiatry and Psychology (Monash University)
- The Alfred Psychiatry Research Centre (APRC)
- The Centre for Neuropsychology (Monash University)
- Austin Hospital, Department of Psychiatry

Developments in neuroscience, leading to the disintegration of the traditional division between neuroscience and psychiatry, have led to a clear market need for research in the area of Neuropsychiatry. This Platform has been established to create an arena for collaborative neuropsychiatric research through the application of new technologies, shared knowledge and directed effort. Such collaborations have the potential to create a world class concentration of multi-disciplinary endeavour in research and education. This will provide the nucleus for a southern hemisphere equivalent to the integration of the UK's Institute of Psychiatry with clinical research at psychiatric hospitals affiliated with Kings College (including Bethelhem and Maudsley Hospitals).

The research focus is on the identification of the underlying biology of psychiatric disorders, in particular looking for biological markers which would be useful in diagnosis and prognosis in the areas of cognitive neuroscience, neuropsychiatry and psychiatric bio-banking.

In the coming year the platform will be focused on becoming operational with the implementation of a business plan, directed towards the achievement of self-sustainability in the future.

Thanks to the Platform Management Committee for their contributions to the platform throughout the 2003-04 period and this vital planning stage of establishment. The Platform Management Committee for the year included:

- Professor Bruce Tonge – Department of Psychology, Monash University
- Professor Bruce Singh – Royal Melbourne Hospital
- Professor Chris Pantelis – Melbourne Neuropsychiatry Centre
- Professor Jayashri Kulkarni – Alfred Psychiatry Research Centre
- Professor Graham Burrows – Austin Health
- Professor George Fink – Mental Health Research Institute
- Professor Pat McGorry – Orygen Research Centre
- Associate Professor Justin Mattingley – Department of Psychology, University of Melbourne
- Professor David Copolov – Monash University
- Dr Paul Fitzgerald – The Alfred Hospital
- Dr Nicole Rinehart – Monash University
- Mr Kim Sampson – Neurosciences Victoria Ltd

For more information on the Clinical Neurobiology of Psychiatry platform please go to www.nnf.com.au/neuropsychiatry

