

# INVITATION

## ParkC's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Open Day

**Saturday, 12 November 2011, 10am, ECU Joondalup Campus, Building 32**

Since 2008, ParkC has held an annual open day where members of the public are invited to come and hear about the advances being made in Parkinson's research, both here in Perth and around the globe.

In 2010 the guest speaker was Dr Roger Barker from Cambridge University. Dr Barker gave a very informative and accessible presentation, in which he outlined the major developments in Parkinson's research and treatments. These included the genetic basis of Parkinson's; new ways of modelling Parkinson's, such as induced pluripotent stem cells and new pathogenic pathways (the 'prion hypothesis'); and new ways of treating Parkinson's, such as ncRNA/cell therapies.

This year three distinguished speakers will discuss the progress being made by our researchers here at ParkC:

Associate Professor Romola Bucks, Director of the Lifespan Development Group, will explore our research into the different types of Parkinson's, and address why this information is important;

- Dr Robert White, recently returned from Kings College London, will outline ParkC's laboratory research program, which focuses on finding a way to stop the continued degeneration of neurons, and then encourage the regeneration of neurons to replace those that have died; and

- Dr Meghan Thomas, Director of ParkC, will introduce a new project, "Genetic factors impacting Parkinson's", that ParkC has undertaken in collaboration with Perth Pathology.

## Your opportunity to contribute to Parkinson's discoveries

Since ParkC opened in 2008, its researchers have worked towards establishing a research project to investigate the genetic factors that impact Parkinson's. With the support of Perth Pathology, and having been successful in obtaining an Edith Cowan University Industry Collaborative Grant, ParkC's researchers are now in a position to start this important research. The project will involve obtaining blood samples from people with Parkinson's. DNA will be isolated from the blood samples, and the genetic information will then be combined with information about people's motor and non-motor symptoms. This will enable a determination to be made as to whether genetic factors influence the appearance of particular symptoms of Parkinson's.

Perth Pathology will have experienced phlebotomists on site at the ParkC Open Day. This is an exciting opportunity for those wanting to get involved in our research either for the first time, or for those who have already taken part in our "Subtyping Parkinson's" research program, by donating a DNA sample.

After the main seminar, attendees will be able to look at the visual display of the research being conducted by the students involved with ParkC. The students will be in attendance to explain their results.

Finally, lunch will be provided, set against the backdrop of the dulcet tones of the Sixth Avenue Jazz band. All we ask is for a gold coin donation to help us with the cost.

**The day promises to be informative and inspirational, however places are limited. Please register your attendance early.**

Visit: [www.ecu.edu.au/news/events/2011/11/2011-parkc-open-day](http://www.ecu.edu.au/news/events/2011/11/2011-parkc-open-day) or contact:  
Stephanie Whitworth  
Email: [ParkC@ecu.edu.au](mailto:ParkC@ecu.edu.au)  
Phone: (08) 6304 3560

