



Australia-Harvard Fellowship News

Bi-monthly e-News Briefs – October 2005

Picking Winners

Sydney Morning Herald, 3 Oct. 2005

"**Alzheimer's drug hope.** Researchers are developing drugs they believe may block the protein that causes Alzheimer's disease, and eventually prevent or slow its progression. The Mental Health Research Institute of Victoria has found that the protein beta amyloid reacts with cholesterol and converts it into chemicals that damage the brain. The institute's professor of pathology, Dr Ashley Bush and his team discovered in a trial that a drug called clioquinol mopped up excess protein in mice and blocked the harmful chemicals. His findings were recently published in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*."

To view ABC TV's story on this research go to:

<<http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/s1134238.htm#transcript>>

HCA Foundation awarded Dr Bush an **Australia-Harvard Fellowship** in 2004. He is an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School's Department of Psychiatry.

2005 Fellowship Awards

Trustees of the **HCA Foundation** announce intended grants to three Australian research institutions in support of the following Australia-Harvard Fellowships:

- University of Sydney, George Institute for International Health, \$30,000 for Harvard Medical School **Assoc Prof John Z Ayanian** MD, MPP, to undertake joint research with Alan Cass MD, PhD, Head of Renal Program, on health care policy in relation to chronic diseases, with particular reference to ethnic minorities. Dr Ayanian's work in Australia is planned for mid-2006.
- UNSW@ADFA (School of Business), \$25,000 for **Prof Richard Freeman** PhD, Herbert Ascherman Professor of Economics at Harvard, for collaboration with Max Tani PhD, on science and innovation policy in relation to skilled migration between Australia, USA and UK. Dr Freeman is also director of the Labor Studies Program at the US National Bureau of Economic Research, Senior Research Fellow in Labour Markets at LSE's Centre for Economic Performance, and visiting professor at the LSE. Dr Freeman plans visits to Australia May through June 2006.
- University of Melbourne, St Vincent's Hospital, Dept of Medicine, \$35,000 for Harvard Medical School **Assoc Prof Sven-Erik Bursell** PhD, to undertake for joint research with Assoc Prof Alicia Jenkins on vascular damage in diabetes. Dr Bursell will work in Australia from February through April 2006.

Harvard Club of Australia congratulates the new Fellows and their local Australian research collaborators.