



## The cutting edge of mental health research

With a new year fast approaching it's time to start thinking about who your Club or District would like to have as guest speakers in 2011. With so many competing priorities it can be a tough challenge to find a speaker that is engaging and interesting to everyone, while being relevant and topical.

A number of Rotarians have noticed that mental health is fast becoming a 'hot topic' in their communities. Politicians such as Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Leader of the Opposition Tony Abbott have begun to make mental health a priority in Australia, thanks to the efforts of spokespeople such as Australian of the Year and mental health advocate Professor Patrick McGorry.

Australian Rotary Health has long been involved in funding research into mental health. Many Clubs and Districts across Australia support us in this endeavour, acting as Funding Partners, volunteers and donors. However one of the challenges that the researchers we support face is in presenting their research in a way that speaks to everyday Australians.

To help combat this, Australian Rotary Health runs media training for its PhD scholars to help them learn how to talk about their findings in layman's terms. Next year we'll have a whole host of media savvy new PhD students who would like to come and talk at your Club about the vital research they've been doing into mental illness. Not only is this a great way for Rotarians to learn more about mental illness and the research that Australian Rotary Health is funding, you'll also be the first to find out about the groundbreaking research many of these young Australians are conducting, such as finding out how research is helping Emergency Departments more effectively manage acutely agitated patients, to the impact globalisation has on trends of fatal suicide behaviour!

If you would like to know more, or would be interested in inviting a PhD scholar to talk at a meeting in 2011, please contact Kelly-Anne Martinez, Research Officer, on 02 8837 1900 or email [kellyannemartinez@australianrotaryhealth.org.au](mailto:kellyannemartinez@australianrotaryhealth.org.au)

*Photo caption: PhD student Allison Milner with Chairman Noel Trevaskis at the ASPR media training day in 2009.*