

Rory Robertson  
14 February 2018

## Letter: Piers Akerman and Menzies Research Centre duped by USyd's Australian Paradox fraud

Dear members of the the Australian Medical Association, the Grattan Institute, the Obesity Coalition, the Menzies Research Centre, the Editorial Board of the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* (AJCN), and interested observers (including journalists), [List of letter recipients on pp. 3-4]

Good morning/afternoon/evening. I hope you all are well.

I recently wrote to The Greens in Federal Parliament and the Academic Board of the University of Sydney to explain that much of the high-profile opposition to The Greens' proposed "sugar tax" is based on false information via the **Charles Perkins Centre's *Australian Paradox* sugar-and-obesity fraud**.

That letter now is reproduced online in [a new document that summarises the current public debate on the need or not for a "sugar tax": <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/australian-sugar-tax-debate.pdf>](http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/australian-sugar-tax-debate.pdf)

In this new document, I feature again both the **fake data** on which the invalid *Australian Paradox* "finding" relies (chart, p. 1) and the **dishonesty** of the Charles Perkins Centre's March 2017 expansion of the *Australian Paradox* fraud into the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* (pp. 5 and 16).

I do not understand why the **Academic Director of the Charles Perkins Centre - Professor Stephen Simpson** - was so stupid as to allow his name to be attached to this serious scientific fraud (p. 5 and <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/LettersCPCProfSimpson.pdf> ).

**Shocking too was Professor Jennie Brand-Miller's reckless misinforming of high-profile commentator Piers Akerman** (pp. 6-7), part of her ham-fisted attempt to (falsely) discredit a nemesis, the widely respected ABC journalist Emma Alberici (please see p. 5 and the *Lateline* video in my footer below):

- Brand-Miller apparently told Akerman that there were **no scientific challenges to the AJCN paper**, despite my letter to the AJCN Editorial Board immediately after its publication (p. 16) and several letters to her own university's Academic Board (p. 19);
- Brand-Miller also should have informed Akerman that a University of Sydney **security guard** was used in November 2016 to stop me - as a paid-up public-policy-conference participant - asking her publicly about the fake data in her (then-draft) AJCN paper (p. 9);
- Brand-Miller might have informed Akerman, Nick Cater - Executive Director of the Menzies Research Centre (pp. 3-4 and 6) - and her university's Academic Board about the existence of a devastating Investigation report produced by the ABC's Audience and Consumer Affairs (A&CA) group. The suppressed **15-page document** confirms that Brand-Miller has been reckless with facts: she simply refuses to properly correct her false claims, including those based on fake data. Thus, the suppressed report confirms that her *Australian Paradox* research is both an academic disgrace and a scientific fraud (p. 23);
- Brand-Miller also misled Akerman by claiming that - in writing papers (falsely) exonerating sugar as a driver of obesity, type 2 diabetes and related maladies - she has **no conflicts of interest**. Clearly, that is complete nonsense. In fact, Brand-Miller and her "Low GI" crew generate revenue by **recklessly putting healthy stamps on products that are up to 99.4% sugar** (p. 8) while also selling millions of pop-sci diet books that feature the **ridiculous false claim that "There is absolute consensus that sugar in food does not cause [type 2] diabetes"** (also p. 8).

Separately, Brand-Miller and/or Dr Alan Barclay alleged in an Australian National University PhD thesis - published online in 2017 - that **I bribed Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence with a \$10,000 gift**, in an effort to prompt what became Professor Robert Clark AO's formal research-integrity Inquiry into their *Australian Paradox* fictions (p. 5).

In summary, the Charles Perkins Centre's epic *Australian Paradox* fraud has become a clear case of research misconduct, as defined by the National Health and Medical Research Council (p. 20). Indeed, it **may be the best-documented case of serious research misconduct in Group of Eight university history**. (Please review my *Five-year Update*, cited repeatedly in the sugar-tax document above.)

Looking back, the slipperiness of the University of Sydney's senior management in this episode - first, pretending there was no problem, then "disappearing" key evidence in the *Initial Inquiry Report* and, more recently, **pretending that Investigator Robert Clark AO recommended an "update" rather than a new paper confronting key factual issues, including the use of fake data** (p. 5) - demonstrates that the Group of Eight has no competent, trustworthy quality control when it matters.

Given this year's high-profile poisoning of an important public debate with blatantly false information, **the only sensible, scientific response is for the original *Australian Paradox* paper (2011, p. 1) to be formally retracted** (p. 20). Brand-Miller's subsequent Paradox papers - all three disingenuously designed to pretend everything is fine - then should each be assessed for retraction.

Notably, some recent "**blatherings**" by University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence about the need to prioritise Academic Freedom - over reliable information in important public debates - appear to be a smokescreen designed to avoid that proper process of formal retraction, a smokescreen designed to support misbehaving researchers who **help his University to squeeze roughly \$700m per annum from taxpayers, via the false Group of Eight promise of a unique devotion to "excellence" in research**. Dr Spence's facts-don't-matter letter to me is reproduced on page 21.

Readers, all of this matters because the sort of incompetence and fraud documented in the *Australian Paradox* episode is merely **the tip of an enormous iceberg of false diet information that is harming public health across the globe, especially Indigenous health** (pp. 8 and 22).

On that, I wrote to the Department of Health - in National Diabetes Week 2017 - about "**The scandalous mistreatment of Australians with type 2 diabetes (T2D)**": <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/Expanded-Letter-HealthDept-type2diabetes.pdf>

Finally, I am happy to answer any and all questions you have on these matters.

Best wishes,  
Rory

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**Here's me, Emma Alberici and ABC TV's *Lateline* on the University of Sydney's *Australian Paradox***: <http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2015/s4442720.htm>

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*Please reply "Please delete" if you are not involved in this matter and would prefer not to receive my occasional updates.*

**List of letter recipients overleaf**

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Much of the high-profile opposition to proposed sugar tax in Australia is based on the *Australian Paradox* sugar-and-obesity fraud: <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/australian-sugar-tax-debate.pdf>

Here's me, Emma Alberici and ABC TV's *Lateline* on the University of Sydney's *Australian Paradox*: <http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2015/s4442720.htm>

Here's Professor Jennie Brand-Miller and Dr Alan Barclay alleging that I bribed University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence: <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/USyd-Misconduct-in-ANU-PhD.pdf>

During National Diabetes Week, I wrote to the Department of Health about "The scandalous mistreatment of Australians with type 2 diabetes (T2D)": <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/Expanded-Letter-HealthDept-type2diabetes.pdf>

Here's Vice-Chancellor Spence's threat to ban me from campus: (p. 64) <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/Big-5-year-update-Feb-2017.pdf>

Want to stop trends in your family and friends towards obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease and various cancers? Stop eating and drinking sugar: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDaYa0AB8TQ&feature=youtu.be>

Here's the diet advised by Dr Peter Brukner, recently the Australian cricket team's doctor: <http://www.peterbrukner.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/All-you-need-to-know-about-LCHF1.pdf> ; <http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/lowcarb/>

A life in our times: Vale Alexander "Sandy" Robertson (1933-2015): <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/AlecRobertson-born2oct33.pdf>

Comments, criticisms, questions, compliments, whatever welcome at [strathburnstation@gmail.com](mailto:strathburnstation@gmail.com)

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