

On Fri, Nov 29, 2013 at 1:56 PM, Stephen Simpson (CPC) <[stephen.simpson@sydney.edu.au](mailto:stephen.simpson@sydney.edu.au)> wrote:

Dear Rory,

It was a pleasure to meet you yesterday and to get a chance to talk about your concerns over Alan Barclay and Jennie Brand-Miller's paper<sup>1</sup>, as well as to share thoughts on some of the fascinating issues that will become the focus of a new approach to understanding the nutritional determinants of metabolic disease at the Charles Perkins Centre. Upon returning to Sydney this morning, I told Professor Jill Trewhella that we had spoken at the Obesity Australia Summit, and that you have kindly offered to send me a concise list of the factual concerns with the Barclay & Brand-Miller paper. Jill informs me that events have overtaken us, but in a manner that I hope you will find helpful: the University has initiated an independent enquiry into your claims of research misconduct in relation to the paper. I didn't know this, but Jill will be writing to explain what it will entail. With this in mind you may not feel it appropriate to send me a list of concerns with the paper as I will not be involved in the process, but I leave that to you. If you were to send me such a document, I would of course share it with the investigator.

I do hope you have enjoyed the Obesity Australia Summit, and the chance to get to meet some of the people doing their best to help alleviate the individual and societal burden of chronic disease.

Yours ever,  
Steve

<sup>1</sup> Barclay AW, Brand-Miller J: The Australian paradox: a substantial decline in sugars intake over the same timeframe that overweight and obesity have increased. *Nutrients* 2011, 3(4):491–504.

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**fyi: University of Sydney confirms formal investigation into "research misconduct" surrounding the extraordinarily faulty *Australian Paradox* paper**

Dear Professor Simpson (and observers),

Thanks for your update of the situation (attached). And thank you for spending most of an hour with me on Thursday at Obesity Australia's annual summit at the Australian National University in Canberra.

It was an absolute pleasure to meet you. I applaud your determination to ensure that the Charles Perkins Centre produces and promotes scientific research reflecting only the highest standards of competence and integrity. I wish I had met you sooner, in part because I came away greatly impressed, and in part because I might have saved myself a great deal of time and effort.

In terms of the concise critique of Professor Jennie Brand-Miller and Dr Alan Barclay's extraordinary faulty *Australian Paradox* paper you requested, the following piece best conveys my concerns about the lack of competent quality control in research at the University of Sydney in general, and at the new \$500 million Charles Perkins Centre in particular: <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/quickquizresearch.pdf>

My *GraphicEvidence* piece is a more-expansive version - Exhibit A for investigators - that features the authors' own published charts – a series of upward-sloping charts that obviously, if bizarrely, contradict

their main "finding" of "a consistent and substantial decline". Clearly, the paper is a joke:

<http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/GraphicEvidence.pdf>

Importantly, I have documented what I consider to be a serious breach by the University of Sydney's influential scientists and senior management of the National Health and Medical Research Council's formal *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*: scroll down to Sections 1-10 in <http://www.australianparadox.com/>

You may know that Professor Jill Trehwella and I had a detailed discussion of this serious matter over a year ago. But nothing came of it: (scroll down to page 4) <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/Sept2012-Conversations.pdf>

Steve, my apologies for feeling the need to provide this communication to outside observers. After spending a ridiculous amount of time and effort - since February 2012 - on what should have been a simple matter of the University insisting on the retraction of an extraordinarily faulty "peer reviewed" paper self-published by its influential food-industry service providers, I do feel a need to allow others - including my family, friends and colleagues, and my professional and media contacts – to see that the University now is, after an inexplicable delay, taking my concerns seriously. (So I'll take the rest of the weekend off!)

I've been arguing near and far for the retraction of the University of Sydney's "shonky sugar study" for such a long time. Obviously I'll be disappointed if Professor Trehwella's belated investigation somehow fails to make that happen.

Best wishes,  
Rory

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**rory robertson**

**[economist and former-fattie](#)**

**Are you getting fat and sick?** Want to stop trends in your family and friends towards obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease and cancer? Well, it's time to stop eating and drinking sugar:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDaYa0AB8TQ&feature=youtu.be>

**Join the push to give all kids a fairer start in life:** <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/Sugary-Drinks-Ban.pdf>

**Click and scroll down for a time-tested diet to reverse obesity and type 2 diabetes:**

<http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/why-we-get-fat.pdf>

**And here's why it works:**

<http://garytaubes.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/WWGF-Readers-Digest-feature-Feb-2011.pdf>

Outsized rates of sugar consumption – alongside alcohol and tobacco – are a major driver of the **unacceptable "gap" in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians**: see the bottom row of Box/Table 2 in <https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2013/198/7/characteristics-community-level-diet-aboriginal-people-remote-northern-australia>

Isn't it ironic (or worse): **the Charles Perkins Centre's highest-profile obesity and diabetes experts** have devoted themselves to falsely exonerating sugar as a menace to public health:

<http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/diabetes.pdf> ; <http://www.smh.com.au/national/university-sets-up-500m-centre-for-obesity-research-20130724-2qjq8.html>

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

[www.strathburn.com](http://www.strathburn.com)

**Strathburn Cattle Station is a proud partner of YALARI,**

Australia's leading provider of quality boarding-school educations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teenagers. Check it out at <http://www.strathburn.com/yalari.php>