

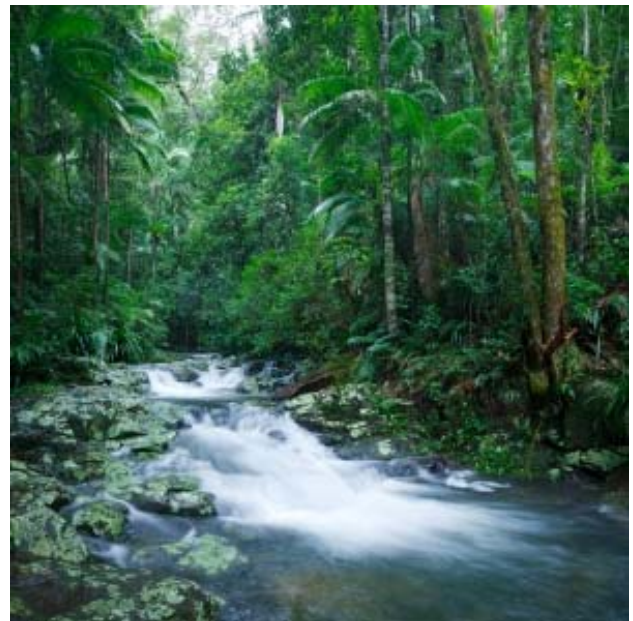
RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Alzheimer's treatment from native tropical rainforest plants

Associate Professor Gerald Muench from the School of Medicine, together with EcoBiotics Limited, has been awarded a UWS Research Partnership grant to identify compounds from Australian native tropical rainforest plants for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and other neuro-inflammatory diseases.

'One of the most important developments facing human society in the next decades is the increase in both the absolute number as well as the relative proportion of the elderly,' says Associate Professor Muench. 'Age is the leading risk factor for many of the most prevalent and devastating diseases such as chronic neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's disease. Patients with neurodegenerative diseases not only suffer emotionally and physically but also represent a significant financial and emotional burden for caregivers, society and the community. We need to find the causes of neurodegenerative diseases and, based on these findings, develop novel therapies that prevent or treat such diseases.'

The research team will test a variety of compounds isolated from Australian tropical rainforest plants, particularly from Northern Queensland, for their anti-inflammatory and neuroprotective potential. A number of these plant extracts have already demonstrated these activities in non-Alzheimer related studies, and will now be tested (and further purified) in cell culture models mimicking the inflammatory scenario of Alzheimer's disease.



This research program will contribute to the development of evidence-based, effective, and safe health care products (pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals and herbal medicines) for promoting general health and preventing ageing related diseases.

Project Title: Identification of anti-inflammatory and neuroprotective compounds from native Australian plants

Funding has been set at: \$15,000

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<http://www.uws.edu.au/medicine>

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For more information on UWS Research Partnership Program, check:

http://www.uws.edu.au/research/researchers/funding_opportunities/internal_research_grants