

Subject: FW: New US Defence Research Agency funds rodent gene drive system as part of \$65m/4 yr program fyi

From: Royden Saah <royden.saah@islandconservation.org>

Date: 8/1/2017 11:32 PM

To: "Fred Gould (fred_gould@ncsu.edu)" <fred_gould@ncsu.edu>, "john_godwin@ncsu.edu" <john_godwin@ncsu.edu>, "Toni.J.Piaggio@aphis.usda.gov" <Toni.J.Piaggio@aphis.usda.gov>, "John.D.Eisemann@aphis.usda.gov" <John.D.Eisemann@aphis.usda.gov>, David Threadgill <dwthreadgill@tamu.edu>, "paul.thomas (paul.thomas@adelaide.edu.au)" <paul.thomas@adelaide.edu.au>, Daniel Tompkins <TompkinsD@landcareresearch.co.nz>, Karl Campbell <karl.campbell@islandconservation.org>, Gregg Howald <gregg.howald@islandconservation.org>

CC: Heath Packard <heath.packard@islandconservation.org>, "Peter.Brown@csiro.au" <Peter.Brown@csiro.au>

Hi GBIRd Steering Committee,

This article popped up. Simon is with the CRC, which is aware, but not really dialed in with the details.

I think this will re-stimulate the issue of focusing communication directly on Island Conservation v. Agriculture and/or Human Health.

Best-
rs

From: Peter.Brown@csiro.au [mailto:Peter.Brown@csiro.au]

Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 1:09 PM

To: Royden Saah <royden.saah@islandconservation.org>

Cc: Mark.Tizard@csiro.au; Tanja.Strive@csiro.au; Peter.Caley@data61.csiro.au; Keith.Hayes@data61.csiro.au; Owain.Edwards@csiro.au; Andy.Sheppard@csiro.au; Steve.Henry@csiro.au

Subject: FW: New US Defence Research Agency funds rodent gene drive system as part of \$65m/4 yr program fyi

Hi Royden,

See below from Simon Humphrys (CISS) who was interviewed for a story published in the Weekly Times (link below).

Please feel free to pass on to the GBIRd listserve (wanted you to see if first).

Regards,

Peter.

Dr Peter R. Brown

Senior Research Scientist | Agriculture & Global Change

CSIRO Agriculture & Food

[E Peter.Brown@csiro.au](mailto:Peter.Brown@csiro.au) **T** 02 6246 4086 **M** 0406 753 365

Black Mountain Laboratories, Clunies Ross St, Black Mountain ACT 2601

GPO Box 1700, Canberra, ACT 2601

www.csiro.au | <http://people.csiro.au/B/P/Peter-Brown.aspx>

From: Simon Humphrys [<mailto:Simon.Humphrys@invasives.com.au>]

Sent: Wednesday, 2 August 2017 11:20 AM

To: Sheppard, Andy (H&B, Black Mountain) <Andy.Sheppard@csiro.au>; Brown, Peter (A&F, Black Mountain) <Peter.Brown@csiro.au>

Cc: Carolyn Campbell-Wood <carolyn.campbell-wood@invasives.com.au>; Andreas Glanznig <Andreas.Glanznig@invasives.com.au>; Ian McDonald <Ian.McDonald@invasives.com.au>

Subject: FW: New US Defence Research Agency funds rodent gene drive system as part of \$65m/4 yr program fyi

Dear Andy and Peter,

I wanted to give you both a heads up about an article printed in the Weekly Times today (link below). It relates to controlling mice and I was called up by the journalist (Emma) on Monday evening, presumably because of my role in the GRDC funded projects and past interviews with the paper.

<http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/news/national/eradicating-mice-gene-technology-being-developed-as-crop-losses-mount/news-story/f49e3e8de80275b78151b38c5e909c73>

For context, Emma was interested to know whether gene-drives could one day be used to control mouse plagues. I said the technology was pretty amazing, potentially species specific, and technically yes, but with caveats around assessing effectiveness, reversibility, and the need for social licence before it could be rolled out. To that end, I pointed her to the international collaboration, emphasised CSIRO was the lead organisation in Australia and a partner in the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions. You can see that in the email trail below.

I certainly intended for Emma to know and report that CSIRO was the point organisation not CISS, which was only keeping a watching brief via CSIRO and USDA. I've talked through the unintended consequences of my 10 minute phone chat with both Andreas and Carolyn this morning and want to let you both know that in future I'll refer any questions around gene-drives and mice to Peter, as neither I or anyone at Invasive Animals want to in anyway diminish the work CSIRO is doing in this field.

If there are any remedial solutions for any issue I have inadvertently created please let me know.

Kind regards,

Simon.

Simon Humphrys | Program Leader
Management Systems and Tools



CENTRE FOR
INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS

CSIRO Building C1, University of
Adelaide, Waite Campus, Urrbrae, 5064
0428 225530

simon.humphrys@invasives.com.au
2017 FULBRIGHT PROFESSIONAL CORAL SEA
SCHOLAR



invasives.com.au

pestsmart.org.au



IMPORTANT: The information in this e-mail together with any attachments is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material of the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, copying or use of the information is strictly prohibited. Please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately.

From: Simon Humphrys

Sent: Monday, 31 July 2017 5:38 PM

To: 'Field, Emma' <emma.field@news.com.au>

Subject: FW: New US Defence Research Agency funds rodent gene drive system as part of \$65m/4 yr program fyi

Hi Emma,

As promised here's the email links to the international collaboration to which CSIRO are a partner (GBIRD) and the wider US led R&D that has just been funded to the tune of \$65M USD.

I've currently got another project on which the USDA is a collaborator so the centre for invasive species solutions is keeping a watching brief over the global research effort into gene-drive technology via both organisations.

Good talking with you this afternoon,

Simon.

Simon Humphrys | Program Leader
Management Systems and Tools



CENTRE FOR
INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS

CSIRO Building C1, University of
Adelaide, Waite Campus, Urrbrae, 5064
0428 225530

simon.humphrys@invasives.com.au

2017 FULBRIGHT PROFESSIONAL CORAL SEA
SCHOLAR



invasives.com.au

pestsmart.org.au



IMPORTANT: The information in this e-mail together with any attachments is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material of the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, copying or use of the information is strictly prohibited. Please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately.

From: Andy.Sheppard@csiro.au [<mailto:Andy.Sheppard@csiro.au>]
Sent: Monday, 24 July 2017 3:06 PM
To: Andreas Glanznig <Andreas.Glanznig@invasives.com.au>; Ken Young <ken.young@grdc.com.au>
Cc: Simon Humphrys <Simon.Humphrys@invasives.com.au>
Subject: RE: New US Defence Research Agency funds rodent gene drive system as part of \$65m/4 yr program fyi

All

Here is the consortium website www.geneticbiocontrol.org with all the partners listed

Andy

Dr Andy Sheppard

Research Director - Managing Invasive Species & Diseases – Health & Biosecurity |
Officer in Charge CSIRO European laboratory | CSIRO
Phone: +61 2 6246 4198 | andy.sheppard@csiro.au |

[CSIRO Biodiversity Book](#) - a free downloadable eBook on the science solutions to managing Australian biodiversity!!!

From: Andreas Glanznig [<mailto:Andreas.Glanznig@invasives.com.au>]
Sent: Monday, 24 July 2017 2:18 PM
To: Ken Young <ken.young@grdc.com.au>
Cc: Simon Humphrys <Simon.Humphrys@invasives.com.au>; Sheppard, Andy (H&B, Black Mountain) <Andy.Sheppard@csiro.au>
Subject: New US Defence Research Agency funds rodent gene drive system as part of \$65m/4 yr program fyi

Hi Ken

Hope all is well.

As previously discussed, CISS intends to include a genetic biocontrol project to assess the suitability of gene drive tech. for vertebrate pest control as part of its balanced portfolio.

Fyi, of relevance to this CISS project is a new \$65m/4 yr US Defense Advanced Research Projects program that includes:

A [North Carolina State University \(NCSU\)](#) team led by Dr. John Godwin aims to develop and test a mammalian gene drive system in rodents. The team's genetic technique targets population-specific genetic variants found only in particular invasive communities of animals. If successful, the work will expand the tools available to manage invasive species that threaten biodiversity and human food security, and that serve as potential reservoirs of infectious diseases affecting native animal and human populations. The team also plans to develop mathematical models of how drives would function in mice, and then perform testing in contained, simulated natural environments to gauge the robustness, spatial limitation, and reversibility of the drives.

More info at:

<https://www.darpa.mil/news-events/2017-07-19>

Cheers
Andreas

Andreas Glanznig | Chief Executive



CENTRE FOR
INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS

Building 22, University of Canberra, University Drive South, BRUCE ACT 2617
(02) 6201 2887 | 0417 020 174
andreas.glanznic@invasives.com.au

invasives.com.au

pestsmart.org.au



IMPORTANT: The information in this e-mail together with any attachments is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material of the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, copying or use of the information is strictly prohibited. Please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately.