

Ann Drummond

After completing High School in 1982, I embarked on a Bachelor of Science degree at Monash University. In 1986, I completed an Honours year working with Gail Risbridger who was then based at the Anatomy Dept of Monash University and working in the area of testicular physiology. Hooked on research, I stayed on to complete a PhD entitled 'Regulation of Leydig cell development and function', which I submitted in December 1990. Circumstances prevented me heading overseas to do a postdoc at the time and so I took a position as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry (now Biochemistry and Molecular Biology), also at Monash University. During this period my research area changed from male to female reproductive biology and I undertook studies to investigate the role of bFGF in ovarian function. After 3 years in the job it was clear I was much more interested in research than teaching and in 1994, an opportunity arose for me to join the Reproductive Biology Program Grant at Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research (PHIMR), and work with Jock Findlay, a guru in the area of ovarian physiology. I've been at PHIMR ever since working my way through RO to SRO6 on successive program grants. Throughout this period I've taken maternity leave and in 2001, had an extended period of sick leave. I've been fortunate to have an uninterrupted period of funding with which to pursue my research goals and I can only attribute this to the fact that I work as part of a great team.