

### FEBRUARY 2016

# HELLO WORLD











Sleep is the sweet balm that soothes and restores us after a long day of work and play. So why do people show up at SRI International in their pajamas to spend the night? This was the question I asked of Fiona Baker, Ph.D., Senior Program Director of SRI's Human Sleep Research. Fiona's sleep research includes a focus on women and adolescents. She has published a number of articles on how menopause affects sleep and is especially interested in women's health. You will often find her in Washington lobbying for additional research dollars to be allocated to women's health as part of the Society for Women's Health Research.

Growing up in South Africa, Fiona attended the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. She loves working at SRI International because the sleep group is full of hardworking, invested researchers who enjoy each other's company. One of their big projects is studying sleep and adolescents. There is a large amount of brain development during adolescence – as much as during the first few years of life. One question that many sleep research subjects ask in the morning is, "What was I dreaming about?" So far, that question is not one that can be answered, but perhaps in the future there will be a research grant for that! Another study is the circadian rhythm, or changes in the timing of sleep.

For those whose sleep is elusive or otherwise troubled, or if you just want to contribute to science, show up in your pajamas for a sleep study at SRI International, but you had better sign up first!

Fiona also loves to travel. Every time she travels, she gets a firsthand experience in jetlag and how difficult it is to kid your body that it really is morning when all you feel like doing is sleeping! For SRI International purposes, she travels to conferences, mostly about sleep...and yes, they do actually exist! Other travels include vacations to visit family in Turkey and South Africa. On a recent trip to Dodge Ridge, in Northern California's High Sierra mountains, her whole family learned to ski.

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It was a delight to talk with Fiona – now I need to go take a nap.

Steve Bowles CEO/CFO



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