

PUBLIC HEALTH SEMINAR SERIES

Seminar Room, Level 1
102 Adelaide Road, Wellington

The AMAZES study – Using macrolide antibiotics to reduce asthma exacerbations

Presented by: Associate Professor Jodie Simpson

Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Asthma and Respiratory Disease,
The University of Newcastle

AND

Developing an asthma gene signature

Presented by: Dr Katherine Baines

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Centre for Asthma and Respiratory Disease,
The University of Newcastle

Thursday 5th December, 2013

12.30pm to 1.30pm



Jodie Simpson is a senior research fellow in The University of Newcastle's Priority Research Centre for Asthma and Respiratory Disease and the current holder of the Australian Respiratory Council's Ann Woolcock Research Fellowship. Her research focuses on the inflammatory biomarkers of airways disease and she has a particular interest in innate immune pathways and their role in airways disease. In 2005, Jodie completed her PhD where she identified and characterised four inflammatory phenotypes in asthma based on the presence or absence of increased sputum eosinophil and neutrophil proportions. This work has led to further investigations of asthma inflammatory phenotypes using gene expression profiling and recently the identification of novel biomarkers for asthma and COPD.

Dr Simpson designed and conducted the first RCT of macrolide antibiotics in severe refractory asthma, this research was pivotal in her success with a large NHMRC project grant awarded in 2008 to investigate macrolide antibiotic therapy in asthma as a multi-centre RCT (The AMAZES study). In her earlier work, Dr Simpson demonstrated that macrolide antibiotics are an effective anti-inflammatory therapy in non-eosinophilic refractory asthma. She is currently working on the AMAZES study collaborating with centres around Australia and working on 2 sub-studies, the first looking at macrophage phagocytosis and the second investigating airway and systemic inflammation in asthma subtypes.



Dr Baines is Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine, Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) and the Priority Research Centre for Asthma and Respiratory Disease, The University of Newcastle. Her research interests surround the role of gene-environment interactions in the development and pathogenesis of respiratory diseases including asthma and COPD. Dr Baines uses high throughput genomics technologies to understand more about molecular mechanisms of respiratory diseases, particularly phenotype definition, biomarker identification and the relationship of gene expression to clinical outcomes and responses to treatments.

This is a series of public health seminars hosted by:

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