

Tomorrow's Leaders of Health and Medical Research
YOUNG INVESTIGATORS MEET IN ACT

Did you know the incidence of HIV in older persons is significantly increasing internationally?

Michelle Robinson from ANU Medical School has audited patients 50 years and over diagnosed with HIV. The study confirms older adults have limited HIV awareness and exhibit risk behaviour.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Dr Julia Schaft, Sydney IVF

Dr Peter Bird, Therapeutic Goods Administration

Professor Carola Vinuesa, JCSMR

Shaking a drug cocktail for aggressive breast cancer

Triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) is the most aggressive form of breast cancer and it is resistant to tailored therapies which are effective for other types of breast cancer. Integrating experimental and computational biology approaches, this study seeks to predict optimal drug combinations to treat TNBC. Miriam Brandl and her colleagues at the School of Engineering and Information Technology, UNSW believe this new strategy of profiling drug cocktails is a promising tool to discover effective combinations.

Simple blood test helps patients with kidney failure

Patients suffering from renal failure are often treated with haemodialysis, which is a method to remove waste products and water from blood. A catheter is frequently used to extract blood in order to purify it before returning it to the patient, however scarring and vein narrowing at the site of the catheter can block off the vein and cause complications. Ultrasound dilution is the gold standard method to monitor any possible obstruction, however it requires an expensive device that is not available in all dialysis centres. Simon Jiang from the Department of Renal Medicine at The Canberra Hospital, is working on a simple haemoglobin dilution test to provide an accurate measure of the speed of blood flow when blood samples are taken at the beginning of dialysis, circumventing the need for the expensive transonic ultrasound dilution equipment.

Early detection for Ross River and Chikungunya viruses now possible

Guifang Shang from the University of Canberra has developed one diagnostic test that can detect both Ross River and Chikungunya viruses, much earlier than currently available tests. This new detection method enables treatment for these mosquito-borne viruses to start sooner, greatly benefiting patients who suffer from headaches, fever, rash, lethargy, and muscle and joint pain.

Editors Note –

- Awards Presentation at 3:45pm.
- Presentations by Professor Chris Parrish from the John Curtin School of Medical Research
- Photo opportunities

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The ASMR MRW® undertaken by ASMR is supported by funding from The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

