

MEDIA ALERT – REGIONAL SCHOOLS TOURS

YOUNG SCIENTISTS SPEAK TO KIDS IN RURAL VIC JUNE 20 - 22

BALLARAT, DERRINALLUM, GEELONG, BENALLA, KYNETON, CASTLEMAINE, TRALGON, SALE, YARRAWONGA, WEST WODONGA, WANGARATTA

16 young scientists, lead by Dr Renea Taylor visit, or return to, regional schools in Victoria, urging students to consider a career in medical research.

These dedicated scientists will talk about their own work and the contribution it can make to the health and well being of all Australians.

Speakers include:

Cathryn Hogarth, a PhD student at Monash Institute of Medical Research, *former student of Wangaratta High School and winner of the WISE Award*. Cathryn's research centres on the machinery that drives the development of sperm in the testis.

Tye Dawood (Ballarat, Derrinallum, Geelong), a PhD student at the Baker Heart Research Institute and Monash University. **Is it possible to die of a broken heart?**

Tasha Czarny, a researcher with the Animal Gene Resource and Storage Centre. Part of Tasha's work is investigating the genetics and reproductive hormones of species including the *Eastern Quoll and New Holland Mouse*, both of which are in decline.

and

- **Kathy Davidson**, PhD Student at Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories. Finding more effective treatments for disease.
- **Brook Harcourt**, Honours student, Baker Heart Research Institute. Studying diabetes.
- **Hayley Barnes**, Honours student, BakerHeart Research Institute. Focussing on immunology and atherosclerosis.
- **Amy Nisselle**, PhD student, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, evaluating multimedia genetic education in Victorian Secondary Schools.
- **Steven Jackson**, PhD student, Monash Immunology & Stem Cell Laboratories. Studying stem cells through stages of development.
- **Heneu Tan**, PhD student, Howard Florey Institute. Working on epilepsy.
- **Tu'Uhevaha Kaituu**, PhD student, Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research. Studying the underlying mechanisms of menstruation.
- **Anne Fletcher**, PhD student, Monash Immunology & Stem Cell Laboratories, looking at the immune system.

Dr Renea Taylor, co-ordinating the tour, is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories, her work focuses on prostate cancer.

Dr Taylor hopes to inspire country kids to make a similar journey to hers... from Sale to "the big smoke" to become a medical research scientist!

Media Contact: Dr Sarah Meachem on 0412 640 774 or Nicola Smith – 0412 101 871

Further information available from www.asmr.org.au/media on Renea Taylor, Cathryn Hogarth, Tye Dawood, Tasha Czarny