



# CRE ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STREAM NEWSLETTER

**April 2013**

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Welcome to the first electronic newsletter of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander stream of the Centre for Research Excellence in Immunisation. We aim to distribute these newsletters quarterly from here on to keep you in the loop about what's happening within the CRE.

We will be calling for stories..... so keep them coming in to Elizabeth at [e.kpozehoven@unsw.edu.au](mailto:e.kpozehoven@unsw.edu.au)

## Welcome to our new members

This month we officially welcomed three new stream members who will work on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific projects within the CRE.

### By way of introduction

**Ms Megan Williams** is a Wiradjuri woman with extensive experience in health and health research who is about to submit her PhD. Megan will be supported as a Professional Research Person within the CRE to progress the work she has already undertaken in her PhD.

#### **Project title:**

Exploring Immunisation issues among Aboriginal men.

#### **Aims:**

To explore Aboriginal men understanding

of their immunization status, to explore strategies to improve coverage among Aboriginal men and to understand Aboriginal men access to health care services.

#### **Methods:**

Data will be obtained through interviews and focus groups with participants who are the men in criminal justice system.

**Mrs Amy Creighton** is a Gamilaroi woman with strong connections to the Tamworth community and an extensive history in health and Aboriginal affairs in Northern NSW. Through the CRE and with the supervision of Associate Professor Julie Leask and Dr Peter Massey she will be an outstanding contributor to the CRE. Amy's project details are as follows:

**Project title:**

Developing an understanding of how two Aboriginal communities see and experience immunisation during pregnancy.

**Methods:** A participatory action research (PAR) framework using decolonising methodologies. Data will be collected by in-depth interviews with about 25 Aboriginal people from 2 communities and semi structured interviews with health providers within the community

Aboriginals will represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

**Dr Jenny Royle** is a paediatrician based in Melbourne and a CRE fellow.

Jenny's project will be aiming to identify culturally sensitive approaches to improve immunisation coverage and timeliness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families.



## Proposed projects

Aside from the above three important projects of our new members the following have been proposed as projects within our stream

■ Immunisation Capacity of Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS's) in New South Wales : **Ms Telfia Joseph**

**Aims:** to describe the ways in which AMS's contribute to Aboriginal childhood-immunisation and evaluate how immunisation undertaken through an AMS is reported to ACIR.

**Methods:** Data shall be obtained via surveys and in depth interviews with Clinic Staff from as many AMS's in NSW as possible .

■ Linkage of the Australian Childhood Immunization Register (ACIR) and State-based registers to evaluate and inform Australia's immunization program - including CRE members: **Dr Heather Gidding, Dr Bette Liu, and Professor Peter McIntyre**

**Aims:** to accurately measure the relationship between vaccination uptake, timeliness of vaccination, and development of disease, particularly in specific risk populations who may experience a higher burden of infection, such as Aboriginal children.

## Have you received your Research Roundtable report yet?

As part of our initial consultations we held a research roundtable with representative of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector in Sydney. If you would like a copy of the report please contact Elizabeth ([e.kpozehoven@unsw.edu.au](mailto:e.kpozehoven@unsw.edu.au)).

## Interested in being a member of the NSW Aboriginal Immunisation Reference Group?

We are currently seeking members for the NSW Aboriginal Immunisation Reference Group to provide Aboriginal community perspectives on the Aboriginal component of the research that will be conducted as part of the ACIR linkage study described above. If you would like to be a member of the Reference Group please let Heather Gidding know ([hgidding@unsw.edu.au](mailto:hgidding@unsw.edu.au)) and she can send you some more details.

## A reminder of dates: the CRE is funded until 2016

Thus we have plenty of time to develop research proposals of local or national interest. Any ideas from you regarding research projects or evaluations of current service delivery or projects we should know about? Drop us a line and we will get back to you...

## New publications

● Liu B, Guthridge S, Li SQ, Markey P, Krause V, McIntyre P, Sullivan E, Ward J, Wood N, Kaldor JM. The end of the Australia antigen? An ecological study of the impact of universal newborn hepatitis B vaccination two decades on. *Vaccine*. 30(50): 7309-14. 2012 Nov 26. DOI: 10.1016/j.vaccine.2012.09.033. [[Full text](#)]

● MacLachlan J H, Allard N, Towell V, Cowie B C. The burden of chronic hepatitis B virus infection in Australia 2011. Published online: 2013 Mar 20. DOI: 10.1111/1753-6405.12049 [[Full text](#)]

## CONTACT US

CRE Office | Room 323 | Level 3 Samuels Building | The School of Public Health and Community Medicine | Gate 11 Botany Street, Randwick | The University of New South Wales, Sydney NSW 2052, Australia. Website: [www.creimmunisation.com.au](http://www.creimmunisation.com.au)



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