We live in an ageing society, where positive ageing and prevention are key to a healthy future. Vaccines can prevent disease, suffering and death. The elderly are at increased risks of vaccine preventable diseases such as influenza, pneumococcal disease, herpes zoster and pertussis.

Immunisation is an effective and available strategy for reducing disease burden in the elderly, yet vaccines for the elderly are under-utilised and under-valued compared to children.

“Pneumonia is the old man’s friend” is a common misperception, laden with value judgement about the elderly and does not take into account the suffering associated with acute infections, nor the transmissibility to others. The “older” elderly and people with dementia are less likely to be vaccinated than younger, more health elderly. For many reasons, there are missed opportunities for preventing vaccine preventable-diseases and suffering in the elderly.

The NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Population Health “Immunisation in under Studied and Special Risk Populations: Closing the Gap in Knowledge through a Multidisciplinary Approach” is dedicated to identifying and addressing challenges of immunisation for the elderly population as one of its four theme areas.

The workshop will feature international and national speakers on aging and vaccinology (pneumococcal disease, quadrivalent influenza vaccine, herpes zoster and pertussis), including Professor David Goldblatt, University College London, who will speak on the future of pneumococcal vaccines for the elderly. The workshop will provide an update on the latest evidence around immunisation for the elderly, and will address barriers for prevention of infection in the elderly. Find the workshop program below.

Target groups:
Stakeholders in immunisation, ageing and health, primary care, health services providers for the elderly group, insurance, researchers, government and non-government organisations, community representatives and advocacy groups.

REGISTER (Free entry)
For further information, visit our website here or contact Ms Elizabeth Kpozehouen: e.kpozehoven@unsw.edu.au

Workshop sponsors
Workshop program

8:15  Registration

8:45  Welcome to country – Aunty Diane Kerr, Wurundjeri Elder

8:50  Keynote address – Mr Max Walker, AM, Former Australian cricketer & VNR/AFL footballer, commentator, author, architect & marketer

9:10  Welcome – Mr Michael Moore, Former Minister of Health and Community Care & CEO, Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA)

Scientific updates part 1 – Chair, A/Professor Chris Poulos

9:20  Is the glass half empty or half full? Changing the paradigm of vaccination for the elderly – Professor Raina MacIntyre, Head, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW & Director, NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Population Health Research

9:40  The future of elderly pneumococcal vaccination – Professor David Goldblatt, Professor of Vaccinology and Immunology, Institute of Child Health, University College London & Director, World Health Organization (WHO) Pneumococcal Reference Laboratory

10:00 Community-Acquired Pneumonia Immunization Trial in Adults (CAPiTA) – Dr Scott Williams, Associate Medical Director, Pfizer Australia & New Zealand

10:20 Economic evaluation of elderly vaccination programs – Dr Anthony Newall, Senior Lecturer in Health Economics, The School of Public Health and Community Medicine (SPHCM), University of New South Wales

10:40  Morning Tea

Scientific updates part 2 – Chair A/Professor Michael Woodward

11:00  Risk factors for herpes zoster – results from a large Australian cohort study – Dr Bette Liu, Senior Lecturer, School of Public Health and Community Medicine UNSW & a NHMRC Career Development Fellow

11:20  Can the impact of Herpes Zoster on quality of life be improved? – Dr David Gronow, President, Australian Pain Relief Association; Director of Sydney Pain Management Centre & Director of Multidisciplinary Pain Services, Westmead Hospital

11:40  What role is there for quadrivalent influenza in the elderly? – Dr Francois Meurice, Vice-President, Global Medical Affairs, Scientific Affairs & Medical Education, GSK
12:00  Lunch

Panel discussion: How good is good enough for the elderly?
Chair – Professor Raina MacIntyre

13:00  Ethics perspective on value judgement in preventive health for the elderly –
Dr Michael Chapman, Geriatrician and palliative care physician, St Vincent Health

13:10  Vulnerability and risk in the elderly – Dr Joanne Travaglia, Senior Lecturer & Head,
Health Management Program, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW

13:20  Under vaccination of the elderly – A/Professor Michael Woodward, Senior Geriatrician,
Austin Health

13:30  Staying strong and growing old: A Koori case study – Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver,
Inaugural Chair of Indigenous Health & Professor of Public Health, UNSW

13:40  Challenges of positive ageing in nursing homes sector – A/Professor Christopher Poulos,
Senior Rehabilitation Physician & Foundation Hammond Chair of Positive Ageing and Care, UNSW

13:50  Panel Discussion
Panellists
Prof Raina MacIntyre (facilitator), Dr Tim Adair, Dr Michael Chapman, Dr David Gronow,
A/Prof Christopher Poulos, Prof Lisa Jackson Pulver, Ms Marie Skinner, Dr Joanne Travaglia,
A/Prof Michael Woodward

14:50  Afternoon tea

Panel discussion – Emerging preventable diseases & the future of vaccines in
the elderly, Chair – Professor Terry Nolan

15:10  Pertussis in the elderly – Dr David Johnson, Vice President & Global Medical Expert, Sanofi
Pasteur

15:35  What’s on the horizon for vaccines for the elderly? – Professor Terry Nolan,
Head of the School of Population Health, The University of Melbourne; Head of the Vaccine
& Immunisation Research Group & Chair of the ATAGI

15:45  Panel discussion
Panellists
Prof Terry Nolan (facilitator); Prof David Goldblatt; Dr David Johnson; Dr François Meurice,
Dr Scott Williams

16.20  Close