

2023 SoCM Randwick HDR Presentations

**Paediatrics and Child Health
and Childhood Cancer**

7th – 30th November

Head of Randwick Clinical Campus Message

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2023 SocM Randwick HDR Presentations for Paediatrics & Child Health and Childhood Cancer (formerly Paediatric Research Week). The Program will span the month of November with presentations from our Higher Degree Research (HDR) candidates and Guest Speakers.

Our outstanding program reflects how the Discipline of Paediatrics and Child Health, within the new School of Clinical Medicine, continues to flourish and invests in the next generation of researchers and health professionals.

I must extend a big thank you to our committed supervisors who donate their time to lead and mentor our HDR candidates enabling them to build a solid foundation in research for their clinical or scientific careers.

Thank you also to our judges who will decide the overall winner of the Presentations.

I would like to thank the committee for putting together this wonderful showcase.

I would like to encourage as many of you as possible, and in particular, all supervisors, to join as many sessions as possible to support our students. It is an expectation that all HDR candidates attend all sessions to support your colleagues.

Enjoy the presentations and I look forward to seeing more of you in person in the future.



Professor Adam Jaffe

John Beveridge Professor of Paediatrics
Head, Discipline of Paediatrics and Child Health
Head, Randwick Clinical Campus
School of Clinical Medicine

TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2023

Paediatrics and Child Health and Childhood Cancer HDR Presentations

John Beveridge Lecture Theatre, Sydney Children's Hospital

[ONLINE VIA TEAMS](#)

To register please visit the [eventbrite](#) page

SESSION 1 9:00-10:30am		CHAIR: Farah Akram
Prof Richard Lock and Dr Steven Leach – Welcome		
Sin Wi Ng	Developing small molecule compounds as enhancers of HDAC inhibitors for the treatment of high-risk medulloblastoma through targeting MYC/MYCN oncogenic signalling Supervisors: Belamy Cheung, Kevin Wang	Year 3 PhD
Yashna Walia	Epigenetic profiling and eradication of relapse-initiating cells in paediatric acute lymphoblastic leukaemia Supervisors: Charley De Bock, Richard Lock	Year 2 PhD
Md Jahidul Hasan	Developing therapeutic and preventative strategies for children with high-risk neuroblastoma Supervisors: Belamy Cheung, Margaret Morris, Ritupama Mitra	Year 2 PhD
10:10am Morning Tea (20 mins)		
SESSION 2 10:30am-12:00pm		CHAIR: Sin Wi Ng
Aqsa Mazhar	Identification of ALYREF-MYCN complex Inhibitor to treat high-risk Neuroblastoma and Developing combination therapy for Rhabdomyosarcoma through CRISPR technology Supervisors: Belamy Cheung, Kevin Wang, Sukriti Krishan	Year 1 PhD
Daenikka Ravindrarajah	Identifying synthetic lethality using CRISPR to develop novel combination therapies for high-risk Ewing's Sarcoma Supervisors: Belamy Cheung, Sukriti Krishan	Year 3 PhD
Kate Marshall	Complex congenital heart disease across the lifespan: Developing an approach to mental health care for people with a Fontan circulation and their families. Supervisors: Adam Jaffe, Nadine Kasparian, Sue Woolfenden, David Celermajer	Year 4 PhD
12.00pm End of Day		

WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2023

Paediatrics and Child Health and Childhood Cancer HDR Presentations

John Dwyer Lecture Theatre, Edmund Blakett North Building, PoW Hospital

[ONLINE VIA TEAMS](#)

To register please visit the [eventbrite](#) page

SESSION 3 9:00-10:20am		CHAIR: Daenikka Ravindrarajah
Manjekah Dunn	Evaluating an Educational Toolkit for Health Professionals to support inclusive and accessible genetic healthcare for people with intellectual disability Supervisors: Emma Palmer, Iva Strnadova, Jackie Leach Scully	Year 2 MRes
Steven He	Functional genomics: Screening strategies for target identification in paediatric cancer Supervisors: Antoine De Weck, Paul Ekert, Patrick Connerty	Year 1 PhD
Lakshika Waththage	Advancing mRNA nanoparticles encoding chimeric antigen receptors to target and potentially suppress Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma. Supervisors: Maria Kavallaris, Ernest Moles Meler, Joshua McCarroll, David Ziegler	Year 2 PhD
10:10am Morning Tea (20 mins)		
SESSION 4 10.30-12.00pm		CHAIR: Steven He
Guest Speaker		
Faezah Khalili	Molecular determinants of responses of paediatric acute lymphoblastic leukaemia to novel targeted drugs Supervisors: Richard Lock, Paul Ekert, Mark Cowley, Cara Toscan	Year 3 PhD
Karen McCleary	Addressing the Burden of Paediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL): Predicting severe toxicities and evaluating educational and economic consequences Supervisors: Toby Trahair, Joanna Fardell, Mark Thomas	Year 3 PhD
12.00pm End of day		

THURSDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2023

Paediatrics and Child Health and Childhood Cancer HDR Presentations

John Beveridge Lecture Theatre, Sydney Children's Hospital

[ONLINE VIA TEAMS](#)

To register please visit the [eventbrite](#) page

SESSION 5 9:00-10:40am		CHAIR: Lakshmi Balaji
Megan Frohlich	Understanding treatment mechanisms in Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia Supervisors: Adam Jaffe, Shafa Waters, Louisa Owens, Lucy Morgan	Year 1 PhD
Mahbub Rashid	The burden of asthma readmission among the paediatric population in NSW, Australia Supervisors: Nusrat Homaira, Adam Jaffe, Nan Hu	Year 2 PhD
Laura Fawcett	Cystic fibrosis personalised medicine: Drug efficacy prediction in patients with Cystic Fibrosis using nasal epithelial derived cell models Supervisors: Shafa Waters, Adam Jaffe, Nadeem Kaakoush	Year 3 PhD
10:10am Morning Tea (20 mins)		
SESSION 6 10:30-12:00pm		CHAIR: Tyler Shai-Hee
Ryan Mackle	Implementation and evaluation of a comprehensive virtual asthma care model to reduce unscheduled hospital presentations in vulnerable children within NSW Supervisors: Nusrat Homaira, Adam Jaffe, Louisa Owens, Bandana Saini	Year 2 PhD
Temesgen Molla	Outcomes of very low gestation neonates in Australia and New Zealand: Evidence from 2014-2017 and international comparison Supervisors: Kei Lui, Nusrat Homaira, Abrar Chughtai	Year 1 PhD
Guest Speaker		
12.00pm End of day		

THURSDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2023

Paediatrics and Child Health and Childhood Cancer HDR Presentations

John Beveridge Lecture Theatre, Sydney Children's Hospital

[ONLINE VIA TEAMS](#)

To register please visit the [eventbrite](#) page

SESSION 7 9:00am-12:00pm		CHAIR: Erin Coll
Erin Coll	Immune profiling of paediatric solid tumours, with a focus on chemokines and cytokines Supervisors: Paul Ekert, Maria Kavallaris	Year 2 PhD
Andrea Zhao	Utilising the CRISPR-Cas13 system to edit oncogene expression in cancer Supervisors: Paul Ekert, Lauren Brown, Mohamed Fareh	Year 4 PhD
Tyler Shai-Hee	Characterisation of the tumour microenvironment in glioblastoma - investigating strategies to overcome local immunological barriers Supervisors: Orazio Vittorio, Toni Rose Jue, Sarah Sasson, Catchpoole Daniel	Year 2 PhD
Sheena Nunag	Genomic biomarkers of treatment response in paediatric cancer Supervisors: Mark Pinese, Mark Cowley	Year 3 PhD
10:20am Afternoon Tea (10 mins)		
SESSION 8 10:30am-12:00pm		CHAIR: Callum Perkins
Giannina Mendoza	Neonatal Outcome Trends: 1. Outcome trends of very preterm outborn vs inborn neonates born in Australia and NZ over last 25 years, 2. evaluation of service utilisation of extreme prems last 25 years, and 3. changes in management of chronic Supervisors: Kei Lui, Timothy Schindler, Sadia Hossain, Srinivas Bolisetty	Year 1 PhD
Komal Kumar	Neurodiversity in Medical model of Neurodevelopmental Disorders Supervisors: Pankaj Garg, Valsamma Eapen	Year 1 MRes
Nisha Mathew	Examination of the influence of the role of inflammation, particularly with regards to the microbiota-gut-brain axis, on clinical characteristics in children with Autism spectrum disorder Supervisors: Keith Ooi, Margaret Morris, Kylie-Ann Malitt, Anne Masi, Adam Walker	Year 4 PhD
Rachael Kermond	Kidney Health in Inflammatory Bowel Disease Supervisors: Sean Kennedy, Daniel Lemberg	Year 2 MRes
12.00pm End of day		

FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2023

Paediatrics and Child Health and Childhood Cancer HDR Presentations

John Beveridge Lecture Theatre, Sydney Children's Hospital

[ONLINE VIA TEAMS](#)

To register please visit the [eventbrite](#) page

SESSION 9 1:00pm-2:40pm		CHAIR: Syeda Mahe Muneer
Callum Perkins	Phosphoproteomic profiling for novel target identification in childhood sarcomas. Supervisors: Emmy Fleuren, Paul Ekert	Year 2 PhD
Larissa Volken	Transforming unexplained drug sensitivities to personalised clinical treatments Supervisors: Emmy Fleuren, Paul Ekert, Emmy Dolman	Year 1 PhD
Katelyn Phillips	Transforming mental health care for children with heart disease Supervisors: Keith Ooi, Nadine Kasparian, Bridget Callaghan	Year 4 PhD
Joshua Zhu	Uncovering the druggable proteome of paediatric brain tumours using a chemoproteomic approach: target identification and function validation Supervisors: Jean Bertoldo, David Ziegler, Maria Tsoli	Year 1 PhD
John Paul Ong	Changing the paradigm in childhood cancer: an integrated chemoproteomics, data science and computational chemistry platform for target-based drug discovery Supervisors: Jean Bertoldo, Orazio Vittorio	Year 1 PhD
2:40pm Afternoon Tea (20 mins)		
SESSION 10 3:00pm-5:00pm		CHAIR: Tania Farrar
Kian Chung Chok	Targeting RNA methyltransferases for the therapy of neuroblastoma Supervisors: Tao Liu, Belamy Cheung, Justin Wong	Year 2 PhD
Dian Anggraini	Targeting Super-Enhancers for The Therapy of TERT Gene-Rearranged Neuroblastoma Supervisors: Tao Liu, Belamy Cheung, Matthew Wong	Year 2 PhD
Philipp Graber	Dissecting cancer drug resistance and therapeutic strategies for childhood cancer Supervisors: Maria Kavallaris	Year 2 PhD
Arjayeeta Samadder	Targeting novel pathways of post-translational protein modification in Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Gliomas Supervisors: Benjamin Rayner, David Ziegler, Holly Holliday	Year 1 PhD
Amanda Wanninayaka	New combination chemotherapy approaches based on inhibition of polyamine synthesis and the histone chaperone FACT Supervisors: Jamie Fletcher, Michelle Haber, Murray Norris	Year 2 PhD
5.00pm End of day		

MONDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2023

Paediatrics and Child Health and Childhood Cancer HDR Presentations

John Beveridge Lecture Theatre, Sydney Children's Hospital

[ONLINE VIA TEAMS](#)

To register please visit the [eventbrite](#) page

SESSION 11 1:00pm-2:40pm		CHAIR: Nisha Mathew
Jessica Buster	Understanding and addressing the psychological impact of brain cancer for adolescent and young adult survivors Supervisors: David Ziegler, Ursula Sansom-Daly, Antoinette Anazodo, Joanne Shaw	Year 2 PhD
Elisha Hayden	PLK1 signalling and tumour plasticity in Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) Supervisors: David Ziegler, Benjamin Rayner	Year 2 PhD
Mohsin Mumtaz	Characterising the respiratory virome in pregnancy and early life of children with islet autoimmunity and type 1 diabetes in the ENDIA nested case-control study Supervisors: Maria Craig, Ki Wook Kim	Year 2 PhD
Kathy Zou	PRISM Engagement with Clinicians (PRE-CLIN): Therapeutic decision-making in a study of one Supervisors: Marion Mateos, Glenn Marshall, Kate Hetherington, Alice Yu	Year 2 PhD
2:20pm Afternoon Tea (20 mins)		
SESSION 12 2:40pm-4:30pm		CHAIR: Dian Anggraini
Sarah-Grace Paguinto	Getting wheels: Transitioning to powered mobility for children and young people with neuromuscular conditions, understanding perceptions and optimising practise Supervisors: Michelle Farrar, Nadine Kasparian, Paula Bray	Year 4 PhD
Tania Farrar	Ketogenic Diet Therapy for Adolescent and Adult Patients with Refractory Epilepsy Supervisors: Michelle Farrar, Michael Cardamone, Arlene D'Silva, Andrew Bleasel	Year 2 PhD
Lakshmi Balaji	New models of care implementing advanced neurotherapeutics and precision medicine. Delphi Guidelines, Identification of new phenotypes, Correlation of genotype with phenotype, Evaluation of assessment tools and Clinical guidelines for man Supervisors: Michelle Farrar, Lauren Kelada, Brittany McGill, Sandi Kariyawasam	Year 2 PhD
Farah Akram	Transforming mental health care for children with heart disease Supervisors: Michelle Farrar, Nadine Kasparian, Madeline Pidcock	Year 4 PhD
4.30pm End of day		

THURSDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2023

Paediatrics and Child Health and Childhood Cancer HDR Presentations

John Beveridge Lecture Theatre, Sydney Children's Hospital

[ONLINE VIA TEAMS](#)

To register please visit the [eventbrite](#) page

SESSION 13 9:00-10:40am		CHAIR: Eliza Courtney
Rhea Felton	A narrative exploration of how children experience and ascribe meaning to their lives when their parent or family member is diagnosed with cancer	Supervisors: Ursula Sansom-Daly, Jordana McLoone, Melvin Chin Year 2 PhD
Corin Miller	Strengthening Paediatric Primary Care in Rural Australia: investigating the healthcare needs of rural children and evaluating an integrated general practitioner-paediatrician healthcare model to bring care closer to home	Supervisors: Raghu Lingam, Hayley Smithers-Sheedy, Lena Sanci Year 1 PhD
Moni Nazari	Optimising recruitment and retention methods of adolescent and young adult cancer survivors	Supervisors: Claire Wakefield, Jordana McLoone Year 1 PhD
10:00am Morning Tea (15 mins)		
SESSION 14 10:15-12:00pm		CHAIR: Ryan Mackle
Guest Speaker		
Yihenew Yeshtila	Assessing the immunological impact of neonatal gut microbiome engineering for prevention of inflammatory and gut disease	Supervisors: Steven Leach, Nerissa Bowcock Year 1 PhD
Eliza Courtney	Evaluation of the clinical and personal utility of germline whole-genome sequencing in children with cancer	Supervisors: Claire Wakefield, Mark Pinese, Kate Hetherington Year 1 PhD
12.00pm End of Presentations		

AWARDS AND NETWORKING | 3.00pm Onwards

Join us for the
HDR Candidates Awards Ceremony

IN PERSON at the

John Dwyer Lecture Theatre
Edmund Blackett North Building
PoW Hospital

Followed by drinks, nibbles,
and networking at the

Royal Randwick Hotel

to register please visit the [eventbrite](#) page or scan the QR code

