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The NCIRS - AIP is an interactive discussion forum and a source of reliable information for professionals working in the area of immunisation. **Subscribers to the NCIRS-AIP receive the NCIRS “Weekly Jab” Newsletter**– a weekly dose of immunisation news. For more information & to subscribe to the NCIRS-AIP [click here](#).

Newly Available Resources

1. The [Influenza vaccines – frequently asked questions](#) factsheet has been updated and is now available on our [factsheets webpage](#)
2. [Seminar Video: Maternal immunisation against pertussis – background and current evidence](#) – Prof Peter McIntyre, NCIRS. View the video on our [Seminar series webpage](#). The presentation given by Dr Nathan Saul will be made available once the data that was presented is published.
3. [Presentation slides: Impact of meningococcal vaccines in UK 2001 -2016 – Dr Shamez Ladhani](#), Public Health England, London – From the NCIRS Controlling meningococcal disease in 2017 - evidence from Australia, NZ and the UK Symposium. View the resources from the symposium on the [event webpage](#).

PAEDS 10 Year Anniversary Showcase



PAEDS Investigation Nurses at the 10th Anniversary Showcase

In June 2017 Paediatric Active Enhanced Disease Surveillance (PAEDS) investigators, nurses and key stakeholders came together in Melbourne to discuss and present their work of 10 years in an anniversary showcase. PAEDS, originally founded through a collaboration between the Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit (APSU) and NCIRS has grown to surveillance at 7 sites across Australia, focusing on vaccine preventable diseases and serious childhood conditions of public health importance: Acute Flaccid Paralysis, intussusception, pertussis, varicella, febrile seizures,

encephalitis, influenza and most recently meningococcal disease and group A streptococcal disease. Progress and outcomes from research into these conditions was presented at the showcase. PAEDS also celebrated Dr Philip Britton's PhD award for investigation of acute childhood encephalitis, as well as a recently achieved NHMRC partnership grant that will support additional research into understanding why children become unwell with influenza and pertussis. Congratulations to PAEDS on 10 years and many wonderful achievements yet to come.

Careers @NCIRS

[Senior Administration Officer – applications close 15/8/2017](#)

The Senior Administration Officer position will be part of the NCIRS corporate team that provides high level administration support to the Director and researchers of the Centre. The Senior Administrative Officer will also contribute to strategic planning for the Centre to meet the aims and objectives of the Centre's operational and work plans. [Read more...](#)

NCIRS Seminar Series 2017

23 August 2017 11am – [Varicella Zoster Virus Vaccines: Preventing Chicken Pox & Shingles](#)

We will hear from two international experts at the next NCIRS seminar focused on Varicella Zoster Virus: Prof Tony Cunningham AO (Executive Director, WIMR) and A/Prof Kristine Macartney (Deputy Director, NCIRS)

Time: Wednesday 23rd August, 11am-12pm

Location: Seminar Room 1 and 2, CMRI Building, 214 Hawkesbury Road, Westmead, NSW

[Register here](#) (for catering please)

Communicable Diseases Conference



A/Prof Kristine Macartney presenting on 10 years of PAEDS at the CDC Conference

The [Communicable Diseases Control \(CDC\) Conference 2017](#), convened by the Communicable Diseases Network Australia, the Public Health Laboratory Network and the Public Health Association of Australia, was held in Melbourne from Monday 26 to Wednesday 28 June 2017. A/Prof Kristine Macartney, Deputy Director, NCIRS was an opening keynote speaker and presented on "What we have learned from 10 years of PAEDS". NCIRS staff also presented work in the areas of epidemiology, program evaluation, serosurveillance and vaccine safety. Highlights from the conference can be found on [Twitter](#). View NCIRS presentation highlights on the [NCIRS Twitter page](#). Select presentations are available on the [CDC conference webpage](#).

AusVaxSafety Vaccine Safety Surveillance

[Influenza Vaccine Safety Surveillance Data Update](#)

In 2017, four age-specific quadrivalent influenza vaccines are available under the National Immunisation Program (NIP). The current safety profile of the 2017 vaccines is reassuring and consistent with expectations.

As at 30th July 2017 almost 70,000 people have participated in active influenza vaccine safety surveillance via SMS/email representing a 72% participation rate. Real-time, patient reported data on the safety of Zoster vaccine and Pertussis booster vaccines in children is also available.

[See the current AusVaxSafety surveillance data on our website](#)

Congratulations to Cristyn Davies and Samantha Carlson, NCIRS recipients of NSW Health PhD Scholarships



Scholarship award ceremony at The University of Sydney

Congratulations to Cristyn Davies and Samantha Carlson, recipients of the NSW Health PhD Scholarship. This scholarship supports PhD candidates to gain skills and undertake projects that will build capacity in the NSW Health system in areas of identified need.

Based on the findings of a completed study about human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination in 40 Australian secondary schools (HPV.edu) funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Cristyn is investigating how a well-designed HPV vaccination intervention led to changes in knowledge and attitudes in adolescents and parents/guardians. She is also examining mechanisms within the school based vaccination environment for intervention effect, and will work collaboratively with key stakeholders

to translate these findings into policy and assist best practice, and measure the effectiveness of these changes.

Cristyn is supervised by Prof Rachel Skinner (USyd), A/Prof Kristine Macartney (NCIRS), and A/Prof Melissa Kang (UTS).

Through the Paediatric Active Enhanced Disease Surveillance (PAEDS) network, Samantha is investigating why children get severe influenza and pertussis, and is supervised by A/Prof Julie Leask (USyd) and A/Prof Kristine Macartney (NCIRS). This project uses mixed-methods research with parents of children who have been hospitalised for influenza and pertussis. Guided by the social ecological model (SEM), the research will determine how social networks, organisations, communities, and policies influence a parent's decision and action to vaccinate their child against influenza and pertussis. Results will be used to develop a causal pathway as well as practical recommendations to prevent children acquiring these vaccine preventable diseases.

SAVE THE DATE: NCIRS 20 Year Anniversary Showcase – Friday 3rd November 2017



The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) will be celebrating its 20th year of operation in 2017. Over the past 20 years NCIRS has made a significant contribution to the immunisation landscape and we have seen substantial advances in immunisation research, policy, communication and safety monitoring.

We will mark the occasion of our 20 Year Anniversary on Friday 3rd November 2017 with a showcase of immunisation developments over the last 20 years.

Location: The University of Sydney (MacLaurin Hall)
Time: 9.00am - 5.00pm

[View the event website](#)

International Conferences/ Meetings

The NCIRS team have attended a range of International conferences over the quarter.

12-13 June 2017 - **WHO Technical Expert Consultation on Optimization of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) Impact** held in Geneva, Switzerland at the WHO Headquarters. – Prof Peter McIntyre

7-9 June 2017 - **WHO Third Informal Consultation on Influenza Vaccine Response during the Start of a Pandemic, in Geneva, Switzerland** – Prof Robert Booy

7-8 June 2017 - **[Building Trust, Managing Risk: Vaccine Confidence and Human Papillomavirus Vaccination - The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine](#)**

The Vaccine Confidence Project and the HPV Prevention and Control Board hosted the Building Trust, Managing Risk: Vaccine Confidence and Human Papillomavirus Vaccination meeting at The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine on 7-8 June 2017. Sessions covered topics related to: The state of HPV vaccination in the world, HPV vaccination: real and perceived safety issues, Culture, religion and morality around HPV vaccination, Immunization anxiety reactions and the HPV vaccine, Engaging and communicating with different audiences, and Strategies to monitor, build and maintain confidence. A/Prof Kristine Macartney, Deputy Director, NCIRS was invited to the meeting to present on vaccine confidence and human papillomavirus vaccination in Australia. **Materials from the meeting, including videos, slides from the presentations and summarising illustrations are available at the [meeting website](#).**

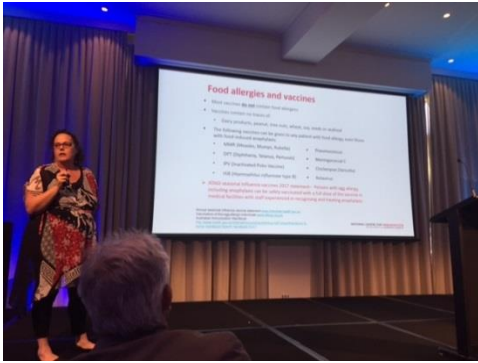
8 to 19 May 2017 - **[ADVAC Advanced Course of Vaccinology, organised by Fondation Mérieux and Université de Genève, - Les Pensières, France](#)**

Dr Frank Beard from NCIRS attended the 2017 Advanced Course of Vaccinology (ADVAC) held in Annecy, France. ADVAC is an intensive and comprehensive 2-week training program across all fields related to vaccines and vaccination. Topics covered over the 2 weeks included new vaccines, vaccine trials, ethical issues related to vaccine trials, vaccination strategy and policy, and communication. Disease-specific vaccine issues were also covered in detail, including polio, measles, meningococcal and pneumococcal diseases, influenza, malaria, HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, human papillomavirus, rotavirus, dengue and Japanese encephalitis, cytomegalovirus, and rabies. The ADVAC faculty includes Stanley Plotkin and over 60 other top-level lecturers who are all international experts in vaccinology.

Vaccines in Public Health Workshop – 28 & 29 August 2017 – Places still available

This two-day course to be held on 28 & 29 August 2017 is available to any health professional interested in vaccines and public health. The workshop includes interactive lectures and small group case studies on epidemiology, program implementation, Indigenous health, adverse events and public controversies. [More info...](#)

HNECCPHN, HNELHD, CCLHD Immunisation Conference



Karen Orr presenting at the conference

On July 22nd 600 nurses and General practitioners attended the Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network (HNECCPHN), Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD), Central Coast Local Health District (CCLHD) Immunisation Conference. A/Prof Nick Wood, A/Prof Kristine Macartney and Ms Karen Orr attended the conference providing expert presentations on a range of Immunisation topics including current recommendations, vaccine safety and the NSW Immunisation Specialist Service (NSWISS)

Congratulations to A/Prof Nicholas Wood - Senior Clinical Research Fellow, NCIRS & the USYD Discipline of Child & Adolescent Health's Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Team

Congratulations to the Discipline of Child & Adolescent Health's Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Team which has won the 2017 Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in the category of Outstanding Research Higher Degree Supervision.



The HDR Team

The HDR Team was recognised for having achieved excellence in all facets of HDR supervision, including student support / pastoral care, HDR research education / training, and ensuring the supervisors are well informed and supported.

The HDR Team: A/Prof Nick Wood, Postgraduate Coordinator, and Deputy PGCs A/Prof Fabienne Brilot-Turville, Prof Ben Marais, Dr Andrew Biggin and Prof Rachel Skinner, with admin support from Denise Yuille.

NCIRS in the Media

[As the US Vaxxed tour bus arrives in Australia, we need to get serious about anti-vaccination propaganda](#) – Prof Robert Booy

[Last days for flu jabs](#) – Prof Robert Booy

[Know meningococcal signs, urges expert](#) – Prof Robert Booy

[WA flu vaccine rates reach an 'alarming low'](#) - AusVaxSafety

[Immunisation rates for children as low as 70pc in some Australian suburbs: report](#) - Prof Peter McIntyre

[Deadly disease often mistaken for sunburn, new report finds](#) – Prof Robert Booy

1. Wiley, K., Regan, A., & McIntyre, P. (2017). Immunisation and pregnancy – who, what, when and why? *Australian Prescriber*, 40(4). ([Full text](#))
2. Sheridan SL, Quinn HE, Hull BP, Ware RS, Grimwood K, Lambert SB. **Impact and effectiveness of childhood varicella vaccine program in Queensland, Australia.** *Vaccine* 2017;35:3490-7. ([Abstract](#))
3. Cashman P, Macartney K, Khandaker G, King C, Gold M, Durrheim DN. **Participant-centred active surveillance of adverse events following immunisation: a narrative review.** *International Health* 2017;9:164-76. ([Abstract](#))
4. Deng L, MacDougall R, Macartney K. **Immunisation: It's not just for kids.** *Medicine Today* 2017;18:25-33. ([Full text](#))
5. Costa-Pinto J, Willaby HW, Leask J, Wood N, Marshall H, Danchin M. **Vaccine discussions with parents: the experience of Australian paediatricians.** *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health* 2017; May: [Epub ahead of print] ([Abstract](#))
6. Britton PN, Dale RC, Blyth CC, Macartney K, Crawford N, Marshall H, Clark J, Elliott E, Webster RI, Cheng AC, Booy R, Jones CA. **Influenza-associated encephalitis/encephalopathy identified by the Australian Childhood Encephalitis study 2013–2015.** *Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal* 2017; June: [Epub ahead of print] ([Abstract](#))
7. Macartney K, Gidding H, Trinh L, McRae J, Wang H, Dey A, Hull B, Orr K, McRae J, Richmond P, Gold M, Crawford N, Kynaston JA, McIntyre P, Wood N for PAEDS. **Evaluation of combination measles-mumps-rubella-varicella vaccine introduction in Australia** *JAMA Pediatrics* In press. 2017 *Not yet available online*
8. Yin JK, Jayasinghe S, Charles P, King C, Chiu C, Menzies R, McIntyre P. **What do we know about the contribution of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* to community-acquired pneumonia in Australian adults?** *Medical Journal of Australia* In press. *Not yet available online*
9. Pillsbury A, Quinn H, Evans T, McIntyre P, Brotherton J. **Population level herd protection of males from a female human papillomavirus vaccination program: evidence from Australian serosurveillance.** *Clinical Infectious Diseases* In press. *Not yet available online*
10. Archer B, Chiu C, Jayasinghe S, Richmond P, McVernon J, Lahra M, Andrews R, McIntyre P. **Epidemiology of invasive meningococcal disease in Australia 1991–2013: population groups as priorities for vaccination against serogroup B meningococcal disease.** *Medical Journal of Australia* In press. *Not yet available online*

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