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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 and to subscribe to the NCIRS-AIP [click here](#).

Newly Available & Updated Resources

1. [NCIRS Seminar Series Video – Varicella-Zoster Virus Vaccines: Preventing Chickenpox & Shingles](#)

At this seminar we heard from two varicella-zoster virus international experts. **Associate Professor Kristine Macartney (Deputy Director, NCIRS)** provided an overview of the impact of varicella vaccination in Australia and the introduction of the live-attenuated zoster vaccine, and **Professor Tony Cunningham, AO (Executive Director, Westmead Institute of Medical Research)** spoke on the clinical development and potential impact of the new non-live, adjuvanted, subunit (HZ/su) vaccine, Shingrix. [View the videos here](#).

2. [Updated – The Australian Immunisation Handbook 10th Edition](#)

The following chapters and appendices of the *Handbook* have been updated:

- Updates page, chapters 2.1, 3.3, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.9, 4.11, 4.12, 4.13, 4.14, 4.16, 4.17, 4.18, 4.19, 4.20, 4.21, 4.22, 4.23, 4.24, and Appendices 3 and 4
- View the *Handbook* [here](#).

3. [Updated meningococcal fact sheet and a new frequently asked questions \(FAQ\) fact sheet](#) for use by providers. The FAQ fact sheet, in particular, provides answers to questions on the use of MenACWY vaccines. The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) is currently reviewing the use of meningococcal vaccines in Australia. Some of the information contained within this FAQ and the NCIRS fact sheet is currently not in the *Handbook*. These changes will be incorporated in future updates of the *Handbook*.

- [Meningococcal vaccines for Australians](#) [PDF – 711kB]
- [Meningococcal vaccines – frequently asked questions](#) [PDF – 590kB]

4. [Updated zoster fact sheet and FAQ fact sheet](#) for use by providers.

- [Zoster vaccine for Australian adults](#) [PDF – 489kB]
- [Zoster vaccine – frequently asked questions](#) [PDF – 389kB]

5. [Summary table - No Jab No Play, No Jab No Pay Policies](#) has been updated to include recent changes to the NSW policy that take effect on 1 January 2018.

Evaluation of Combination Measles-Mumps-Rubella-Varicella Vaccine Introduction in Australia

Results from [this evaluation](#), which was carried out by the Paediatric Active Enhanced Disease Surveillance (PAEDS) network in conjunction with the NCIRS, have shown that the uptake of on-time measles-containing vaccinations has increased nationally by 13.5% over the last four years, since the MMRV vaccine was first introduced into the National Immunisation Program (NIP). The study has also demonstrated that the administration of MMRV vaccine as dose 2 of the measles-containing vaccine at age 18 months is not associated with an increased risk of febrile seizures. [Access the full text publication.](#)

NCIRS 20 Year Anniversary Showcase – Friday 3rd November 2017



Places are filling fast for the upcoming NCIRS 20 Year Anniversary Showcase.

The program has now been finalised and speakers include:
Prof. Brendan Murphy, Chief Medical Officer for the Australian Government,
Prof. Noni MacDonald, former Dean of Medicine at Dalhousie University Canada,
Assoc. Prof. Nicola Turner, Director Immunisation Advisory Centre, University of Auckland, New Zealand and
Prof. Saad B Omer, William H Foege, Professor of Global Health and Professor of Epidemiology & Pediatrics at Emory University, Atlanta, USA.

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

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NCIRS Seminar Series 2017 - 22 November 2017 11 am Tailoring Immunization Programmes (TIP)

Tailoring Immunization Programmes (TIP) uses behavioural insights to improve vaccination rates in communities where existing efforts have not been effective. Solutions are based on in-depth analysis of the coverage gaps and qualitative research on why people do and don't vaccinate, and are co-designed with the service providers and users in mind.

In this seminar Professor David Durrheim (University of Newcastle & Director of Health Protection, Hunter New England Health) will give an overview of why TIP is required if measles elimination is to be maintained; Associate Professor Julie Leask (University of Sydney) will present on the European approach to TIP; and Patrick Cashman (Hunter New England LHD Immunisation Coordinator) will provide an overview of the Maitland TIP pilot and early results.

Time: Wednesday 22 November 2017, 11 am – 12 pm

Location: Seminar Room 1 and 2, Children Medical Research Institute Building, 214 Hawkesbury Road, Westmead, NSW

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

NPS MedicineWise and NCIRS announce national partnership



NPS MedicineWise has partnered with the NCIRS to deliver a landmark, nationally coordinated immunisation support program for Primary Health Networks (PHNs) across Australia.

The program, entitled the Primary Health Networks Immunisation Support Program, will be co-designed with PHNs to better support and coordinate immunisation providers and services in their regions. The aim is to ensure PHN efforts across the country deliver on NIP goals and are as consistent as possible, while addressing specific challenges in their local areas. [Read more...](#)

Vaccines in Public Health Workshop – 28 & 29 August 2017

The NCIRS Vaccines in Public Health Workshop was a huge success with 70 people attending the 2017 two-day course held on 28 & 29 August. Participants included the University of Sydney Master of Public Health students and other professionals working in immunisation and public health. The workshop consisted of interactive lectures given by the staff of NCIRS and small group case studies.

Our anonymous post-course survey results were very positive. Some participant comments included:

“I really enjoyed applying the information learnt and being challenged to think laterally about the case studies. I find the practical application a great way to consolidate learning.”

“Overall very beneficial, informative day. Such a good opportunity to listen to and ask questions of the leaders in immunisations. The case studies also provided much discussion and interchange of thoughts.”

Evaluation of the NSW Aboriginal Immunisation Health Care Worker (AIHCW) Program

The report of this evaluation conducted by NCIRS is now available [on the NSW Health website](#).

As part of this process evaluation, semi-structured telephone interviews were conducted with stakeholders, including Aboriginal liaison officers; Aboriginal health workers; Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Service staff; immunisation providers in Aboriginal medical services, community health and private practice; PHN staff; and Aboriginal community representatives. The AIHCW program was generally well received by stakeholders, with the report outlining a range of recommendations to further enhance collaborations and promote AIHCW services. [View the report](#).

Flu is a tragic illness. How can we get more people to vaccinate? By Julie Leask & Samantha Carlson

In this article published in *The Conversation*, Julie Leask, Associate Professor, University of Sydney NCIRS, Visiting Fellow, Social Science, and Samantha Carlson, Research Officer NCIRS, University of Sydney PhD candidate, discuss the barriers limiting flu vaccination rates and possible ways to improve uptake. [Read more...](#)

New AusVaxSafety data reinforces vaccination safety

In the past five months, over 102 000 people who have received the influenza vaccine across Australia have been sent a follow-up survey 3 days after vaccination to monitor vaccine reaction rates in real-time. With over 70% response rates, consumers have consistently replied that any effects after vaccination were generally mild and within expected ranges. These data, largely provided by [SmartVax](#) SMS surveys, reinforce the safety of the currently approved influenza vaccines. Only 6.6% had any potential reaction and an even smaller 0.4% sought attention from a healthcare provider in the days after vaccination.

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

10th NZ Immunisation Conference - 7 – 9 September 2017, Wellington, NZ



Several NCIRS staff members, including Professor Peter McIntyre, Director, NCIRS, attended the 10th NZ Immunisation Conference held in September in Wellington. The conference focussed on the recent changes and upcoming challenges in the immunisation landscape.

Prof. McIntyre was a plenary speaker and gave two presentations entitled “Pertussis Update” and “Pneumococcal vaccine effectiveness and disease control”. There were also presentations

by NCIRS staff on disease epidemiology, vaccine safety and the NSW Immunisation Specialist Service. Cyra Patel presented on the impact of 4-valent HPV vaccination in Australia. Dr Meru Sheel and Julia Maguire presented on the epidemiology of zoster infection and meningococcal disease in Australia, respectively. Deidre Brogan and Rosemary Joyce presented on the utility of a drop-in immunisation clinic in a tertiary paediatric hospital and strategies to assist vaccinating needle phobic children. Dr Lucy Deng presented on AusVaxSafety and post-vaccination febrile seizures.

IVI's 17th International Vaccinology Course - September 4 – 8, Seoul, South Korea



The International Vaccine Institute (IVI) based in Seoul, South Korea has been offering a vaccinology course since 2000. The five-day vaccinology course has fostered collaborative partnerships in research and public health in the developing world. This year, Dr Aditi Dey from NCIRS attended this course.

The course is a combination of lectures and interactive case studies presented and facilitated by experts from the World Health Organization, the US National Institutes of Health, GSK,

Pfizer, Sanofi Pasteur, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, Baylor College of Medicine, the University of Colorado, the University of Bergen, Seoul National University, IVI and other relevant organisations. For more information, visit the [IVI vaccinology course website](#).

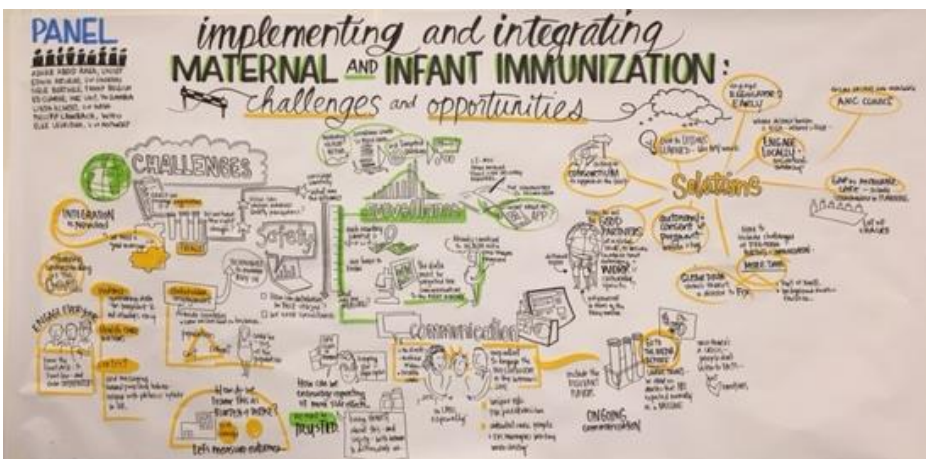
Advanced Course in Epidemiological Analysis - London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine



Dr Sally Ioannides, NCIRS Public Health Medicine Registrar with the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine and Honorary Senior Lecturer at the School of Public Health, University of Sydney, attended the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Advanced Course in Epidemiological Analysis in September. The two-week course consisted of intensive practical workshops and lectures on classical as well as new and advanced statistical methodology for epidemiological studies. Sally received funding

from the University of Sydney Academic Development Scheme and NCIRS to attend the course. Sally is working in the areas of vaccine surveillance, policy and communication at NCIRS.

4th International Neonatal & Maternal Immunization Symposium - September 10 – 12, Brussels (Belgium)



Associate Professor Nicholas Wood, NCIRS Senior Clinical Research Fellow and Paediatrician, attended the 4th International Neonatal & Maternal Immunization Symposium in Brussels in September. The symposium brought together international experts in this important area of immunisation, with sessions covering progress on the

basic science underpinning maternal and neonatal immunisation, recent data from large vaccine trials and vaccines under development, safety, awareness and perception and the implementation of maternal and neonatal immunisation worldwide. Assoc. Prof. Wood spoke on neonatal vaccination drawing on both research data and clinical experience.

Immunization and Vaccines Related Implementation Research Advisory Committee (IVIR-AC) Meeting - September 20 – 21, Geneva (Switzerland)



Professor Peter McIntyre, Director, NCIRS, attended the Immunization and Vaccines Related Implementation Research Advisory Committee (IVIR-AC) meeting in Geneva in September. The IVIR-AC is comprised of 15 members, who are recruited and selected as acknowledged experts from around the world in the fields of infectious diseases, public health and epidemiology, health economics, statistics, mathematical modelling, health systems, demography, vaccines and immunisation.

NCIRS in the Media

[Winter 'SUPER FLU' alert: Killer bug heading to UK as health chiefs warn get vaccinated NOW](#) – NCIRS in the media

[New national immunisation support program](#) – NCIRS in the media

[Increase in measles cases this year can prove fatal for little children](#) – Prof. Robert Booy

[Experts believe Australia is on track for a record flu season](#) – Assoc. Prof. Kristine Macartney

[“Get The Facts on Immunisation”: or go beyond facts to get to the heart of concerns?](#) – Prof. Robert Booy

[The most severe flu season since 2009 has not yet peaked](#) – Prof. Robert Booy

[People not immune to flu striking twice](#) – Prof. Robert Booy

[Flu season: please don't shake my hand unless you use your elbow](#) – Prof. Robert Booy

[Measles vaccine given to children at 18 months not linked to increased seizures risk: study](#) – NCIRS in the media

[Measles vaccine not linked to increased seizures risk: study](#) – Assoc. Prof. Kristine Macartney

[MMRV as second measles vaccine not linked to increased seizure risk](#) – Assoc. Prof. Kristine Macartney

[Evaluation backs safety of 4-in-1 vaccine](#) – Assoc. Prof. Kristine Macartney

NCIRS Publications July – September 2017

1. 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* 2017;171:992-8. ([Abstract](#))
2. 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;53:855-61. ([Abstract](#))
3. Leask J, Danchin M. Imposing penalties for vaccine rejection requires strong scrutiny *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health* 2017;53:439-44. ([Abstract](#))
4. Attwell K, Leask J, Meyer SB, Rokkas P, Ward P. Vaccine rejecting parents' engagement with expert systems that inform vaccination programs. *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry* 2017;14:65-76. ([Abstract](#))
5. Yin JK, Heywood AE, Georgousakis M, King C, Chiu C, Isaacs D, Macartney KK. Systematic review and meta-analysis of indirect protection afforded by vaccinating children against seasonal influenza: implications for policy *Clinical Infectious Diseases* 2017;65:719-28. ([Abstract](#))
6. 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* 2017;65:827-32. ([Abstract](#))
7. King CL, Leask J. Parental disease prevention health beliefs and triggers for keeping children home from childcare-a qualitative study in Sydney, Australia *Child: Care, Health and Development* 2017 [Epub ahead of Print]. ([Abstract](#))
8. Christie D, Rashid H, El-Bashir H, Sweeney F, Shore T, Booy R, Viner RM. Impact of meningitis on intelligence and development: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *PLOS One* 2017;12:e0175024. ([Abstract](#))
9. Tashani M, Dey A, Clark K, Beard F. Stage 2 – Evaluation of the NSW Aboriginal immunisation health care worker program. Process evaluation. Final *NSW Health* 2017. ([Report](#))

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