

Healthy Development Adelaide (HDA)

A Research & Innovation Cluster in South Australia

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Micronutrients in Pregnancy: *It's the little things that count*

Date: Thursday 14 July 2011

Time: 5.00 - 7.30pm

Venue: Union House (Level 4, Eclipse Room)
University of Adelaide (North Terrace campus)

Registration from 4.30pm for 5pm start
Networking with light refreshments from 6.30pm
All Welcome - FREE admission

RSVPs required by Friday 8 July

✉ anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu.au (email preferable)

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SPEAKERS

Dr Denise Furness

Folate in pregnancy: friend or foe?

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, The Robinson Institute, University of Adelaide

Dr Jo Zhou

Iron in pregnancy: more is not necessarily better!

Senior Research Scientist, Women's & Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI) and the Foodplus Research Centre, University of Adelaide

Professor Tony Perkins

Selenium in pregnancy: does it matter?

Head, School of Medical Science, Griffith University

Professor Claire Roberts

Vitamin D in pregnancy: too much and too little.

Senior Research Fellow, The Robinson Institute, University of Adelaide

CHAIR

Dr Alison Coates

Nutritional Physiology Research Centre, University of South Australia /
Nutrition Society of Australia, SA Committee Member



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Dr Denise Furness is a postdoctoral research fellow within The Robinson Institute at the University of Adelaide. Her research focuses on the identification of dietary and genetic factors associated with the folate/homocysteine metabolic pathway and maternal genome damage markers that may predict the subsequent development of adverse pregnancy outcomes. During her PhD, Denise found that maternal DNA damage which can be caused by folate deficiency in early pregnancy is associated with the development of preeclampsia and intrauterine growth restriction. Denise currently manages the PAPO (Predicting Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes) study at both the Women's & Children's Hospital and Lyell McEwin Hospital which investigates couples who suffer recurrent pregnancy complications, primarily recurrent miscarriage. In addition, Denise is involved in the SA SCOPE (SCreening fOR Pregnancy Endpoints) project looking at dietary, lifestyle and genetic factors in both Mothers and Fathers in relation to pregnancy outcome.



Dr Jo Zhou is a senior research scientist at the Women's & Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI) and the Foodplus Research Centre, University of Adelaide. Dr Zhou leads the Pregnancy and Early Childhood Nutrition Research Program. Prior to completing her PhD in 2005, she was an obstetrician (qualified in China) and a clinical dietitian. Jo's research has been focused on nutrition interventions in pregnancy and early childhood to improve pregnancy outcomes and the long term health of mothers and children. Her PhD research was the first to investigate the long term effect of routine iron supplementation in pregnancy on neurodevelopment of the children and general health and wellbeing of the women. She is currently leading a NHMRC funded multicentre randomised controlled trial to investigate the effect of iodine supplementation in pregnancy on early childhood development.



Professor Tony Perkins is a biochemist with particular interests in anti-oxidant enzymes in health and disease. His research is focused on preeclampsia, a complication of pregnancy, and cardiovascular disease. He graduated from Griffith University in 1984 with a B. Science, double major in Physiology and Biochemistry and subsequently worked for 6 years at Griffith University as a Research Assistant. In 1990 he joined the Dept of Obstetrics, at the University of Oxford, initially as a PhD student then subsequently as a Post-Doctoral Fellow. In 1996 he returned to Australia to an Academic position at the Gold Coast Campus of Griffith University. Since then he has established an active laboratory examining the role of oxidative stress in preeclampsia and cardiovascular disease. He has supervised many Research Higher degree students and teaches Biochemistry to undergraduates. He is also the current Head of the Medical Science School.



Professor Claire Roberts is Research Leader of the Placental Development Group within The Robinson Institute at the University of Adelaide. Claire's research focuses on cellular and molecular interactions in placental differentiation, invasion and function and their impacts on fetal and maternal health. Claire is Scientific Director of SA SCOPE (SCreening fOR Pregnancy Endpoints) project which aims to develop predictive tests for couples' risks for complications of late pregnancy (preeclampsia, intrauterine growth restriction and pre-term birth). Focusing on genes in her placenta research, she has found that polymorphisms in those associated with placental development and maternal adaptation to pregnancy are associated with risk for pregnancy complications. Claire is active in the International and National placenta research scene and is Treasurer of the International Federation of Placenta Associations and the President of the Australian New Zealand Placenta Research Association.

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