

Healthy Development Adelaide

A Research & Innovation Cluster in South Australia



Wheezes, Itches and Bellyaches

Allergies in Maternal and Child Health



Date: Thursday 9 October 2008

Time: 4.30 - 7.00pm

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

Arrivals by 4.15pm for a 4.30pm start

Food & drink provided after conclusion of talks

All Welcome - Free admission

RSVP by Friday 3 October

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SPEAKERS

A/Professor Vicki Clifton

Effect of asthma and its treatment on the unborn baby

Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Adelaide

Dr Imme Penttila

Breast milk and the mucosal immune response to food antigens

Head: Nutrition and Mucosal Immunology Laboratory, Women's and Children's Health Research Institute

A/Professor Robert Heddle

Trends in atopic disorders in childhood

Head: Clinical Immunology, Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science

Dr Debbie Palmer

Food allergy in children

Applied Nutrition Laboratory, Women's and Children's Health Research Institute

CHAIR

Dr James Martin

Director: Pulmonary Medicine, Women's and Children's Hospital



Women's & Children's
Health Research Institute Inc.
Research for the future health of our children

Speaker Profiles



A/Professor Vicki Clifton obtained a PhD in reproductive physiology from the University of Newcastle and studied at the University of Toronto in Canada for several years. She returned to Newcastle to the Mothers and Babies Research Centre where she worked on asthma and pregnancy for 10 years and as Deputy Director of the Centre. She has recently moved to the University of Adelaide, School of Paediatrics and Reproductive Health and Director of Clinical Research at the Lyell McEwin Hospital.

Her research interests have evolved into an investigation of those factors that program fetal development and neonatal adaptation, particularly in areas of cardiovascular adaptation and neonatal immune development.



Dr Imme Penttila is an NHMRC Industry Fellow and the Head of the Nutrition and Mucosal Immunology Laboratory at the Women's and Children's Health Research Institute.

Her research focus is to understand the early mechanisms underlying the development of food allergy in infancy, as well as the development of nutritional therapeutic interventions. Over the last 12 years she has focused on the analysis of the role of maternal milk bioactives in infant immune development.



A/Professor Robert (Bob) Heddle graduated in Medicine from the University of Adelaide and after the intern year, undertook a PhD in mucosal immunity. This was followed by return to clinical work and gaining FRACP and FRCPA in Clinical Immunology, during which further research was undertaken at Institute of Child Health, London UK into atopic eczema. Following return to Australia, Bob has been active in clinical practice in Immunology/Allergy in all age groups and has maintained a productive research and professional committee interest in Allergy, especially as it relates to stinging insect allergy and early life factors that determine allergic disorders. He is a past President of the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy and moved from Director of Allergy at the Flinders Medical Centre to Head of Clinical Immunology IMVS/Royal Adelaide Hospital in August 2008.



Dr Debbie Palmer is one of only a few paediatric dietitians worldwide undertaking research in the area of allergic disease. With ten years of clinical experience and specialising in the area of food allergy, Debbie undertook her PhD studies in the area of maternal diet restrictions for food allergy treatment in breastfed infants.

In 2008 she commenced an NHMRC Post Doctoral Fellowship at the Child Nutrition Research Centre, Women's and Children's Health Research Institute. Her current research activities are focusing on nutritional interventions for prevention of allergic disease.