NHMRC’s Women in Health Science Workshop

Monday, 25 May 2015

The Melbourne Brain Centre, Kenneth Myer Building, University of Melbourne

Facilitator

**Professor Caroline Homer** – *University of Technology Sydney*

**BRIEF BIO:** Caroline Homer is about to complete her second term as a member of NHMRC’s Research Committee and is the current Chair of the NHMRC’s Women in Health Science Working Committee. She has chaired Grant Review Panels for Project Grants for the past 5 years and has been the Chair of the Partnership Project Grants GRP for the past 2 years.

In her day job, she is the Director of the Centre for Midwifery, Child and Family Health, Director of Midwifery Studies and the Associate Dean for International and Development in the Faculty of Health at the University of Technology Sydney.

Key Note Speakers

**Professor Terry Speed** - *Walter and Eliza Hall Institute*

**TOPIC:** Think globally, act locally

**BRIEF BIO:** Terry Speed completed a bachelors degree in mathematics and statistics at the University of Melbourne, and a doctorate in mathematics and a dip ed at Monash University. He has held appointments at the University of Sheffield, University of Western Australia, CSIRO, University of California at Berkeley and the WEHI, where he is currently an honorary lab head in the Bioinformatics Division. His research interests lie in the application of statistics and bioinformatics to genetics and genomics, and related fields such as epigenomics, metabolomics and proteomics, with a focus on cancer and epigenetics. His non-research interests include gender equity in science.
Professor Jenny Martin - University of Queensland

TOPIC: Gender equity in academia - the why and the how

BRIEF BIO: Prof Jennifer Martin is an NHMRC Research Fellow and recent ARC Australian Laureate Fellow. She was the Gold Medallist of her year at the Victorian College of Pharmacy in Melbourne, was won 5 competitive awards including a prestigious 1851 scholarship to undertake a DPhil at the University of Oxford, and her postdoctoral research was done at Rockefeller University in New York. Returning to Australia, she established the first protein crystallography laboratory in Queensland just 3 years out of her PhD. The Facility she established now supports more than 75 users. Jenny has held leadership roles in crystallography (including President of SCANZ, Chair of the AAS National Committee, currently Vice President of the Asian Crystallography Association), and her research excellence has been recognised through the award of many prizes (including Roche Medal, Women in Biotechnology Outstanding Achievement, NAB Women’s Agenda Finalist for Mentor of the Year). Her research is dedicated to understanding the molecular mechanisms underlying disease - specifically type 2 diabetes mellitus and antibiotic resistant infection - and the development of new drugs by structure-based methods.

Dr Marguerite Evans-Galea - Murdoch Childrens Hospital

TOPIC: Closing the gender gap in STEM – what’s the latest?

BRIEF BIO: Maggie is in Genetic Health Research in the Bruce Lefroy Centre. She leads a number of international collaborations that develop therapies, identify biomarkers and investigate disease mechanism in the neurodegenerative disease Friedreich ataxia (FA). Funded by the NHMRC, she is currently developing potential cell and gene therapies for FA. Maggie has received New Investigator Awards from the Australasian Gene and Cell Therapy Society (AGCTS) and the Friedreich Ataxia Research Alliance USA, travel awards to present her research internationally and an Australian Leadership Award. Committed to empowering early career researchers, Maggie enjoys working with students and fellows. She currently serves on the American Society for Gene and Cell Therapy Immune Responses Committee, the AGCTS Executive and the Australian Science and Innovation Forum. A passionate advocate for science and gender equity, Maggie is active via social and mainstream media, and a member of the Science in Australia Gender Equity Forum steering committee and co-founder of Women in Science AUSTRALIA.

Professor Barbara Fazekas de St Groth - University of Sydney

TOPIC: Scaling of scores to ensure gender-independent outcomes in NHMRC funding

BRIEF BIO: Professor Barbara Fazekas de St Groth is an immunologist who heads a research group within the Centenary Institute in Sydney. Her work is aimed at understanding how the immune system is regulated and how the western lifestyle predisposes to immune-mediated diseases such as allergies, autoimmune and inflammatory conditions.

Prof Fazekas de St. Groth graduated in medicine with first class honours from the University of Sydney and worked as a Professorial Intern and Resident at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney before completing a PhD with JFAP Miller at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne. She then undertook postdoctoral training with Mark Davis at Stanford University. She returned to Sydney in 1991 to set up a laboratory at the Centenary Institute, where she was appointed Associate Professor in 2000 and Professor in 2007.

She is best known for her work using T cell receptor transgenic mouse models and multiparameter flow cytometry to define fundamental immune processes, including those involved in graft rejection. More recently she has focused on the role of regulatory T cells in human disease. Together with colleagues at the Centre for Immunology in Sydney, she discovered a novel phenotyping strategy that allows pure populations of human regulatory T cells to be isolated and manipulated for use in the therapy of graft versus host disease and organ graft rejection, in addition to autoimmune disease and allergy. Her current studies use multiparameter flow cytometry to define peripheral blood regulatory T cell subsets in health and disease.