



NICS-GESA FELLOWSHIP 2009

Dr Alissa Walsh

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Implementation Project:

Increasing prevention of opportunistic infections in people with inflammatory bowel disease

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) describes two diseases, ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. It is primarily a disease of young adults and causes debilitating inflammation of the bowel. New medications are effective in managing symptoms and improving quality of life. However they suppress immunity and can result in a greatly increased risk of opportunistic infections which can be life threatening.

Despite the effectiveness of immunisation in preventing these infections, patients are not routinely screened or protected. Dr Walsh will implement a program at five Sydney hospitals to help identify patients at risk and ensure clinicians recommend suitable preventive measures. Dr Walsh plans to offer this program to other sites in Australia in the future.

Funding Partner:

Dr Walsh's Fellowship is supported by the Gastroenterological Society of Australia.

The Gastroenterological Society of Australia is the peak body for the discipline of gastroenterology and hepatology in this country, with over 1100 members comprising medical graduates, scientists and trainees.

Project Mentor:

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NICS Mentor:

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The National Institute
of Clinical Studies (NICS)

