

Introducing

The Stars Event 8th September 2021

Rising Stars Symposium 9th September 2021

These two events showcase the most recent research findings in the fields of women's and infants' health.

The focus for the 2021 Stars Event is 'Improving health care for women and babies - now on the road to success'.

We invite you to join us as we present and discuss the latest discoveries and advances in this very important area of pregnancy care and women's health.

We are pleased to welcome Prof Jan Dickinson AM as our Featured Professor and our two local experts, Dr Mary Sharp and Dr Matt Payne.

The Rising Stars Symposium (9th September) is a celebration and showcase of WA's top emerging medical researchers.

We invite you to learn about the latest research discoveries with five short, sharp presentations relating to pregnancy, newborns' and women's health.

Please see full event programs inside.

Events registration

Book online at www.wirf.com.au/stars2021

Stars Event

Date: Wednesday 8th September, 5.45pm to 9.00pm

Venue: University of Western Australia, Banquet Hall, Crawley

Cost: \$60 / Students \$45 (inc presentations and refreshments)

Rising Stars Symposium

Date: Thursday 9th September, 6.00pm to 9.30pm

Venue: Fraser's Restaurant, Kings Park

Cost: \$105 (inc symposium, dinner and drinks)

Thank you

The Women and Infants Research Foundation wishes to thank and acknowledge the event exhibitors and sponsors:

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Women & Infants Research Foundation

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Improving health care
for women and babies
- now on the road to success

Stars Event
&
Rising Stars Symposium
8th & 9th September 2021



women & infants
research foundation

Stars event

UWA Club, Banquet Hall, Crawley

5.45pm **Registration and light refreshments**

6.00pm **Chairperson's opening introduction**

Professor John Newnham AM

Maternal Fetal Medicine
Head, School of Women's and Infants' Health
The University of Western Australia
Chief Scientific Director, Women and Infants Research Foundation

6.10pm **Vaginal microorganisms for prediction of preterm birth – friends, foes and a fence-sitter**

Dr Matt Payne

Bacterial infection is one of the leading causes of preterm birth. A recently developed diagnostic test based upon a specific vaginal bacterial DNA signature in mid-pregnancy is being heralded as a major breakthrough in pregnancy care.

6.40pm **What might be the reasons behind declining rates of cerebral palsy in preterm infants in WA?**

Dr Mary Sharp

Cerebral palsy rates in very preterm infants have been declining in WA. This presentation will discuss some of the changes in neonatal care for very preterm infants less than 32 weeks that might be behind this.



Keynote presentation

7.10pm **Reducing the Jab! Non-invasive prenatal testing for Rhesus D**

Prof Jan Dickinson AM, Professor of Maternal Fetal Medicine, University of Western Australia

To reduce the risk of isoimmunisation, it is standard practice for Rhesus D negative women to receive prophylactic anti-D during pregnancy at 28 and 34 weeks' gestation, and within 72 hours of delivering a Rhesus D positive baby. However, of all Rhesus D negative women, about 40% will deliver a Rhesus negative baby and therefore will unnecessarily receive anti-D prophylaxis.

This presentation will outline the current evidence about Rhesus D NIPT, discuss the recent release of the National Blood Authority guidelines advocating the use of Rhesus D NIPT for Rhesus D negative women with no preformed antibodies, and the Western Australian Rhesus D NIPT project.

7.40pm **Panel discussion**

8.00pm **Refreshments and exhibition**

Exhibits open, refreshments and canapes served.

9.00pm **Close**

Rising Stars symposium

Fraser's Restaurant, Kings Park

6.00pm **Registration**

6.10pm **Opening introduction**

Professor John Newnham AM
Chairperson, Professor Dorota Doherty

6.15pm **Dinner service commences**

7.15pm **A novel approach to skin care in extremely preterm infants**

Tobias Strunk - Consultant Neonatologist, King Edward Memorial & Perth Children's Hospitals

7.30pm **Baby it's cold outside: Effect of cold storage on the human milk microbiome**

Lisa Stinson - Research Associate, School of Molecular Sciences, UWA

7.45pm **Mum's (not) the word: further evidence that maternal antenatal steroid exposure does not benefit fetal lung maturation.**

Erin Fee, Research Assistant with the Women & Infants Research Foundation

8.00pm **15 minute break**

8.15pm **Maternity care in Australia during COVID-19: Challenges, silver linings and the way forward**

Zoe Bradfield - Midwifery Research Fellow & Lecturer, Curtin University & King Edward Memorial Hospital

8.30pm **The Long-term Effects of Assisted Reproductive Technologies on Offspring**

Laura Wijs - PhD Candidate, Division of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, UWA

8.45pm **Coffee and desserts – after dinner speech**

After-dinner speaker

9.30pm **Close**

Note: CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POINTS
Both Stars events are accredited for continuing professional development hours.

RANZCOG approved attracting 4 hours for full attendance
- 2 hours for Stars/2 hours for Rising Stars.

ACM approved attracting 4 hours for full attendance
- 2 hours for Stars/2 hours for Rising Stars.

Stars event speakers

Dr Matt Payne

Matt is a Fellow of the Australian Society for Microbiology, a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia and Laboratory Head of the WIRF Women and Infants Health Research Laboratories. His major research interests include development of rapid microbial diagnostic tests for prediction of disease risk, and the role of the perinatal microbiome in early life health and disease.



Dr Mary Sharp

Clinical Assoc Prof Mary Sharp is Acting Medical Co-Director of the Neonatology Service. She has extensive experience in the acute care and long term follow up of preterm infants. She is passionate about research to improve outcomes for preterm infants and their families. She is a clinician researcher with a diverse group of research collaborations.



★ Featured Professor

Professor Jan Dickinson AM

Jan Dickinson is Professor of Maternal Fetal Medicine at The University of Western Australia. She is also the Head of the Maternal Fetal Medicine Service and Ultrasound Department at King Edward Memorial Hospital.

Prof Dickinson has established clinical and research interests in complicated multiple pregnancy, high risk obstetrics and perinatal loss.

