

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

More harm than good?

Roundtable discussion: Research on the factors underpinning growth in testing, diagnosis and treatment in Australia

Thursday 10 August 2017, 2:00-5:00pm (local time Melbourne, Sydney, Gold Coast)

In this roundtable discussion, we will **introduce two new nationally funded studies** which aim to investigate and address the factors that influence the rise in testing, diagnosis and treatment in Australia. Members of the NHMRC-funded [Wiser Healthcare program](#) and the ARC-funded [Expectations in healthcare testing project](#) will **give brief presentations** on these studies followed by an **open roundtable discussion on the issues raised and their implications for research, policy and practice.**

Venue details:

Monash Department of Clinical Epidemiology
Lecture Room 1, Level 1
Cabrini Institute
154 Wattletree Road
Malvern VIC 3144

Weblink: <https://monash.zoom.us/j/992212867>

Go to <https://monash.zoom.us/join> and enter meeting ID: 992 212 867

Join from a dial-in phone: Dial: +61 3 99059666 (+61 3 9905 ZOOM) or +61 2 8015 2088

Toll-free dial: +1 855 880 1246 (US/Canada only)

Meeting ID: 992 212 867

Please RSVP by Friday, 4 August 2017 to thomas.dakin@sydney.edu.au (Wiser Healthcare Administrator), indicating if attending in person or via weblink



Detailed Program

Time	Item	Who?
2:00pm	Welcome and introductions	Rachelle Buchbinder & Denise O'Connor
2:15pm	Expectations in healthcare testing: A sociological study	Alan Petersen, Kiran Pienaar & Stephen Derrick
2:45pm	Wiser Healthcare: A research collaboration for reducing overdiagnosis and overtreatment	Paul Glasziou (weblink), Rachelle Buchbinder/Denise O'Connor & other collaborators (TBC)
3:30pm	Afternoon tea	
3:45pm	Roundtable open discussion on the issues raised, their implications for research, policy and practice and opportunities to collaborate	Chairs: Rachelle Buchbinder & Alan Petersen
5:00pm	Close	

Overview of [Wiser Healthcare](#)

Wiser Healthcare is a research collaboration involving The University of Sydney, Bond University, Monash University and international colleagues. Funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), it aims to conduct research that will **reduce over-diagnosis and over-treatment** in Australia and around the world. Overdiagnosis and overtreatment occur when routine medical tests and treatments do more harm than good. Wiser Healthcare will **investigate the cause and size of the problem and test new solutions in the areas of cancer, cardiovascular disease and musculoskeletal disorders**. It will particularly focus on over-diagnosis caused by imaging (e.g. CT scans and MRI scans), testing biomarkers (e.g. blood tests), and genetic tests.

Overview of [Expectations in healthcare testing project](#)

Australia's overall use of diagnostic imaging and tests has increased significantly in recent years, which is contributing to rapidly rising healthcare costs. Despite this growth, we know little about the sociocultural factors that underpin the rise of testing and the optimism for healthcare testing. This project aims to understand the **sociocultural processes underpinning optimism for the use of medical testing technologies**. Funded by an ARC Discovery grant, and focussing on Australia's **national cancer screening programs and routine clinical practice**, it will address questions such as:

- How do particular socio-cultural factors help to produce and sustain expectations that may be higher than warranted by scientific evidence?
- Do some factors play a greater role than others and, if so, why?
- How are scientific facts about the risks and benefits of testing presented and how do they shape medical practice?

