Projects beginning in 2008

2008/001

DECODE: Validation of genes affecting asthma and atopy

Aims

1. To replicate genetic associations found in Icelandic asthma patients in the Busselton population

Investigators

- Prof Lyle Palmer, WAIMR
- Adj Prof Alan James, Pulmonary Physiology, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital
- Adj Prof John Beilby, PathWest
- Dr Jennie Hui, WAIMR
- Clin Prof Bill Musk, Respiratory Medicine, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital
- Dr Ingileif Jonsdottir, DECODE
- Dr Eva Halapi, DeCODE
- Dr Unnur Bjornsdottir, DECODE

Project status

In progress

2008/002

The Busselton Diabetes Study: a study of diabetes in a rural setting

Aims

To examine the nature of diabetes in patients from a rural Australian region (Busselton) and to compare with age-and-sex-matched non-diabetic subjects from the same rural community and with diabetic subjects from an urban community (FDS Phase II sample).

Investigators

- Prof Tim Davis, School of Medicine and Pharmacology, UWA
- Dr Wendy Davis, School of Medicine and Pharmacology, UWA
- Dr Kirsten Peters, School of Medicine and Pharmacology, UWA
• Prof Matthew Knuiman, School of Population Health, UWA

Project status

In progress

2008/003

Australian population based reference ranges for established and newer auto-antibody assays

Aims

1. To generate reference data for auto-antibody assays
2. To use these data to improve the interpretation of established and new diagnostic auto-antibody tests

Investigators

• Dr Peter Hollingsworth, Pathwest
• Dr Christine Bundell, Pathwest

Project status

In progress

2008/004

The Busselton Health Ageing Study

Aims

To establish a large, population-based, longitudinal cohort study of “baby boomers” (born 1946 to 1963) in order to:

• Collect epidemiological, clinical and genetic data on a range of conditions of economic and public health importance in an ageing population, including respiratory and cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, sleep disorders, vision and hearing disorders, bone health, spinal pain, muscle strength and physical function, cognition and mental health.

1. Enable an integrated approach across many disciplines to investigate the environmental, social, behavioural and genetic factors underlying susceptibility, progression and treatment of
common, chronic adult diseases and changes in physical and mental function associated with ageing.
2. Investigate the inter-relationship of diseases and phenotypes with each other, with the ageing process, and with genetic and environmental factors.
3. Enable opportunities to reduce disease burden and to develop and validate tools (e.g., predictors of clinically significant loss of function) to improve community health.

Investigators

- Professor Lyle J Palmer (Centre for Genetic Epidemiology & Biostatistics, UWA)
- Professor Osvaldo P Almeida (Geriatric Psychiatry, UWA)
- Professor Marcus Atlas (Ear Science Institute Australia)
- A/Professor John P Beilby (Department of Diagnostic Molecular Genetics, PathWest)
- Dr Romola S Bucks (School of Psychology, UWA)
- Professor Ian Constable (Lions Eye Institute)
- Professor George Davey-Smith (University of Bristol, UK)
- Professor Jonathan D Emery (General Practice, SPARHC, UWA)
- A/Professor Jonathan K Foster (School of Exercise, Biomedical & Health Sciences, Edith Cowan University)
- A/Professor Joseph Hung (School of Medicine and Pharmacology, UWA)
- A/Professor Alan L James (WA Sleep Disorders Research Institute, SCGH)
- Professor Matthew W Knuiman (School of Population Health, UWA)
- Dr Sutapa Mukherjee (WA Sleep Disorders Research Institute, SCGH)
- C/Professor AW (Bill) Musk (Respiratory Medicine, SCGH)
- Professor Robert U Newton (Vario Health Institute, Edith Cowan University)
- Professor Peter L Thompson (WA Heart Research Institute, SCGH)

Project status

Not yet commenced