Immunisation Events @UNSW in June

Prof Stefan Gravenstein (Brown University) and Prof Dan Salmon (Johns Hopkins University)

June 21st: Professor Dan Salmon - **Multi-Level Interventions to Address Vaccine Hesitancy and Improve Vaccine Uptake**

Event date: 21 June 2018 - 10:00am to 11:00am

Location: Berg Family Foundation Seminar Room, Level 6, Wallace Wurth Building, UNSW Sydney

Event Type: Seminar

Bio of speaker:

Professor Daniel Salmon, PhD, MPH is Professor, International Health and Health, Behavior & Society and Deputy Director, Institute for Vaccine Safety at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA. Dr. Salmon's primary research and practice interest is optimizing the prevention of infectious diseases through the use of vaccines. He is broadly trained in vaccinology, with an emphasis in epidemiology, behavioral epidemiology, and health policy. Dr. Salmon's focus has been on determining the individual and community risks of vaccine refusal, understanding factors that impact vaccine acceptance, evaluating and improving state laws providing exemptions to school immunization requirements, developing systems and science in vaccine safety, and effective vaccine risk communication. Dr. Salmon has considerable experience developing surveillance systems, using surveillance data for epidemiological studies, and measuring immunization coverage through a variety of approaches.

Abstract:

Multi-Level Interventions to Address Vaccine Hesitancy and Improve Vaccine Uptake
Vaccine hesitancy remains a significant clinical and public health challenge despite the overwhelming evidence demonstrating the benefits and safety of vaccines. Many pregnant women and parents undervalue vaccines and hold misconceptions regarding vaccine safety, undermining efforts to control infectious diseases and related morbidity and mortality. We have developed and are evaluating patient, practice and provider interventions to address vaccine hesitancy and improve vaccine uptake. Our patient-level intervention is a web-based application using audience segmentation to tailor messages such that patients who intend to follow vaccinations standards of care receive a presumptive approach to vaccination and those who hold vaccine concerns receive salient messages grounded in behavioral theory. Our practice-level interventions include nurturing a vaccine champion, a quality improvement program (AFIX), posters and brochures. Our provider-level intervention involves a continuing medical education training on how to talk about vaccines with patients and a book succinctly describing vaccine preventable diseases, vaccine recommendations, a broad range of vaccine safety topics, and talking points to use with patients. These interventions are consistent in approach, messaging and images. Evaluation of these interventions is underway through a randomized trial assessing knowledge, attitudes and beliefs as well as maternal and infant vaccine uptake.

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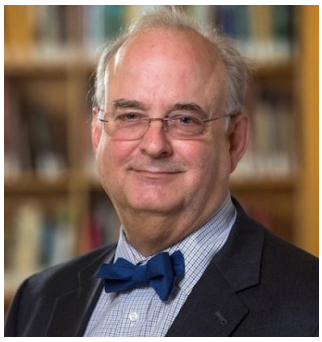
June 8th: Professor Gravenstein – **Old People, The Influenza Masquerade, and Prevention by Vaccine**

Event date: 8 June 2018 - 10:00am to 11:00am

Location: Berg Family Foundation Seminar Room, Level 6, Wallace Wurth Building, UNSW Sydney

Event Type: Seminar

Bio of speaker



Professor Stefan Gravenstein Professor of Medicine and Public Health, Brown University, USA. Dr Stefan Gravenstein is an internationally-renowned geriatrician and Professor of Medicine and Public Health at Brown University in USA, and Associate Director, Center of Innovation in Long-Term Services and Supports for Vulnerable Veterans at the Veterans Hospital, Providence, Rhode Island. He completed internal medicine residency and geriatrics fellowship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and William S Middleton Veterans Administration Medical Center, where he joined the faculty and was tenured prior to joining Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS). At EVMS, he became the John Franklin Chair of Geriatrics, Director of the Glennan Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology until being recruited to Brown University in Providence, RI, USA. There he became and remains the Clinical Director of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Quality Improvement Organisation and Network, Quality Partners of Rhode Island (now Healthcentric Advisors), which oversees quality improvement work for The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in New England.

Abstract:

Aging and multiple morbidities increase the risk for severe outcomes from influenza. 90% of hospitalisations relating to pneumonia and influenza occur in those aged 65 and older, even though they only comprise 15% of the population. As people age, so the impact of influenza changes from primarily respiratory to cardio-respiratory outcomes. A long lament has been that influenza vaccine is least effective for those who need it most. Several approaches have sought to improve vaccine effectiveness but few have been formally studied through prospective randomized-controlled trials. The presentation will largely focus on clinical outcomes from the randomized controlled trials for vaccines licensed for healthy elderly. This will specifically relate to primary endpoints of protocol-defined influenza in healthy people, and all-cause hospitalisation among frail elderly living in long-term care settings. Related post-hoc analyses from the long-term care studies will also discuss relative duration of benefits to respiratory and non-respiratory outcomes and the presumed mechanism for these, and herd immunity.