UNSW VIRL Presents
Vaccination of hard-to-reach and high-risk groups
Date: Wednesday 6th June 2018
Time: 12:00pm – 1:30pm
Venue: Gilbert Suite, Adelaide Convention Centre

Program: (Lunch will be provided)

11:30 am	**Registration**	
12:00 noon	Welcome	**Professor Raina MacIntyre** The Kirby Institute
12:05 pm	Vaccination challenges during the hepatitis A outbreak in homeless people in California.	**Dr Kathleen Harriman** Chief of the Vaccine Preventable Diseases Epidemiology Section, Californian Department of Public Health.
12:30 pm	Vaccination in the hospital sector: patients and staff.	**Dr Holly Seale** UNSW - VIRL
12:50 pm	Challenges in improving coverage among migrants and refugees	**Dr Anita Heywood** UNSW VIRL
1:10 pm	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.	**Dr Rob Menzies** UNSW - VIRL
1:30 pm	Close	

Dr Kathleen Harriman has served as Chief of the Vaccine Preventable Diseases Epidemiology Section at the California Department of Public Health since 2007. Prior to that, she worked for 15 years as an infectious disease epidemiologist at the Minnesota Department of Health, including supervising the state-wide infection control program. She has also worked as a paediatric emergency room nurse and as an infection preventionist at a children's hospital. Kathy is currently a voting member of the U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Kathy received her MPH from the University of Sydney and her PhD from the University of Minnesota.

Abstract:
After the introduction and recommendation for the targeted use of hepatitis A vaccines in the United States in 1996, and the recommendation for universal childhood vaccination in 2006, the incidence of reported hepatitis A infection declined by 95%. In recent years, most cases have been among adults who reported exposures associated with international travel or contaminated food products.
In early March 2017, the San Diego Health and Human Services Agency identified an increase in reported hepatitis A cases, which was more than double the expected number. Most cases had no history of international travel but reported homelessness and/or illicit drug use. This prompted concern about a person-to-person outbreak in these overlapping risk groups. The California Department of Public Health reported the outbreak to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and learned that an outbreak involving similar risk groups was ongoing in Michigan. Although hepatitis A genotype IA predominates in areas with low endemicity like the United States, unrelated genotype IB strains were the cause of both outbreaks.
This presentation describes the hepatitis A outbreak in California, its underlying causes and the prevention and control measures used to contain the outbreak, including the vaccination of over 100,000 people in San Diego County. Although the last outbreak-associated case in California occurred in early April, the outbreak in Michigan continues and additional outbreaks among persons in the risk groups are ongoing in Utah, Kentucky, Indiana and West Virginia. The current U.S. outbreaks among homeless persons and illicit drug users represent a change in the epidemiology of hepatitis A infection in the United States, and the morbidity and mortality among cases in these outbreaks is higher than among cases in prior years. New and creative approaches are necessary to prevent and control hepatitis A outbreaks in these risk groups.

Speakers:

Dr Rob Menzies is an infectious disease epidemiologist focusing on the surveillance and evaluation of immunisation programs and vaccine policy development. He has led six major national immunisation program evaluations for State and Federal governments, more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, and served as Chief Investigator for three NHMRC/ARC research grants. He has particularly focused on ensuring the best use of vaccines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) people. Dr Menzies is nationally recognised for his research work pioneering the publication of vaccination coverage for Indigenous children from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register. This included initiating and leading the publication series "Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Vaccination Coverage in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Dr Anita Heywood is an infectious diseases epidemiologist and Senior Lecturer at the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW Sydney and Director of the Master of Public Health program. She leads a program of research aimed at understanding vaccine-preventable disease epidemiology and immunisation gaps in migrants, refugees and international travellers. She is a founding member of the Monarch Collaboration, an international group with research interests in migrant and refugee immunisation. She developed and co-convenes the postgraduate Immunisation Policy and Practice course at SPHCM.

Dr Holly Seale is an infectious disease social researcher and is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW Sydney and Director of the Master of Infectious Disease Intelligence program. Her research focuses on exploring the factors impacting on immunisation uptake and developing new approaches to engage at-risk groups and the health providers around vaccination. Her research spans across a range of interest groups including children and adults with underlying/chronic health conditions, healthcare workers and refugees and migrants. She is on the board of The Collaboration on Social Science and Immunisation (COSSI) which aims to inform Australian immunisation policy and practice with high quality evidence from the social sciences by supporting capacity in research and evaluation, collaborations and translations

Chair: Dr Raina MacIntyre is Professor of Global Biosecurity at the Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales, Sydney, and leads a research program on biosecurity, bioterrorism, vaccinology, personal protective equipment and emerging infectious diseases.

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Who we are:
UNSW VIRL is a group of academic researchers based at the University of New South Wales (https://virl.unsw.edu.au/).
Our primary area of focus is adult and high-risk group immunisation, with a focus on vulnerable populations including the elderly, migrants, refugees, Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander people, immunosuppressed people and healthcare workers.
Our research expertise spans clinical trials, epidemiology, mathematical modelling, health economics, big data and data linkage, social and behavioural research as well as policy and evaluation. We engage in research, advocacy and teaching, with a large range of offerings in postgraduate studies in infectious diseases and vaccinology.

RSVP: Elizabeth Kpozehouen, e.kpozehouen@unsw.edu.au
Places are limited – Register now to secure your place, this is free event