

**NSW Churchill Fellows Association**  
**Big ideas Churchill Chat and Panel Discussion**  
**7.30pm on Monday November 29<sup>th</sup> 2021**

**Laboratories and their role in the diagnosis of pathogens**

You are invited to participate in the NSW Churchill Fellows Association Big Idea Churchill Chat on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm.

Two Churchill Fellows Dr Robert George (CFA 2017) and A/Prof Rogan Lee (CFA 2002) will discuss the role of laboratories at the forefront of identification and diagnosis of pathogens.

In recent months we have all lived with the global pandemic, COVID-19 and had our daily lives disrupted by health professionals efforts to control the spread of this serious viral disease. Despite extensive media coverage, there has been limited focus on the services working behind the scenes to support prevention and treatment activities.

Although there is no cost for this Webinar, registration is essential.

[Please register here](#)

**Information about the presenters and their presentations**

The emergence of COVID-19 has highlighted the central importance of laboratories in the diagnosis of pathogens. Often considered as ‘behind the scenes’ operations, the critical role laboratories play in timely and quality driven diagnostics is often overlooked, and, at times, even misunderstood. Laboratory systems are often complex, highly dynamic, interlinked, comprising an array of potentially disparate structures, and employing broad-ranging and cutting edge technologies. In this Churchill Chat, we explore laboratories as a component of the public health system. We commence with a brief introduction to diagnostic laboratories, and as case studies, highlight two areas of diagnostic challenge that have been supported by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust and where laboratories play a critical role: antimicrobial resistance, and diagnostics in parasitology. We then open the floor to audience questions.

**Presenter 1: Dr Robert George**

**Year of Fellowship: 2017**

**Project: To investigate keystone antimicrobial resistance surveillance initiatives of benefit to Australia – Switzerland, Sweden, UK, USA**

Dr Robert George is a medical doctor and clinical microbiologist based in Newcastle. Working actively in the diagnosis and management of infectious agents, he was the recipient of a 2017 Churchill Fellowship exploring optimal characteristics of antimicrobial resistance surveillance systems, visiting governmental and intergovernmental agencies across North America and Europe. A Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia and Associate Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators, he has broad-ranging qualifications and experiences, including a Doctor of Philosophy modelling outbreak systems, Masters of Public Health, and Health Leadership and Management, and has previously interned with WHO in Geneva.

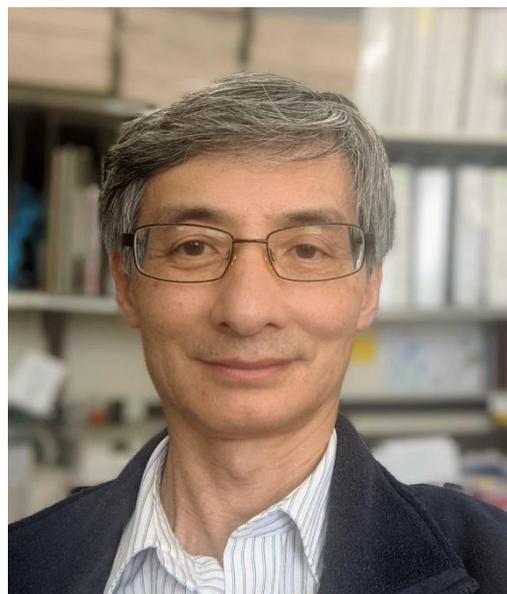


**Presenter 2: Associate Professor Rogan Lee**

**Year of Fellowship: 2002**

**Project: The Dr Dorothea Sandars Churchill Fellowship to update current knowledge and expand the diagnostic capacity of medical parasitology in Australia**

A/Prof Rogan Lee is a parasitologist and heads the laboratory in the Centre for Infectious Diseases and Microbiology Laboratory Services (CIDMLS) at NSW Health Pathology-Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research, Westmead Hospital. He has been studying parasites for over 25 years. In 2003, he received the Dorothea Sandars Churchill Fellowship to update current knowledge and expand the diagnostic capacity of medical parasitology in Australia. He has continued with this theme and still maintains an interest in improving and developing modern molecular techniques for diagnosis of parasites in humans with emphasis on nematode infections and malaria. He collaborates on several international projects involving malaria and neglected tropical diseases such as strongyloidiasis and visceral leishmaniasis.



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