

# Graduate School Seminar Series



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF  
**POPULATION  
& GLOBAL  
HEALTH**

## **Investigating whether diet, physical activity and obesity have a causal effect on cancer risk using Mendelian randomization**

**Dr Sarah Lewis**

Senior Lecturer in Genetic Epidemiology  
The University of Bristol, U.K.



Many dietary factors have been hypothesised to be risk factors for cancer. However, despite a phenomenal amount of observational studies the evidence for many is still weak or limited. Sarah's team have used publicly available genome wide study (GWAS) data from large cancer consortia and data from GWAS studies of our exposures to perform two sample Mendelian randomization. Sarah will present the findings from these analyses and discuss some of the strengths and limitations of using Mendelian randomization in this context.

Sarah Lewis is a senior Lecturer in Genetic Epidemiology at the University of Bristol, where she has worked since January 2004. She obtained a BSc in Genetics at the University of Sheffield, UK in 1995 and then a PhD in Genetic Epidemiology at the University of Manchester, UK in 1999, she then held series of short postdoctoral positions including a post at the International Agency for Research on Cancer. Her research interests are in using Mendelian Randomization to understand risk factors for cancer and to identify modifiable factors which influence in utero development.

**Wednesday 13 November 2019**

12.30 - 1.30 pm, Seminar Room 515

Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

Level 5, 207 Bouverie Street, Carlton

**ALL WELCOME**

***(Light refreshments sponsored by the Australian Epidemiological Association  
will be served from 12noon)***