

Graduate School Seminar Series



The importance of longitudinal prospective research in cognition – *the Women's Healthy Ageing Project*

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In 2013 NEJM and Lancet Neurology published the first timelines on the 30 year period of neurodegenerative disease development. Prior to this time most studies had recruited participants who were over 70 years of age as Alzheimer's Dementia (the most common dementia) is incredibly rare beforehand (only 1% of those 60 to 69). It is now well understood that the antecedents and risk exposures that contribute to dementia impact early in disease trajectory decades prior to diagnosis or clinically significant symptoms manifest. Therefore, without studies of 30 years duration which measure cognition at baseline (cognitive performance is highly autocorrelated) we cannot possibly understand the highly correlated interactive pathologies that determine disease, not identify therapeutic windows for prevention. We discuss our local study which has more than 25 years of full neuropsychiatric measures, biobank samples and imaging along with clinical and medical history which is about to enter the key period of cognitive decline trajectories reported after age 70.

Professor Cassandra Szoeki is Director of the Healthy Ageing Program in the Centre for Medical Research at the University of Melbourne. She previously led the Early Detection, Prevention and Health Informatics Streams in the Preventive health Flagship at the Australian Commonwealth Science and Industry Organisation (CSIRO). She is a practicing physician, and is a member of the Chairs of Quality and Safety in the Victorian Healthcare Association, on the SDAC advisory board for the Australian Bureau of Statistics, a consultant neurologist on Medical Panels and Councillor for the Australian Medical Association (Vic).

Wednesday 26 August 2020

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Zoom Link:

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/96465123133?pwd=YkZPdIVRbzIKZFBKSjZKNG9GaXBldz09>

Password: 076545

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