

Doherty Seminar Series

COVID Vaccine Roll Out in Australia: Update in 2 Parts

Thursday, 18 February 12.00pm – 1.00pm

The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection & Immunity

Webinar Link: <https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/86249727816?pwd=L0NST2pLbmpqRExZWVJveG5YRHZ1Zz09>

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'Complex or complicated? The COVID-19 vaccine rollout in Australia.'

The difference between complicated and complex policy, and where COVID-19 vaccination rollout sits. Draws on 2009 pandemic influenza vaccination experience, and considers roles of TGA, AHPPC, ATAGI and others in a federal system, and how different vaccine characteristics might impact on decision-making.

'COVID vaccines: how can we combat vaccine hesitancy and achieve high vaccine uptake'

COVID-19 vaccines are being heralded as the solution to control the pandemic & resume our previous way of life. Ensuring public confidence in the COVID-19 vaccines is crucial to facilitate uptake as we can't assume people will accept these vaccines. Low intention to refuse COVID-19 vaccines by adults has been reported in Aust compared to the USA, UK & Europe but we know the population attitudes towards the COVID-19 vaccines will fluctuate with perception of disease severity & vaccine safety & the waves of the pandemic, necessitating regular tracking of vaccine confidence amongst different population groups. Effective risk communication, company engagement with all sectors of the community, especially vulnerable groups, & strong endorsement from government will be crucial to achieve sustained vaccine confidence & uptake. Overcoming vaccine hesitancy & refusal & strategies to achieve high vaccine uptake will be discussed, building on current



Tarun Weeramanthri is a public health physician, and the President of the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA).

He was Chief Health Officer in Western Australia (WA) from 2008 to 2018, and in the Northern Territory (NT) from 2004 to 2007. In 2014, he was awarded the Sidney Sax Medal by PHAA, for his contribution to public health in Australia.

He is currently dividing his time between climate and health, and COVID-19. He was a panel member on the National Contact Tracing Reviews in 2020.



A/Prof Margie Danchin MBBS PhD FRACP

Margie is a consultant paediatrician at the RCH & an Associate Professor & Clinician Scientist, University of Melbourne & Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI). As leader of the Vaccine Uptake Group, MCRI, her research focuses mainly on vaccine confidence, acceptance & uptake, particularly amongst high risk-groups & in low & middle-income countries. In Aust, she is the chair of the Collaboration on Social Science in Immunisation (COSSI) Group, chair of the Social Science Advisory Board & a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee, National Centre for Immunisation Research & Surveillance (NCIRS) & on the COVID-19 ATAGI working group. She works closely with WHO & Global Vaccine Demand Hub & is part of the Melb Children's Global health Leadership team.



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