



# CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN **SEVERE ASTHMA**

*Innovative solutions for severe asthma*

## Centre of Excellence in Severe Asthma Newsletter (Volume 1 – August 2016)

Welcome to the first Centre of Excellence in Severe Asthma newsletter. Our newsletters will provide updates on activities, personnel, upcoming events and new developments that are relevant to severe asthma.

### Contents:

- **Initiatives**
  - Website and Twitter
  - Webinar Series
  - Seed Grants
- **Events**
- **Member Updates**
- **Severe Asthma News**
- **Highlighted Publications**



*Official website launch at TSANZ 2016*

### Website & Twitter ONLINE

We officially launched our website ([www.severeasthma.org.au](http://www.severeasthma.org.au)) on 05 April 2016. It is your best source of information on the Centre of Excellence in Severe Asthma, regularly updated with news and upcoming events. If you would like to receive updates on events, useful resources and research please join our mailing list, at the bottom of our homepage or follow us on Twitter [@SevereAsthmaCRE](https://twitter.com/SevereAsthmaCRE).

If you are interested in knowing more or have any questions, please contact us at [severeasthma@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:severeasthma@newcastle.edu.au)

### Upcoming Events (Save the Date):

30 August 2016 – Occupational Asthma Webinar

19 October 2016 – Annual Research Meeting, Newcastle

## Webinar Series

We regularly host national and international experts for online seminars on topics related to severe asthma. Seminars are recorded and made available on our [past webinars](#) site.

### Past webinars include:

- Prof. Ian Pavord - Biomarkers of Inhaled Corticosteroid Response in COPD
- Prof. Liam Heaney - Stratified Medicine in Severe Asthma
- Prof. Mike Thomas - Breathing Training Exercises for Severe Asthma
- Dr. Anne Vertigan - Paradoxical Vocal Fold Movement in Asthma
- A/Prof. Helen Reddel - Non-Pharmacological Interventions for Asthma



**Next Webinar: 30 August 2016 at 12:00PM** will feature Dr. Krystelle Godbout (Honorary Respiratory Fellow, John Hunter Hospital) presenting on "Occupational Asthma". To register for the online webinar, please go to:

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/2262527025053742339>

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## Seed Grants

The Centre of Excellence funds a number of seed grants, which showcase the range of research being conducted across the network. These small grants provide support to generate pilot data on topics relevant to severe asthma. More information on current funded projects is available [here](#).

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## Events

The Centre of Excellence in Severe Asthma has hosted a number of events over the past year. More information on [past](#) and [upcoming](#) events can be found on our website.



### Annual Research Meeting (19<sup>th</sup> October 2016, Newcastle)

Our annual research meeting will occur on 19 October at the HMRI in Newcastle. It will include presentations by our funded trainees and a webinar by Prof. Helen Reddel on the "Living With Severe Asthma Study". Further information will be available in the near future.



### Special Interest Group at TSANZ (5<sup>th</sup> April 2016, Perth)

We hosted a symposium at the recent TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting titled "Towards Innovative Solutions for Severe Asthma", which featured A/Prof. Mark Hew, Clinical A/Prof. Richard Loh, Prof. Jo Douglass and international expert Professor Liam Heaney.



### Roundtable Meetings (3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015, Woolcock Institute, Sydney)

We convened roundtable meetings of Australian experts from academia, primary & tertiary healthcare, health policy and biopharma. Areas of discussion were 1) models of care and 2) integration of new targeted therapies for the management of patients with severe asthma.



### Official Launch Event (21<sup>st</sup> October 2015, HMRI, Newcastle)

Our official launch featured presentations by A/Prof. Geraint Rogers, A/Prof. Vanessa McDonald and Prof. Guy Marks. A/Prof. Lorraine Smith also facilitated an excellent discussion with four consumers who live with severe asthma, highlighting the impact of disease on their lives and promising results from new treatments.

## Member Update

The Centre of Excellence in Severe Asthma funds PhD scholarship and post-doctoral fellowships to support career development in severe asthma research.

To find out more about our researchers and their work, click [here](#)



We are pleased to announce the appointment of 3 funded post-doctoral researchers and 1 PhD scholarship, with more to come.

- Dr. Louise Harkness (Woolcock Institute of Medical Research)
- Dr. Michael Fricker (Hunter Medical Research Institute/University of Newcastle)
- Dr. Vanessa Clark (Hunter Medical Research Institute/University of Newcastle)
- Ms. Daniela Eassey (University of Sydney)

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## Severe Asthma News & Funding Opportunities

- **Asthma Australia Symposium Series:** The 2016 series will focus on latest best practice treatment guidelines in the area of asthma management and new thinking in the areas of asthma, allergy and severe refractory asthma. Held throughout Australia from 13 – 26 October, 2016. For information and details click [here](#).
- **Rebecca L. Cooper Medical Research Foundation:** Medical research grants (\$25,000) fund research on lung disease (other than cancer). Applications close 01 September 2016. More information [here](#).

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## Highlighted Publications

Summaries of publications relating to severe asthma and articles that have been presented in the severe asthma journal club can be found [here](#).

### Recent Centre of Excellence Publications:

- [Targeted Therapeutics for Severe Refractory Asthma: Monoclonal Antibodies](#). Chris Grainge, Steven Maltby, Peter Gibson, Peter Wark and Vanessa McDonald (*Expert Reviews in Clinical Pharmacology*)
- [Diagnosis and Investigation in the Severe Asthma Clinic](#). Peter Wark, Mark Hew, Steven Maltby, Vanessa McDonald, Peter Gibson (*Expert Reviews in Respiratory Medicine*)
- [Real-life effectiveness of omalizumab in severe allergic asthma above the recommended dosing range criteria](#). Mark Hew, Andrew Gillman, Michael Sutherland, Peter Wark, Jeff Bowden, Michael Guo, Helen Reddel et al. (*Clinical & Experimental Allergy*)
- [Effectiveness and response predictors of omalizumab in a severe allergic asthma population with a high prevalence of comorbidities: the Australian Xolair Registry](#). Peter Gibson, Helen Reddel, Vanessa McDonald, Guy Marks, Christine Jenkins, Andrew Gillman, John Upham et al. (*Internal Medicine Journal*)