WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE REPRODUCTIVE TRACT MICROBIOME IN WOMEN EXPERIENCING INFERTILITY?

Dr Wilhelmina Huston
Senior Lecturer and Research Group Leader, Chlamydia research team, School of Life Sciences, University of Technology Sydney (UTS)

Dr Huston has published 71 peer reviewed articles and has been funded by NHMRC and ARC. Her research into infectious diseases that cause human diseases such as infertility and pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) in women, has led to her patent for a new diagnostic for Chlamydial infertility. Her work is expanding into the impact of the female reproductive tract microbiome. The vaginal microbiome in women is unique in that it is frequently dominated by Lactobacillus and has relatively low diversity in many women. It has long been known that the microbes in the vaginal can be involved in adverse pregnancy outcomes. More recently, evidence is emerging that the entire female reproductive tract microbiome has important implications during pregnancy and also in infertile women. This talk will update the latest work on the reproductive tract microbiome and infertility.

IS VAGINAL MICROBIOTA DYSBIOSIS CORRELATED WITH PELVIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASE?

Mr Rami Mazraani
Second year PhD candidate, School of Life Sciences, UTS

Rami Mazraani’s PhD project is focused on better understanding PID, which is associated with sexually transmitted infections (STI’s) and recent change in sexual partner or multiple recent partners. As many as 30-60% of cases do not have a known pathogen detected. A Lactobacillus dominant vaginal microbiota has been shown to be protective against STI’s while microflora with an absence of Lactobacillus and presence of anaerobes can be associated with risk. I am doing a prospective case-control study to examine the cervico-vaginal microbiota associated with PID. To date the preliminary data suggest that women presenting with PID are more likely to have an anaerobic dominated cervical and vaginal microbiome.

Date: Wednesday 25th July 2018
Time: 1 - 2 PM
Location: Auditorium, Research & Education Centre, St George Hospital
Ground Floor, 4 – 10 South St, Kogarah
Light refreshments will be provided
www.stgcs.med.unsw.edu.au/ripm