Dr Jaclyn Pearson awarded the 2014 Victorian Premiers Award for Health and Medical Research

SIG member Dr Jaclyn Pearson was presented the prestigious award at a ceremony at Government House in June. Jaclyn received the award in recognition of her groundbreaking research into the mechanisms employed by pathogenic E. coli to interfere with the immune response to infection. The work demonstrated that a Type III Secretion System effector protein, NleB, uniquely modifies host FADD to antagonize death receptor induced apoptosis. The outcome of the NleB activity is to effectively block a major antimicrobial host response in the gastrointestinal tract.

Dr Pearson conducts her research within the laboratory of Professor Liz Hartland within the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, University of Melbourne.

For more information read their recently published paper:

And the subsequent review paper:
Inhibition of death receptor signaling by bacterial gut pathogens. Cytokine Growth Factor Rev. 2014 Apr;25(2):235-43

Above: Dr Pearson receiving her award from the Premier of Victoria, Dr Dennis Napthine (left) and the Governor of Victoria the Honourable Alex Chernov (right).

Left: Prof Liz Hartland and Dr Jaclyn Pearson at the awards ceremony.
A new book edited by our very own John K Davies, Monash University, and Charlene M. Kahler, University of Western Australia: *Pathogenic Neisseria: Genomics, Molecular Biology and Disease Intervention* is available for purchase through Horizon Press.

The book is a comprehensive review of research on pathogenic *Neisseria* covering topics from vaccine development and antibiotic resistance to humanized mouse infection models and regulatory small RNAs.

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**Awards and Commendations:**

Congratulations to **Dr Megan Rees**, from Monash University, who was awarded a **Victoria Fellowship** under the Victoria Prize for Science and Innovation. She will receive $18,000 to undertake an international study mission. Dr Rees will travel to Canada to study proteomic technologies to investigate *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. See [http://www.veski.org.au/2014-victoria-fellows](http://www.veski.org.au/2014-victoria-fellows) for more information.

Congratulations to PhD student **David Cameron**, Department of Microbiology, Monash University, for receiving the **Anthony Koelmeyer International PhD Excellence Award**. This award will provide David with funding to attend the upcoming International Symposium on Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Infections in Chicago and visit with collaborating labs in the USA.

Congratulations to **Dr Evgeny Semchenko** and **Dr Aimee Tan**, Institute for Glycomics, Griffith University, who have both been awarded **Ian Potter Foundation Travel Grants** to attend the XIXth International Pathogenic Neisseria Conference, in the USA in October.

Congratulations to **Dr Maria Kaparakis-Liaskos** who will be presented with the **Milstein Young Investigator Award** for notable contributions to basic and clinical research at the International Cytokine meeting being held in Melbourne in October.

Congratulations to **Dr John Stambas**, Deakin University, for being awarded an American Association of Immunologists Laboratory Travel Grant.

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**Microbiology at QUT**

Members are invited to attend the upcoming workshop at Queensland University of Technology: *Microbiology at QUT and Beyond*. This one day event will highlight research at QUT and is designed to strengthen the links between academic and industry research among the microbiology community. The showcase event is being held on the 29th of October.

Recent Publications by SIG Members


Mckinstry WJ*, Hijnen M*, Tanwar HS, Sparrow LG, Nagarajan S, Pham, ST and Mak J. Expression and purification of soluble recombinant full length HIV-1 Pr55<sup>Gal</sup> protein in Escherichia coli. Protein Expression and Purification 2014 100:10


