

Doherty Seminar Series

Regional laboratory capacity building before and during COVID-19

Thursday, 15 July 12.00 – 1.00pm

The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity

Webinar Link:

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/89198694806?pwd=dUVPaWJmZHIGc1hKTkJMWWVFBa0dWUT09>

Webinar ID: 891 9869 4806 **Webinar Passcode:** 914290

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Professor Patrick Reading holds appointments at the WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza (WHO CCRRI) and in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Melbourne. His work at the WHO CCRRI is focused on improving laboratory capacity in the Asia-Pacific Region, which is a key function in the detection of novel variant and potential pandemic influenza viruses. At the UoM, he leads a research group focused on understanding how the body first recognises and responds to respiratory virus infections.

Outline: Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Patrick's work focused on supporting regional laboratories in their ability to detect and characterize influenza viruses. Since 2020, this role has extended to support the expansion of diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2 in the region. This presentation will provide an overview of recent work supporting implementation of molecular testing for SARS-CoV-2 into Pacific Island Countries and will discuss the challenges and successes of working remotely to achieve this.



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