

## Menzies clinician-researchers receive NHMRC funding

**Monday, 13 August 2018**

Two Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies) clinician-researchers have secured competitive National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding to continue their valuable work over the coming years.

Child lung health expert Professor Anne Chang received a Practitioner Fellowship while infectious diseases specialist Associate Professor Josh Davis received a Career Development Fellowship (Level 2).

“There is a high burden of chronic respiratory illness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults; to reduce this, we need to focus on improving children’s health because lung disease often has its roots in childhood,” said Prof Chang, a paediatric respiratory specialist and division leader of Menzies’ Child Health research team.

Prof Chang is involved in four NHMRC-funded studies and two international randomised controlled trials that focus on lung disease prevention.

She is known internationally and nationally for her work in producing evidence-based guidelines for treatment of paediatric chronic cough and bronchiectasis.

Meanwhile, Assoc Prof Davis’ fellowship will allow him to undertake a program of research focusing on three themes, namely *Staphylococcus aureus* infections, prosthetic joint infections and severe sepsis.

“There are currently large gaps in the evidence base informing the management of common severe bacterial infections,” said Assoc Prof Davis, a principal research fellow at Menzies.

“My research plan focuses on the three key priorities identified by Australasian infectious diseases specialists in a recent national survey.

“These are inter-related through their objectives to address infectious conditions which are common, currently have poor outcomes, and a weak evidence base. They also all involve randomised clinical trials, and include novel trial design and endpoints.”

The National Health and Medical Research Council are the principal funders of health research in Australia.

Menzies researchers have worked with a wide range of health services and community based partners, for more than 30 years to undertake research with impact.

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## **Menzies School of Health Research**

Menzies School of Health Research is one of Australia's leading medical research institutes dedicated to improving Indigenous, global and tropical health. Menzies has a history of over 30 years of scientific discovery and public health achievement. Menzies works at the frontline, joining with partners across the Asia-Pacific as well as Indigenous communities across northern and central Australia. Menzies collaborates to create new knowledge, grow local skills and find enduring solutions to problems that matter.