Immune modulation by vaccines: 
Shifting paradigms and the influence of sex

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The evidence that vaccines can enhance or impede immunity to non-vaccine related infections, allergic diseases and certain malignancies is mounting. However immunological studies that define the mechanisms of these effects are sparse. This talk will discuss the epidemiological evidence, and describe the results from randomised trials carried out in infants in The Gambia designed to tease out how vaccines modulate the immune system as a whole, using in vitro cellular techniques and transcriptome profiling.

Dr Flanagan did her medical training at the Universities of Oxford and London. She did a PhD in Oxford on natural immunity to malaria, and qualified as an Infectious Diseases specialist in 2004. From 2005-2011 she was head of infant immunology research in The Gambia. She is an ID physician in Tasmania and an adjunct senior lecturer at Monash University. Her research interests include early life innate and adaptive immunity, vaccines trials, transcriptomics and immune regulation.