Why does Australia appear to have the highest rates of food allergy

Professor Katie Allen
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Food allergy is on the rise in developed countries with Australia reporting the highest rates to date using challenge-proven outcomes. The 3 key hypotheses for the rise in food allergy are currently (1) the hygiene hypothesis (which includes microbial diversity); (2) the dual allergen exposure hypothesis (the role of early life eczema and infant feeding patterns), and (3) the vitamin D hypothesis. High rates of food allergy in infants of Asian migrants in Australia provides a unique “natural experiment” to explore possible explanations for this modern day phenomenon of the early 21st century. In this seminar, Katie will discuss the many findings from the Healthnuts cohort as well as research from others that underpin our further understanding of the food allergy epidemic.

Professor Katie Allen is Director of the NHMRC Centre of Food and Allergy Research, Theme Director at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, Professor of Food Allergy at the University of Manchester, UK and Adjunct Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne. She currently leads the Healthnuts study, a prospective cohort of 5300 infants examining food allergy and the allergic march over the first 10 years of life.

Wednesday 10 August 2016
12.30 - 1.30 pm, Seminar Room 515
Melbourne School of Population and Global Health
Level 5, 207 Bouverie Street, Carlton

ALL WELCOME