

Seminar Series - 2017

When: Monday 30th October @ 12:00 pm

Where: Rand Theatre, Level 8, Medical Building

“Organoids: modelling development and disease”



Professor Elizabeth Vincan
Doherty Institute for Infection & Immunity

Professor Elizabeth Vincan is a Senior Medical Scientist and Researcher at the Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, with joint appointments at the University of Melbourne and the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory (VIDRL, Melbourne Health). Her role as Medical Scientist is Deputy Section Head of the Molecular Hepatitis Laboratory, a routine diagnostic laboratory at VIDRL. Elizabeth is also Head of the Molecular Oncology laboratory. Her lab's research focus is the Wnt signal transduction pathway in adult tissues and disease. She is internationally recognised in the Wnt signalling field; has published two books on Wnt signalling and was the convenor of the first international Wnt meeting, and the first EMBO workshop, held in Australia. Elizabeth's group investigates novel ways to block cancer growth with a focus on the gastrointestinal tract – stomach, bowel and liver. The Wnt pathway is hyperactive in these cancers. Using mini-gut, mini-liver and mini-stomach organoid technology, her lab demonstrated potent anti-tumour effects by blocking Wnt receptors. This is now being developed as targeted therapy for gastrointestinal cancers. Her team is also using mini-tissue organoids to understand natural infection of normal gastrointestinal epithelia and the liver. Elizabeth is an adjunct Professor at the Curtin University, Perth, WA and a member of the Australian Living Organoid Alliance (ALOA).