

Northern Entrance,
Perth Children's Hospital
15 Hospital Avenue
Nedlands WA 6009

PO Box 855,
West Perth WA 6872

ABN 86 009 278 755

T | 61 8 6319 1000

E | info@telethonkids.org.au

W | telethonkids.org.au

Determining eradication strategies for Aspergillus infections in children with cystic fibrosis

Research Focus Area:	Respiratory Centre; Chronic & Severe Diseases
Research Group:	Synergy CF, Wal-Yan Respiratory Research Centre
Chief Supervisor:	Dr Luke Garratt, Telethon Kids Institute, UWA
Other Supervisors:	Associate Professor Anthony Kicic, Telethon Kids Institute, Curtin Professor Stephen Stick, Telethon Kids Institute, UWA, Perth Children's Hospital
Project Outline:	Aspergillus is now the most frequently isolated lower airway pathogen in the first years of life with cystic fibrosis (CF), where it is associated with mucus plugging as well as airway inflammation. The clinical question is whether Aspergillus should be eradicated early after detection as overall CF recommendations on anti-fungal strategy are unclear.

This project is part of the SYNERGY CF international collaborative research team into early CF disease. The candidate will characterise early CF clinical isolates of Aspergillus and investigate therapeutics to augment Aspergillus killing by airway leukocytes. Outcomes of this PhD will identify the major pathways/mechanisms that explain why Aspergillus is associated with lung disease in children with CF and inform clinical practice on Aspergillus eradication.

Suitable for:	<input type="checkbox"/> Honours	<input type="checkbox"/> MD	<input type="checkbox"/> Masters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD
Ethics approval:	<input type="checkbox"/> Obtained	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Obtained		
Funding:	<input type="checkbox"/> Top-up scholarship offered by project group. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full scholarship offered by project group. There are a limited number of scholarships (or top ups) available that will be issued at the Respiratory Centre's discretion, targeted to the most competitive (highest calibre) students that apply.			

Essential Selection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experienced in aseptic cell culture and specimen handling. - Microbial culture; fungal biology desirable but not necessary. - Familiarity with flow cytometry. - Ability to perform basic gene and protein assays i.e., qPCR and Western blots. - Understanding of basic statistical tests and data handling. - Willing to participate in patient recruitment.
-------------------------------------	---

For more information, please contact:

Dr Luke Garratt

(08) 6319 1804

Luke.Garratt@telethonkids.org.au