



Media Release

Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases Annual Conference 2009 – Day 1

MRSA in Australian children becoming more prevalent, more severe and increasingly difficult to treat, expert tells infectious disease conference.

Hunter Valley, NSW , Wednesday March 25, 2009--The prevalence of community acquired MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) is becoming a greater problem in Australia and worldwide partly due to the emergence of more aggressive versions of the organism but also due to increased methicillin resistance in the community, the Australasian Society for Infectious Disease Annual Scientific Conference will be told today.

MRSA is predominately known to cause skin and soft tissue infections, but invasive life threatening infections, including necrotising pneumonia, septic shock and death are being reported more frequently.

“We can no longer always rely on traditional antibiotics for the treatment of staphylococcal infections,” said Clare Nourse, Paediatric Infection Specialist at the Mater Children's and Mater Mother's Hospitals in Brisbane and Associate Professor in the Faculty of Paediatrics at the University of Queensland.

“The treatment of community acquired MRSA is complex and can be difficult. It is very important in management to obtain some material for culture in order to accurately identify the organism. The ongoing emergence of resistance to antibiotics requires a regular review of treatment recommendations,” concluded Nourse.

Some 300 scientists, academics and medical practitioners are attending the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases Annual Scientific Conference 2009 being held at the Cypress Lakes Resort in the Hunter Valley, NSW. The conference runs from Wednesday March 25 - Saturday March 28.

Day 2 (Thursday March 26th) highlights include:

- Annette Sohn, Director, TREAT Asia, Bangkok, Thailand, **The shifting epidemiology of HIV in Asia;**
- Reina McIntyre, Head of School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of NSW, **Effectiveness of face mask use to control respiratory virus transmission in households**

Further information:

Pollyanna Strauss (onsite) +61 (0)458 291 166

Michael Kessler mkessler@ya.com

Conference programme available at <http://www.asid.net.au/meetings/mediacentre.asp>