

ALLERGY

# OVERDIAGNOSIS IS HARMING PATIENTS


22.07.2014

It's the downside of always improved diagnostic procedures. With science progress and more information available, many information pieces are unvalidated and have a doubtful prognostic and therapeutic value. They even harm patients, possibly by further and unnecessary (dangerous) procedures but also increased insurance rates. The problem has been excellently described 2 years ago by Ray Moynihan, Jenny Doust, and David Henry in a [BMJ](#).

## MONDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2014

08:00-10:00	<b>REGISTRATION</b>		
10:00-11:30	<b>KEYNOTE SESSION 1 – Lecture Theatre 1</b> CHAIR: Carl Heneghan		
10:00	K1 Iona Heath - Details TBC		
10:30	K2 Sir John Burn - The highs and lows of genetic prediction		
11:00	K3 Jack Wennberg - Details TBC		
11:30-11:45	<b>TEA AND COFFEE BREAK</b>		
11:45-13:15	<b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b>		
	<b>Session 1A</b> <b>Screening and Overdiagnosis 1</b> <b>L1</b> Session Chair: John Brodersen	<b>Session 1B</b> <b>Case Studies in Overdiagnosis</b> <b>L2</b> Session Chair: Iona Heath	<b>Session 1C</b> <b>Mental Health</b> <b>L3</b> Session Chair: Allen Frances
11:45 – 12:00	<b>Abstract #147</b> Attitudes and preferences towards screening for dementia: a systematic review of the literature - <i>Louise LaFortune</i>	<b>Abstract #38</b> Overdiagnosis and dangerous overtreatment of irritable infants with "reflux." A rapidly emerging non illness with a case study of an effective multi modal educational solution - <i>Les Toop</i>	<b>Abstract #35</b> Selling Depression and Antidepressants: The Mental Health Foundation of Australia's National Depression Awareness Campaign - <i>Melissa Raven</i>
12:00 – 12:15	<b>Abstract #6</b> Overdiagnosis of Familial Mediterranean Fever by Genetic Screening in Adults - <i>Cem Sungur</i>	<b>Abstract #70</b> Difficulties in Estimating Overdiagnosis: The Special Case of Melanoma - <i>Barbara Dunn</i>	<b>Abstract #21</b> Medicalizing children's behaviour as Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD): a study highlighting the social processes at work in mis-diagnosis - <i>Gloria Wright</i>

Only recently I learned that there is now even a [conference series](#) how to stop harming the healthy. An own pubmed analysis showed zero interest in 1970, then gradually increasing until 2010 up to about 100 papers/year while now doubling in the last 3 years.

CC-BY-NC Science Surf accessed 22.12.2025 

---