

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	REGISTRATION		
10:00-11:30	KEYNOTE SESSION 1 – Lecture Theatre 1 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	TEA AND COFFEE BREAK		
11:45-13:15	PARALLEL SESSIONS		
	Session 1A Screening and Overdiagnosis 1 L1 Session Chair: John Brodersen	Session 1B Case Studies in Overdiagnosis L2 Session Chair: Iona Heath	Session 1C Mental Health L3 Session Chair: Allen Frances
11:45 – 12:00	Abstract #147 Attitudes and preferences towards screening for dementia: a systematic review of the literature - <i>Louise LaFortune</i>	Abstract #38 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>	Abstract #35 Selling Depression and Antidepressants: The Mental Health Foundation of Australia's National Depression Awareness Campaign - <i>Melissa Raven</i>
12:00 – 12:15	Abstract #6 Overdiagnosis of Familial Mediterranean Fever by Genetic Screening in Adults - <i>Cem Sungur</i>	Abstract #70 Difficulties in Estimating Overdiagnosis: The Special Case of Melanoma - <i>Barbara Dunn</i>	Abstract #21 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.

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