**Project Title:** Hepatitis risk in donors and recipients of solid organ transplants  
**Code:** SPH6

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**Project Type:** Data Analysis, clinical, Survey qualitative analysis

**Project Category:** Public Health, Epidemiology, Transplantation, Immunology & Infection

**Project Keywords:**  
1. transplantation  
2. biovigilance  
3. hepatitis  
4. survey  
5. risk

**Project Description:**  
Chronic disease is an important and increasing health burden in Australia. For some people with end stage organ failure, transplantation is an option. A key consideration in transplantation is biovigilance. Infectious disease transmission from donor to recipients is a serious adverse event. Reactivation of latent infection in recipients as a consequence of iatrogenic immunosuppression can also cause significant morbidity and mortality. Recognising the risk of infection transmission from donor to potential recipients is an important part of assessment of medical suitability of potential organ donors. Recognising the risk of infection reactivation in recipients is also a key consideration. Often transplant matches happen in a fast paced environment, and the appropriate interpretation of serology can impact crucial decisions about the transplant proceeding. Hepatitis B and C are key blood born viruses, and interpretation of serology and other tests for these infections is often not straightforward.

This summer project is to participate in a cross-sectional survey of health workers involved in decisions about transplantation, both donors and recipients. The aim is to identify gaps in understanding of potential risk, in order to subsequently develop appropriate support strategies for clinical decision making.

The summer student will work with expert supervisors to develop and test a survey questionnaire based on clinical scenarios, and subsequently apply the questionnaire, and analyse responses. You will learn many useful and transferrable research skills including information management, questionnaire design and administration, database management, data entry and cleaning, data synthesis and report drafting. The applicant will also develop skills in preparing a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The successful applicant who contributes well will be rewarded with co-authorship on any resulting publications. There may be opportunities to develop and extend this topic area into further projects suitable for honours or MPhil work.