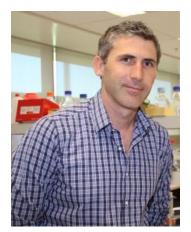


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Seminar Series

THURSDAY 7 JULY



Dr Justin Yerbury Senior Postdoctoral Research Fellow Centre for Medical and Molecular Bioscience University of Wollongong "The fine balancing act of protein homeostasis in ALS"

Dr Justin Yerbury leads a motor neurone disease research group housed in the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute, University of Wollongong. His work takes a cell and molecular

biology approach to understanding protein homeostasis in neurodegeneration and disease. Dr Yerbury completed his PhD in 2008 at University of Wollongong, after which he undertook post doc positions including a fellowship at the University of Cambridge, UK working with Prof Christopher Dobson. He has since moved back to Wollongong to set up his own group and currently holds an NHMRC CDF and is co-chair of the Proteostasis and Disease Symposium.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis is the most common Motor Neurone Disease and is characterised by the selective death of upper and lower motor neurons in the motor cortex, brainstem and spinal cord. The death of motor neurons results in the progressive paralysis of the muscles of speech, limbs, swallowing and respiration. A striking feature of ALS is its molecular heterogeneity, both in terms of the genes harbouring mutations in different kindreds with familial ALS and also the distinct types of inclusion bodies containing different aggregated proteins. Within this heterogeneity, however, evidence points to a dysfunctional protein homeostasis (proteostasis) environment. From this perspective a new view of the role of protein aggregates associated neurodegeneration is considered.

> 12:00noon till 1:00pm followed by a light lunch courtesy of Interpath Services For more information please contact Dr Sarah Rea E: <u>sarah.rea@perkins.uwa.edu.au</u>

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