

Healthy Development Adelaide (HDA) and the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation (CRF) PhD Excellence Award winners for 2020

We thank the CRF for its ongoing financial support of the PhD Excellence Award and its partnership of 13 years helping HDA to foster research excellence and career development in South Australia.

The successful applicants will each be receiving \$5,000 per annum for 3 years to augment their scholarships.



Leanne Winner is a PhD candidate within the Childhood Dementia Research Group in the College of Medicine and Public Health at Flinders University.

Leanne's research project aims to identify proteins that track the progression of childhood-onset dementia (Sanfilippo syndrome) which can be used to predict disease trajectory in children diagnosed with the syndrome.

Additionally, these proteins are likely to reveal symptom-generating functional pathways that may be targeted with novel treatment strategies; an area of strategic focus in the Childhood Dementia Research Group.

Ultimately, Leanne hopes the families of Sanfilippo patients identified by newborn screening can be counselled as to the expected disease progression of their child, appropriate treatment can then be provided, and its efficacy measured biochemically.



Susan Smith is a Registered Nurse/Midwife and PhD candidate within the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Flinders University.

Susan's research project will focus on increasing the uptake of antenatal influenza immunization through enhancing the knowledge of midwives. This in turn will ensure optimal health outcomes for both mothers and babies.

Influenza acquired in pregnancy can result in prematurity, spontaneous abortion, birth anomalies and death of mother and baby. The influenza vaccine has been shown to be both safe and effective in protecting both pregnant women and infants up to six months of age.

Ultimately Susan hopes to encourage midwives to take a proactive role in immunization promotion and provision, moving towards independent practice in this area.