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## PhD exit seminar: Activation of CD8+ T cell immunity during vaccinia virus immunisation

Thursday 5 September 2013 1 – 2pm

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**Slatyer seminar room** R.N. Robertson Building (Bldg. 46), Linnaeus Way, ANU



Recombinant vaccines based on engineered vaccinia virus (VACV) are being examined in clinical trials. Some are designed to activate CD8+ T cells, an important arm of our immunity system to control intercellular pathogens. My PhD project aimed to understand how CD8+ T cells are activated by two VACV strains, a virulent laboratory strain and a highly attenuated vaccine vector strain. My study showed that a similar pathway was used by the two VACV strains to activate CD8+ T cells. This challenged the published data which suggests that the vaccine vector strain operates differently from the laboratory strain. In addition, I found that two well-published methods for examining this field of immunology failed to provide any insight on how VACV activates CD8+ T cells. In summary, my study demonstrates that our understanding on how CD8+ T cells are activated by VACV is far from perfect.

Presented by

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