

HUMANS OF MEDICAL RESEARCH



Understanding DISEASE... Finding a CURE

DR ELINOR HORTLE



Dr Elinor Hortle has a big task on her hands. She's among a league of scientists determined to eliminate the world's deadliest infectious disease. In 2016, 10.4 million people were diagnosed with tuberculosis globally, and 1.7 million people died as a result. While Australia is considered a low-risk country, Elinor says that's all the more reason we should use our privilege to stamp out this killer disease.

Elinor started at Centenary last year and is currently working with Zebrafish to try discover new ways to treat tuberculosis. There is every chance Elinor could have been working at the United Nations instead of Centenary. During her time as an undergraduate, she completed a double degree in International Politics and Molecular Biology. Later in her degree, she had the opportunity to intern in a laboratory and says she "enjoyed the

daily vibe". Luckily for Centenary, it was that experience which launched her life of scientific research.

"I enjoy working somewhere where there's a lot of longevity - many researchers are here for 15 years or longer. It's also nice to see a place where people have worked with each other for a significant length of time," says Elinor.

Elinor notes that one of the most interesting projects she's worked on has focused on anti-platelet drugs - and how about half of them reduce the bacterial burden of infection, while the other half make it worse. In the future, she would like to extend this research.

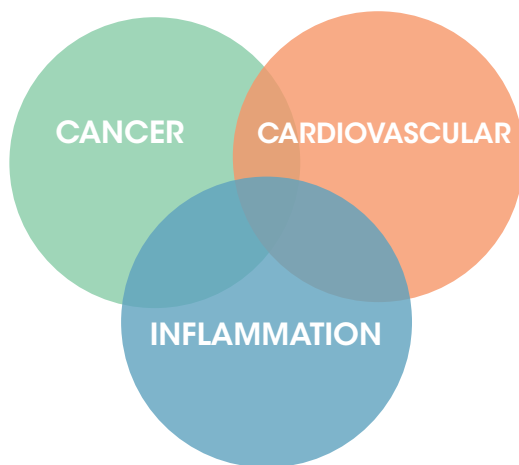
"I'd really like to get to the bottom of the specific mechanisms of how this is working or not working. Anti-Platelet drugs are sometimes prescribed to treat the complications of tuberculosis. If there's a chance they could make infection worse, it's really important we know why."

Outside the lab, Elinor enjoys bouldering - a pastime slightly different from traditional rock-climbing in that the climbs are shorter and no ropes are required. Elinor first tried bouldering while on exchange at a university in the United States about 10 years ago, and since then, she hasn't looked back.

"Bouldering is how I met my husband! I like feeling fit, but a good half of the difficulty of bouldering is that it's cerebral - it's like a puzzle you have to figure out."

Elinor is also a musical talent, having joined her first band at the age of 14. She currently sings in her church band.

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?



CANCER

Cancer is a disease of the cells, which are the body's basic building blocks.

1 in 3 women and 1 in 2 men will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85.

INFLAMMATION

Inflammation is the body's natural response to protect itself against harm. There are two types: acute and chronic.

1 in 9 Australians have asthma, around 2.5 million people.

CARDIOVASCULAR

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) is a collective term for diseases of the heart and blood vessels.

Almost 1 in 3 deaths in Australia in 2015 were due to cardiovascular disease.

Together we are the solution...together we can save lives.



Ask Elinor a question here <https://www.centenary.org.au/meet-elinor-hortle/>