

# Catherine Satzke



## project summary

An inaugural inspiring women fellowship is awarded to Dr Catherine Satzke from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute who will remain connected with her work in the Infection and Immunity area and the Pneumococcal Research group.

The fellowship will help combat a common challenge with maternity leave which is about continuing to conduct experiments while being away from the lab. The inspiring women fellowship will help fund a junior postdoctoral scientist to be the 'hands at the bench' to carry out the experiments while Dr Satzke is on leave and enable her to maintain the momentum of the research.

She will also be able to employ a senior postdoctoral scientist who will play key roles as a mentor to other staff and students while Catherine is on leave.

Dr Satzke also plans to attend a major international conference in Scotland in June 2016 with her baby daughter.

The fellowship will allow her to take a carer with her for the duration of the conference and participate actively without this added pressure.

Catherine's research is focused on the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, the pneumococcus, which is a leading killer of children under 5 years of age, with most deaths occurring in the developing world.

Current childhood pneumococcal vaccines effectively reduce both disease and carriage, but only protect against a subset of pneumococcal types, and are costly to produce. Assessment of vaccine impact in these countries is important to justify their ongoing use and the cost incurred.

She has two children, and will continue to build the scientific research team she has established and maintain her growing international recognition and impact.

## personal history

Dr Catherine Satzke obtained her PhD in molecular microbiology from The University of Melbourne in 2007.

She then established the pneumococcal microbiological research team at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute under the leadership of Professor Kim Mulholland.

Dr Satzke led a project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation worth more than \$3 million which involved over 20 international collaborators.

She has since attracted further funds to establish two serotype reference centres, facilitating vaccine impact studies in Asia. She led the update of World Health Organization (WHO) standards for pneumococcal carriage studies and made important contributions to studies in Fiji, leading to vaccination introduction.

## Dr Catherine Satzke

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Dr Satzke is an investigator on grants totalling \$17.7 million.

She received the prestigious international Robert Austrian Research award (2012), has been an invited speaker at six international conferences and co-organised a WHO meeting.

Catherine has published in journals including Lancet, Vaccine and PLOS Pathogens.

She currently supervises one postdoctoral researcher, five research assistants, one administrator, six PhD/Masters students, and one undergraduate student.

She was named Murdoch Childrens’ supervisor of the year in 2013.

### other inspiring women fellows:

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- / Dr Maria Liaskos
- / Dr Natalie Hannan
- / Dr Emily Nicholson

### host institution

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### further information

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[veski.org.au/inspiring-women](http://veski.org.au/inspiring-women)

### about the inspiring women fellowships

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The inaugural inspiring women fellowships, funded by the Victorian Government through the Office of the Lead Scientist and delivered by veski, are designed to support outstanding female leaders who are planning for, experiencing, or returning from a career break.

