



Project Title: Finding the answers to kidney disease: Nephrotic Syndrome		Code: CHW3
Host School / Institute: Children's Hospital at Westmead Clinical School		Address: Centre for Kidney Research, Children's Hospital at Westmead
Certificates & Clearances required: Yes *Working with children clearance <i>Information on how to obtain certificates, where necessary, will be given to successful applicants.</i>		
Primary Supervisor: Prof Stephen Alexander		
Phone: 02 9845 3408	Email: stephen.alexander@health.nsw.gov.au	
Co-Supervisor/team: The research team comprises two senior scientists, two research assistants and an honours student.		
Project Type: Laboratory based; Clinical; Data Analysis		
Project Category: Nephrology/Urology		
Skills / Attributes of a successful student: Understanding of gene therapy, kidney disease.		
Project Keywords: Nephrotic Syndrome; kidney disease; genetic disorders		
Project Description: One of the most interesting rare diseases in children is nephrotic syndrome. This is a disease where the kidney leaks protein and the child presents swollen and unwell. Most of these are immune and respond to steroids however proportions are due to genetic disorders affecting the kidney. We have pioneered next generation sequencing and have identified causative mutations in more than 8 genes. This project would combine defining the population of genetic and non-genetic nephrotic syndrome at our hospital and also spend time characterizing the histological appearance of the kidney biopsies from these children.		