



Project Title: Forming Clinical Diagnostic Criteria for Lichen Planus		Code: NCS4
Host School / Institute: Northern Clinical School / Kolling Institute		Address: Level 9 Kolling Institute, Department of Dermatology, Royal North Shore Hospital, St Leonards
Certificates & Clearances required: No		
Primary Supervisor: A/Prof Gayle Fischer		
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Co-Supervisor/team: A/Prof Gayle Fischer - Head of Research, Department of Dermatology, Royal North Shore Hospital and Dr Geoffrey Lee - Research Fellow, Department of Dermatology, Royal North Shore Hospital		
Project Type: Clinical; Data Analysis; Design		
Project Category: Dermatology; Epidemiology		
Skills / Attributes of a successful student: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The successful student should have a keen interest in clinical dermatology. Practical experience in medical statistics would be welcomed but not essential.2. Diligent and motivated with attention to detail. Inquisitive with problem solving skills, as well as good time management skills.3. This project would suit a student who is organised, meticulous, and has a strong interest in dermatology.4. Attention to detail required as complex patient information will be extracted from electronic medical records. Experience with Microsoft Excel essential.5. Enthusiasm, dedication, willingness to work hard and ask lots of questions.		
Project Keywords: Dermatology; Clinical; Diagnosis		
Project Description: Lichen planus is a chronic inflammatory skin condition affecting the skin and mucosal surfaces. Vulval lichen planus can affect women of all ages, and is debilitating, painful, and dramatically impacts on a patient's quality of life. Diagnosis is often significantly delayed as its appearance is highly variable, erosions can be difficult to detect, and sometimes it is misdiagnosed as lichen sclerosis. The existing diagnostic guidelines were formulated based on expert opinion, however validation studies have shown a poor correlation with histopathology results, with only 1/3 matching. We have a database of over 500 patients with vulval lichen planus, and this project aims to record the features of those patients, and then analyse them, to determine an evidence based diagnostic criteria for vulval lichen planus. Subsequent studies would look to formulate evidenced based treatment guidelines, based on these diagnostic criteria.		