



Project Title: Tracking the parasitic worm, <i>Angiostrongylus cantonensis</i>, migration in the intermediate snail host		Code: WCS1
Host School / Institute: Westmead Clinical School	Address: Parasitology, NSW Health Pathology-ICPMR, Westmead Hospital Westmead	
Certificates & Clearances required: No		
Primary Supervisor: Dr Rogan Lee		
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Co-Supervisor/team: Parasitology Laboratory at ICPMR, Westmead Hospital		
Project Type: Laboratory based; Qualitative Analysis; Design		
Project Category: Microbiology		
Skills / Attributes of a successful student: Student needs to be interested in biology of parasitic worms. He/she needs to be able to design simple experiments to help in understanding how this worm spreads and ultimately infecting mammals including humans. The project is important in understanding the biology of infection in the snail and how this worm is acquired in the snail. The longevity of the worm in the snail and knowledge of whether the snail is affected by the presence of this worm.		
Project Keywords: Parasite; worm; host; infection; life cycle		
Project Description: <i>Angiostrongylus cantonensis</i> is a parasitic worm of rats. It has a life cycle which involves an intermediate host, the snail, consumption of the snail by the rat or mammal is how the worm enters into its host. This worm migrates to the brain and causes an acute meningo-encephalitis. Infection with this worm can be fatal to both humans and other mammals. Young toddlers are most at risk of being infected. The severity of disease is dependent on the number of larvae in the snail when it is consumed by the mammal. The larval numbers in snails can be in the hundreds, but it is not known how these larvae get to these high numbers in the snail and whether the snail can survive with this level of infection. It is hoped that some laboratory experiments can help in answering some of these questions in the snail.		