

Clinical Virology conducts 11th Fieldhouse-Myers Oration

The Fieldhouse – Myers Oration is conducted by the Department of Clinical Virology to honor the memory of Professor Ruth Myers, the founder head of the Department of Microbiology at CMC, and her close friend Ms Jeanette Fieldhouse. Professor Myers developed the diagnostic services and pursued her research interest in beta hemolytic streptococci and arboviruses. Following her passing in 2001, her friend, the now late Ms Jeanette Fieldhouse, bequeathed a sum of money in memory of Professor Myers to support academic activities by the Departments of Clinical Microbiology and Clinical Virology.

The 11th Fieldhouse-Myers oration for this year was delivered by Dr. Jill Carr, Department of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia on the 21st of July 2017.



After having obtained BSc (Hons) and PhD from the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Adelaide in 1996, she was immersed in the study of dengue virus replication and host responses and has a research laboratory investigating dengue and Zika viruses, with a focus on their interactions with macrophages and responses in the endothelium, including innate responses such as interferon and complement systems.

Dr Carr explained the immunopathogenesis of dengue virus infection with special emphasis on the effect of the sphingosine kinase (SK1)/sphingosine-1-phosphate

(S1P) system on human vasculature and in vitro models. SK activity is promoted during the early part of the infection and then is reduced.

She also showed how SK influences dengue virus (DENV) induced interferon responses and the reduction in S1P in sera from DENV-infected patients and cells in vitro. She further explained how an immunomodulatory sphingosine analogue, FTY720 was shown to reduce late inflammatory and IFN stimulated responses in dengue infection, with no major effect on DENV replication. Principal Dr Anna B Pulimood, gave away the citation and award to Dr Carr.

