The new era of cervical cancer prevention: The impact of HPV vaccination and changes to cervical screening in Australia

Speaker: Karen Canfell, Associate Professor at the Lowy Cancer Research Centre, UNSW
Venue: Room 305, Level 3, Samuels Building, UNSW upper campus, Randwick
Date: Wednesday 4 March 2015
Time: 12:00-1:00pm (light refreshment is provided)
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Parking: Available on L5 of the parking station; enter via Gate 11 Botany St, Randwick
Map: http://www.unsw.edu.au/maps/maps.html

ABSTRACT
Australia’s National Cervical Screening Program currently recommends biennial Pap smear screening in women 18 to 69 years, and has been very successful in reducing incidence and mortality from cervical cancer. However, the rollout of the National HPV Vaccination Program has already reduced high grade cervical abnormalities in young women. The impact of vaccination, together with an accumulation of international evidence on primary HPV DNA testing, has led to the development of new recommendations for cervical screening in Australia. These recommendations, which have emerged out of a structured and evidence-based process of review (the 'Renewal'), propose that primary HPV screening be conducted every 5 years in women 25 years and older, and that women are discharged from screening in their early seventies. This talk will review the international evidence base underpinning the Renewal recommendations and will discuss the effectiveness modelling and economic analysis performed as part of the Renewal evaluation. It will also provide an update and first results from a major new trial of primary HPV screening in Australia (‘Compass’), which is anticipated to have a key role in the imminent transition of the screening program.

BIOGRAPHY
Associate Professor Karen Canfell leads the Cancer Screening Group at the Lowy Cancer Research Centre at UNSW Australia (from April 2015 she will take up a new role as Director of the Research Division at Cancer Council NSW). A focus of Karen's research concerns the interplay between HPV vaccination and cervical screening. Her group regularly perform evaluations of new cervical screening and diagnostic technologies and pathways for government agencies in Australia, New Zealand and England. Karen recently led the effectiveness modelling and economic evaluation of a number of options for cervical screening as part of a recent major review of National Cervical Screening Program in Australia. She is also co-PI of Compass, a major new trial of primary HPV screening in the vaccinated population in Australia, which involves 120,000 women.