

Project title:	Investigating risk factors for pregnancy associated cancer
Hours of engagement & delivery mode	25 hours per week In person, Herston Campus, Public Health Building 887
Description:	This summer research project involves conducting epidemiological research as part of a larger project investigating risk factors for pregnancy-associated cancer (PAC). The summer research project will involve tasks such as conducting a literature review of the relationship between fertility problems, fertility medicine use, pregnancy and cancer, and screening papers for a systematic review. PAC, defined as cancer diagnosed during pregnancy or within one-year postpartum, occurs in 1-2 in every 1000 pregnancies. Women with PAC have higher rates of serious maternal complications and their babies are more likely to be born early and have poorer outcomes. Rates have been increasing over time, partly due to the higher average age of women giving birth, however little is known about other risk factors for PAC. Hormonal medicines, including ovulation stimulating fertility medicines, have been associated with risk of breast and gynaecological cancers. It is unknown whether these medicines may also influence the risk of developing cancer during or shortly after pregnancy. An improved understanding of PAC aetiology may help prevent these cancers occurring in the future, thus reducing the burden of PAC and improving the quality of life for women and their babies.
Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:	The student will have the opportunity to improve their research skills by working with experienced epidemiologists and they will receive mentoring on critically appraising studies, understanding and summarising results, systematic reviews and academic writing. The outcomes of the project will include a written report summarising the outcomes of the literature review. The student will have the opportunity to give an oral presentation at the end of the project.
Suitable for:	Masters of Epidemiology / Masters of Public Health
Primary Supervisor:	Dr Karen Tuesley k.tuesley@uq.edu.au 0407 130 066
Further info:	The supervisor CAN be contacted by students prior to submission of an application