

Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Leaders in Science

Professor Jozef Gecz

NH&MRC Senior Principal Research Fellow

Professor of Human Genetics, School of Paediatrics and Reproductive Health, Faculty of Health Sciences
The University of Adelaide at the Women's and Children's Hospital



“Making sense of DNA variation, genetics and neurobiology of epilepsy, intellectual disability and cerebral palsy”

Monday 22 September, 2014 | 12PM, NAB AUDITORIUM

Host: Professor John Mattick

Jozef Gecz is Australian NH&MRC Senior Principal Research Fellow and Professor of Human Genetics at the University of Adelaide and the Robinson Institute. He is the head of the Neurogenetics Research Program located at the Adelaide Women's and Children's Hospital. The broad research aim of his group is to further understanding of brain function through the identification and characterisation of genes with naturally occurring mutations in patients with intellectual disability, autism, some, primarily monogenic, forms of epilepsy and cerebral palsy. His team discovered or contributed to the discovery of more than 60 different disease genes (e.g. AFF2, ARX, CDKL5, PCDH19, TBC1D24, GOSR2, UPF3B, HCFC1 or IQSEC2). Many of these genes pointed to new and unexpected biological pathways essential for normal brain function (e.g. non-sense mediated mRNA decay, NMD). The current focus of his research is in the functional interpretation of genetic variation, coding and non-coding, identified with next generation genomic technologies, using various cell and molecular biology tools, including patient cell (including stem cell) and animal models.