**THE SONG REMAINS THE SAME: WHY THE GLOBAL IMPACT OF MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES IS WORSE THAN EVER DESPITE NEW TECHNOLOGY**

**Dr. Craig Williams**

**Division of Health Sciences/School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences**

**University of South Australia**

**craig.williams@unisa.edu.au**

Insects have been recognised as vectors of human disease for a little over a century. Despite this, viruses such as dengue and chikungunya and parasites such as trypanosomes and plasmodia pose an ever-increasing global health threat. The failure of classical control methods involving insecticides has led to the development of novel techniques involving the spread of favourable genetic elements and symbiotic bacteria. In this presentation, the study of mosquito-borne diseases will be traced from its origins in Latin America and Europe through to the current day field trials of novel control techniques in Queensland that if successful, have the capacity to transform the global disease landscape. Failures of the past and prospects for the future will be discussed and the question of why humans have been so unsuccessful in controlling mosquitoes will be answered.