Barbara Hardy Institute

University of South Australia

Research Profile

Research Area Specialisation

With a focus on Biology and Ecology in the field of environmental health, David's main area of research is in the health effects of anthropogenic ecosystem disruption.

Contributing to a better and sustainable environment

Through his research, David works to determine the underlying drivers involved in the emergence and spread of human and wildlife diseases, many being of anthropogenic origin e.g. changing land use and climate. A better understanding of these drivers and their impacts will support actions to mitigate them through the use of local community responses or government policy that contribute to a sustainable environment.

Research Abstract

David is leading a $3M funded project from the New Zealand Foundation for Research, Science & Technology. The Health Analysis and Information For Action (HAIFA) project, aims to reduce New Zealand's vulnerability to the human health impacts from climate variation and change and is titled *'HAIFA - Enhancing Human Health Resilience to Climate Variation and Change'* (http://haifa.esr.cri.nz).

The HAIFA project has delivered several reports and associated tool development; international peer reviewed scientific publications; conference presentations; postgraduate scholarships and supervision; as well as a GIS web-based interface.

David Slaney

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Great Research into Sustainability

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People

- Our researchers are scientists, engineers and social scientists
- We work collaboratively on real-world issues
- Over 100 researchers and 130 research students

Projects

- Multidisciplinary projects focused on sustainability
- We work in partnership with government, industry and academia
- Extensive testing and evaluation services and consultancy expertise
- Our work is underpinned by community participation and education

The interface can carry out ‘what if’ scenarios for 2015, 2040 and 2090 to within 25 square kilometres for six diseases under different climate change projections - campylobacteriosis, cryptosporidiosis, meningococcal disease, influenza, Ross River and dengue fevers. HAIFA is the first international project of its kind and will help central, regional and local authorities to respond to potential infectious disease risks associated with climate variation and change.

David also supervises PhD and Master students in collaboration with UniSA colleagues, including: the ecology of zoonotic arboviruses in urban and peri-urban South Australia; the development of a risk assessment tool for antimalarial resistance; and the development of environmental health indicators for the human health impacts from climate change.

Research areas of interest

- Vector and vector-borne disease ecology
- Climate change and human health
- Environmental health indicators
- Anthropogenic ecosystem disruption and human health/conservation/biosecurity

Barbara Hardy Institute

The Institute allows us to be in the presence of, and work with, like minds that have a passion for environmental research for better sustainable environment outcomes.

Keywords to describe David’s research

- Mosquitoes
- Climate
- Disease
- Biosecurity

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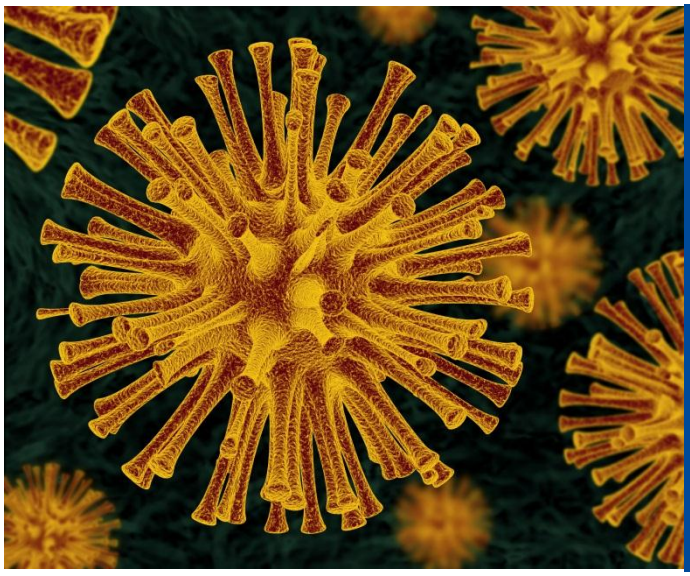

“The HAIFA project will deliver important information to authorities to respond to potential infectious disease risks associated with climate variation and change.”