Antibiotic resistant bacteria in Australian wildlife
Reference #2017726; MQRES Scholarship closing 17th May, 2018

This project will investigate the dissemination of antibiotic resistant bacteria to terrestrial wildlife species. The successful applicant will use molecular and microbiological methodologies to examine the epidemiology of antibiotic resistant bacteria in urban wildlife, specifically possums.

The emergence of antibiotic resistance is one of the world's most pressing issues. Combatting resistance requires a One Health approach. One Health recognises that disease spread and control spans human, domesticated animal, wildlife and environmental health. This project aims to address the wildlife health aspect of antibiotic resistance by characterising resistant bacteria in possums and the outcome of colonisation by resistant bacteria to possum health.

This project will include fieldwork in NSW and other states of Australia. The successful candidate will need to lead fieldwork activities and travel for short periods of time. The successful candidate may also need to participate in capture and sampling of possums.

This PhD project is aligned with a Citizen Science project (Scoop a Poop: citizens tackle antibiotic resistance in the wild). The successful candidate will also have an opportunity to participate in the citizen science component and outreach activities in high schools, which provides large numbers of samples for the project.

Please contact michelle.power@mq.edu.au for further information. The MQRES full-time stipend rate is $27,082 per annum (in 2018 tax exempt for up to 3 years (indexed annually)

Applications will need to be lodged via Macquarie Universities online application system https://www.mq.edu.au/research/phd-and-research-degrees/how-to-apply