

Dr Cassandra Szoeki

BSc (Hons)Genet (Unimelb) MBBS (Flinders) FRACP (RACP)
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Other Appointments

- Consultant Neurologist, Melbourne Health, Royal Park Campus
- Research Fellow, National Ageing Research Institute.

Research Areas

Women's Health
Cognition

Current Research Projects

Cognition and Ageing
Pharmacogenomics and Epilepsy
WGS in ageing

Teaching Areas

General Neurology
Women's Health
Epilepsy

Brief Profile

Dr. Szoeki has an honours degree in Genetics and Pharmacology, MBBS and FRACP with specialisation in Neurology and subspecialisation in Epileptology. Her PhD was an epidemiological study on arthritis, menopause and ageing. She has strong research and clinical experience with neurology, epilepsy, general medicine and aging. She has had formal

training in statistics, EEG, and commercialisation courses. Her PostDoc Fellowship, conducted between Stanford University and the University of Melbourne, examines both cognition and whole genome association studies.

Current research areas include both women's healthy ageing and genetic predisposition studies. She is associate chief investigator on a multi-centre hospital-based prospective study of first-ever seizure in adults examining the pharmacogenetics of anti-epileptic medications and associate chief investigator on the MWMHP extension study the Women's Health Ageing Project (WHAP).

The Melbourne Women's Midlife Health Project (MWMHP) is a longitudinal prospective study examining women over the menopause. There is over a decade of longitudinal data on these women and the WHAP extension study plans to examine them into ageing with the benefit of the earlier life measures, in order to better understand healthy ageing

Publications

Published Refereed Journal article

Szoeke C, Cicuttini F, Guthrie J, Wluka A, Dennerstein L. 2008. Physician diagnosed arthritis, reported arthritis and radiological non-axial osteoarthritis. *Osteoarthritis and Cartilage. Online 14th Jan.*

Szoeke C, Cicuttini F, Guthrie J, Dennerstein L. 2008. The relationship of reports of aches and joint pains to the menopausal transition– A longitudinal Study.

Cavalleri G, Weale M, Shianna K, Singh R, Lynch J, Grinton B, **Szoeke C**, et al. 2007. A large-scale multi-centre effort to map genetic variants for sporadic epilepsy syndrome and seizure types. *Lancet Neurology 6(11): 970-80.*

Szoeke C, Cicuttini F, Guthrie J, Clark M, Dennerstein L. 2006. Factors affecting the prevalence of osteoarthritis in healthy middle-aged women; data from the longitudinal Melbourne Women's Midlife Health Project. *Bone Vol 39: 1149-1155.*

Szoeke C, Cicuttini F, Guthrie J, Clark M, Dennerstein L. 2006. The relationship between prospectively assessed body weight and physical activity and the prevalence of radiological knee osteoarthritis in post menopausal women. *J. Rheumatology Sept 33(9): 1835-1840.*

Szoeke, C.E.I; Cicuttini, F; Guthrie, J, Dennerstein, L. 2005. Self reported arthritis and the menopause. *Climacteric Vol 8 (1) Mar: 49-55.*

Taylor, I; Butzkueven, H; Litewka, L; MacGregor, LR; **Szoeke, C**; Cook, M; Mitchell, P; Kilpatrick, TJ and Tubridy, N. 2004. Serial MRI in multiple sclerosis: a prospective pilot study of lesion load, whole brain volume and thalamic atrophy. *Journal of Clinical Neuroscience, Volume 11, Issue 2: 153-158*

Davis, S.M; Parsons, M.W; Butcher, K.S; **Szoeke, C.E.I**; Baird, T; Mitchell, P.J; Fox, S. 2003. Thrombolysis for acute ischaemic stroke: revisiting the evidence - Reply. *Medical Journal of Australia; 179 (7): 388-389.*

Szoeke, C.E.I; Parsons, M.W; Butcher, K.S; Baird, T; Mitchell, PJ; Fox, S and Davis, S.M. 2003. Acute stroke thrombolysis with intravenous tissue plasminogen activator in an Australian tertiary hospital. *Medical Journal of Australia*; 178 (7): 324-328.

Published Refereed Review article

Szoeke, C; Newton, M; Wood, J; Goldstein, D; Berkovic, S; OBrien, T Sheffield, L. 2006. Update on pharmacogenetics in epilepsy – A brief review. *The Lancet Neurology*, Feb 5(2):189-196.

Published Refereed Editorial

Szoeke, C and Dennerstein, L. 2002. Therapy of female sexual dysfunction. *Zentralblatt für Gynäkologie*.124: 84-95.

Published Books/Chapters

Szoeke, C; Campbell, S; Chiu, E; Ames, D. 2008. Chapter X: Vascular Cognitive Disorder *The American Psychiatric Publishing Textbook of Alzheimer Disease and Other Dementias.* Accepted December, 2007.

Szoeke, C. 2007. Osteoarthritis, menopause and aging. *PhD Thesis, University of Melbourne, Balieu Library.*

Szoeke, C. 1995. Mathathionin resistance in Lucilia Cuprina. *Honours Thesis, University of Melbourne, Genetics Library.*

Other Articles

Szoeke, C; Peart, A; Bammer, G; Audera, C. 2000. Recreational Water Use in Remote Indigenous Communities. *Co-operative Research Centre for Water Quality and Treatment & The National Centre for Epidemiology and Public Health, the Australian National University.*

Szoeke, C.E.I; Chavet, M; Noutsos, T. 1998. A Closer Look. *Video and appendage paper. Part of a research package presented to the Port Pirie council*

Published abstracts

Szoeke, Sheffield, Newton, D'Souza, Cook, Lawn, Wood, Berkovic and O'Brien. 2005. Pharmacogenetics in Epilepsy: An Australian prospective study. *J Clin. Neuroscience* Nov 15; 238 Suppl 1:S1-526.

Szoeke, Meckes-Ferber, Sheffield, Newton, D'Souza, Cook, Lawn, Wood, Kilpatrick, Matkovic, Berkovic and O'Brien. 2005. The outcome of first seizure clinics: An Australian prospective study. *Epilepsia* Vol 46 Suppl6:s259.

Szoeke, C; Desmond, P; Kilpatrick, C; Matkovic, Z; Tress, B and O'Brien, T. 2004. Pilot study of the utility of diffusion tensor MRI in lateralising non-lesional TLE. *Epilepsia* Vol 45 Suppl. 7:371.

Praveen K, O'Brien T, **Szoeke**, C and Foote S. 2004. Linkage analysis of familial partial epilepsy with variable foci. *Epilepsia Vol 45 Suppl. 7:225*.

Szoeke, C; Cicuttini, F; Guthrie, J; Clark, M and Dennerstein, L. 2004 Factors affecting the development of osteoarthritis across the menopausal transition. *Menopause, Vol. 11, No. 6: 652*.

Szoeke, C; Dennerstein, L; Cicuttini, F; Guthrie, J and Taffe, J. 2002 Osteoarthritis, menopause and aging. *Climacteric Vol 5 Sup 1: 206*.