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## Media Statement

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS GUT HEALTH AS FOCUS FOR PREVENTING DIABETES

WA researchers who've helped discover that pregnant women with type 1 diabetes have a different profile of viruses in their gut, which could impact the health of their children, will share their new knowledge at a free seminar.

Diabetes Research WA's event, ***Diabetes & The Gut: Closer to a Cure***, is on in Wembley on Wednesday July 17 starting at noon.

Paediatric endocrinologist and Telethon Kids Institute Professor Liz Davis will speak at the seminar about her group's ongoing work into gut health and type 1 diabetes as part of the national Environmental Determinants of Islet Autoimmunity (ENDIA) Study.

"Earlier this year, ENDIA published work showing that compared to pregnant women without type 1 diabetes, those with it were more likely to have viruses called 'picobirnaviruses' and 'tobamoviruses' and we found significant differences in the total amounts of viruses between the groups," said Professor Davis.

"We believe this is the first study to examine the longitudinal gut virome across all three trimesters of pregnancy and what's exciting is that it's uncovered potential new targets for future studies looking at how to prevent type 1 diabetes."

Professor Davis said the ENDIA team was also investigating if the bacteria in a mother's digestive system – the 'microbiome' – could influence the health of babies, including whether or not they developed chronic conditions such as type 1 diabetes.

"Type 1 diabetes is a lifelong condition with no cure but there's a lot of hope that research could help understand how to harness the power of the microbiome to ward it off," said Professor Davis.

Diabetes Research WA's event will also look at the links between gut health and type 2 diabetes – including cases of type 2 linked to statin medications – as well as discuss how patterns of eating impact gut health, chronic disease and wellbeing.

"There are so many potential breakthroughs for human health and diabetes that may arise from research into the microbiome and all its parts so we're thrilled to be sharing some of that insight at this National Diabetes Week event," said Diabetes Research WA executive director Sherl Westlund.

West Coast Eagles forward Jamie Cripps, who has type 1 diabetes, will also be at the event signing autographs before the formalities kick off.

Head to [diabetesresearchwa.com.au](http://diabetesresearchwa.com.au) to find out more details and reserve your free seat.

National Diabetes Week begins on July 14.

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