Lara Motta

Lara Motta is a research assistant at the Flinders University International Centre for Point-of-Care Testing. Lara is the point-of-care coordinator for the ACE (Analytical and Clinical Excellence) program, an international point-of-care testing (POCT) model for diabetes management which is now operating in 18 rural and remote Indigenous communities in seven countries. Lara is also the web manager for the Centre’s Graduate Certificate in Global Point-of-Care Testing, the first postgraduate academic qualification in the field of POCT.

Within Australia, Lara assists with training device operators and supervising quality testing for the largest national POCT program in Australia, QAAMS (Quality Assurance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical Services), which involves over 170 Aboriginal medical services, as well as the Northern Territory POCT program, and the Diabetes Management Along the Mallee Track program. Lara is also involved in TTANGO (Test, Treat and Go), a new NHMRC-funded trial investigating POCT for chlamydia and gonorrhoea in remote Australian Aboriginal communities.

Lara achieved First Class Honours in 2011 for her Honours thesis titled ‘Optimising point-of-care testing services for diabetes management in the Victorian Mallee Track’, and was awarded the Flinders University Medal in 2012 and the Neil Della Scholarship in 2011; both awards recognise her outstanding academic performance as an undergraduate student at Flinders.

Lara was as an invited speaker on POCT for HIV at the 28th Annual NRL Workshop in Canberra, and has presented posters at the 28th NRL Workshop and the 2012 Australian Institute of Medical Scientists (AIMS) National Scientific Meeting. Lara presents lectures in the Flinders University Bachelor of Medical Science POCT topic and has developed a video lecture on POCT for HIV in low resource settings in a collaboration with the University of Davis, California.