Welcome Week 2018
Micro-Seminars

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome:
Exploring the Medical Mystery

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Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) is the most common cause of death in infants between the ages 1-month and 1-year, yet its cause remains unknown. The usual story is that an apparently healthy infant is put down to sleep, and the parent comes back some time later to find that the infant has died suddenly and unexpectedly. By law, all such infants undergo a death scene investigation and autopsy, yet the cause of the death remains unexplained. What is the cause of this medical mystery?

In this Microseminar, we will explore where medical research is taking us to understand how these deaths occur. Public health interventions, like having babies sleep on their backs, have dramatically decreased the number of babies dying from SIDS. We will investigate the role of public health education to prevent medical illness. Surviving family members are forever changed after a SIDS death. We will learn the impact on the family first hand from two SIDS parents.

On the second day, two SIDS parents will describe the impact of SIDS on them and their families. A public health nurse, experienced in helping SIDS families, will also present public health interventions to help SIDS families and to reduce the number of babies dying. A complete syllabus will be available in PDF format for the students, which they can use as a resource. They are not required to read it prior to the microseminar.