



Eleni Hackwell is in the final year of her PhD, supervised by Professor Dave Grattan in the Centre for Neuroendocrinology, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. Her research focuses on the role prolactin plays in lactational infertility.

Mammalian mothers undergo a period of infertility during lactation to enable metabolic resources to be focused on nurturing newborn-offspring rather than supporting a further pregnancy. Using *in vivo* fibre photometry to measure kisspeptin neuronal activity, she has demonstrated how the activity of these key neuronal regulators of fertility are changing throughout pregnancy and lactation. Utilising a conditional knockout approach to generate an arcuate-specific deletion of *Prlr* from kisspeptin neurons, she has also identified a key role for prolactin in maintaining lactational infertility through suppression of kisspeptin neurons.