Teaching in Epidemiology often starts with the story of John Snow and his investigation of an outbreak of Cholera in London. Although current epidemiology is largely focussed on non-communicable diseases, infectious diseases remain an important cause of morbidity and mortality globally. In this mini-symposium, three speakers will discuss their work in the field of infectious diseases epidemiology, from outbreak investigation, to modelling the likely course of an epidemic, to identifying novel interventions for the control of future epidemics.

Speakers:

**A/Prof Manoj Gambhir, BSc, PhD**
Head, Epidemiological Modelling Unit, Monash University

“Epidemiological modelling in a public health emergency: the case of Ebola”

A/Prof Gambhir’s work focuses on modelling the likely population health impact and cost-effectiveness of control interventions in both communicable and non-communicable diseases. In 2013, he led the Modelling team for CDC’s emergency response to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-cov) outbreak in the Middle East and Europe, and was a senior modeller in the emergency response for the H7N9 avian influenza outbreak in China and SE Asia. This presentation will focus on the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

**Dr Debbie Eagles, BVSc, MVPHMgt, PhD**
Veterinary Diagnostician, Australian Animal Health Laboratories

“Henipavirus Outbreak Investigation in the Philippines: Perspectives from the Field and the Laboratory”

Dr Eagles previously worked as a veterinarian in Queensland and is now the AAHL Veterinary Investigations team leader. She leads an ACIAR research project in the Philippines and provides epidemiological support to various projects. She maintains a strong interest in field/laboratory relationships and enjoys being involved in field investigations such as the one described in this talk.

**Ms Katie Anders, BSc**
Eliminate Dengue Program, School of Biological Science, Monash University

“Tools to meet the rising challenge of dengue”

Ms Anders worked as an epidemiologist at the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit in Ho Chi Minh City for six years until February 2015, with studies exploring spatial and temporal patterns in dengue transmission and risk factors for poor patient outcomes. She recently joined the Eliminate Dengue Program based at Monash University, which is developing a novel intervention to reduce the spread of dengue.