Red flags or Red herrings: what is the evidence?
Aron Downie
BSc, MChiro, MPhil, PhD(cand.) (The George Institute for Global Health)
on Tuesday, 27 May, 1-2pm, in E8A 280 (Biology Tearoom)

Red flags are cues from the clinical history or examination that are commonly used to identify patients with suspicion of serious pathology. They are used to guide decision making regarding the need for further investigations including imaging. This review\(^1\) conveys the diagnostic accuracy of red flags for detection of malignancy and fracture in patients with low back pain. We argue that clinical guidelines recommending the use of red flags to screen for serious pathology in patients who present with low back pain require revision. The debate generated amongst experts from medical, research and political fields as a result of this review will be discussed.

Aron Downie is a registered chiropractor with 20 years of clinical experience working within a multidisciplinary rehabilitation team. He is presently working toward a PhD in predicting recovery trajectories in low back pain.