Parasite detectives in the ACT

In February, ANU hosted eager Human Biology students from the University of Canberra Senior Secondary College for a "Parasite Detectives" prac.

In this prac, led by **Giel van Dooren**, students had to diagnose and treat **Sadaf Ilyas**'s *Plasmodium falciparum* infection, **Cibelly Goulart**'s Toxoplasma infection, **Soraya Zwahlen**'s Chagas disease and **Jenni Hayward**'s *Plasmodium knowlesi* infection before these ANU parasitologists succumbed to their illnesses. Students undertook diagnostic PCRs, microscopy analysis, and literature searches in a race against time, and managed to save their demonstrators with minutes to spare. We thank the wonderfully engaged students and their teachers (Sarah Belling and Roger Amey) for coming along for the morning, Danny Wilson's group (University of Adelaide) for providing Plasmodium knowlesi-infected blood smears, and the ANU Research School of Biology Teaching staff for providing facilities and reagents.

Pictured: eager University of Canberra Senior Secondary College students actively diagnosing parasitic diseases with the help of Giel van Dooren (green lab coat, top) and Jenny Hayward (purple lab coat, right).