

# MMS PhDone and Dusted Career Pathways Workshops



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<b>Date:</b>	31 October 2023	<b>Time:</b>	10:30 am to 3:15 pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Forum Theatre, Arts West, University of Melbourne		

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## Program – Tuesday 31 October 2023

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<b>10:15 – 10:30</b>	<b>Arrival and Settle in</b>
10:30 – 10:40	<b>A/Prof Catherine Quinlan</b> – MMS Academic Lead, Graduate Research Welcome and opening
10:40 – 11:00	<b>Prof Robyn Langham</b> – Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Plenary session
11:00 – 12:30	<b>Discovery Scientist Pathways Panel Discussion</b> Moderator: Dr Jessica Vanslambrouck (Murdoch Children’s Research Institute) Dr Elizabeth Aitken (Department of Infectious Diseases) Dr Kevin Lee (Department of Medicine, Royal Melbourne Hospital) Dr Seungyoul (Sean) Oh (CSL) Dr Bow Tauro (Partnership Manager - Illumina, University of Melbourne)
<b>12:30 – 1:00</b>	<b>Light lunch and networking</b>
1:00 – 2:30	<b>“How did I end up here?” Panel Discussion</b> Moderator: Prof Natalie Hannan (Assoc Dean, Diversity and Inclusion, MDHS) Dr Louise Allen (Department of Medical Education) A/Prof Prahlad Ho (Department of Medicine, Northern Health) Dr Tegan Podubinski (Department of Rural Health) Dr Simon Preston (SYNthesis Research)
2:30 – 3.15pm	<b>Closing Plenary: Professor Louise Purton</b> (St Vincent’s Institute for Medical Research)
3:15	<b>Close of Day 1</b>

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## About our Speakers:

### Plenary Speaker

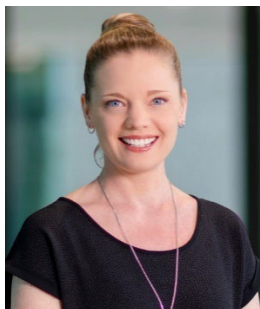


#### **Professor Robyn Langham**

**Chief Medical Advisor to the Therapeutic Goods Administration; and Chair of the Royal Children’s Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee.  
MBBS (Hons) PhD FRACP FAMA GAICD**

Born and bred in Melbourne, Professor Langham is a kidney specialist by training and an experienced medical researcher. She has worked as Director of the Renal Unit at St Vincent’s, and also as the Head of School of Rural Health at Monash University. She was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2022 in recognition of her work in kidney research and in medical education.

# Discovery Scientist Pathways Panel Discussion



**Moderator: Dr Jessica Vanslambrouck**  
**Team Leader, Murdoch Children's Research Institute**  
**Honorary Fellow, Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, The University of Melbourne**

Dr Jessica Vanslambrouck is a Team Leader within the Kidney Regeneration Laboratory at Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI, Melbourne, Australia) where she focuses on stem cell approaches to improve kidney disease treatment and understanding. Following a productive PhD candidature with Professor John Rasko (Centenary Institute, Sydney), elucidating the causes of several inherited kidney disorders, Dr Vanslambrouck joined the Kidney Research laboratory of Professor Melissa Little within the Institute for Molecular Bioscience (University of Queensland), later relocating to the MCRI (Melbourne) in 2015. As a Postdoctoral Researcher, Dr Vanslambrouck's work has contributed to the pioneering of patented approaches for creating kidney progenitors and kidney organoids using cellular reprogramming, stem cell differentiation, and 3D bioprinting (Nature Cell Biology 2014, Kidney International 2019, Nature Materials 2021), more recently developing stem cell-derived kidney tissue with functionally improved proximal tubules (Nature Communications 2022, Nature Protocols [accepted]). Currently, Dr Vanslambrouck's research is building on these innovations with a vision to bioengineer functionalised kidney proximal tubules for CKD treatments.

Connect with Jess via Twitter: [@JMVanslambrouck](#)



**Dr Elizabeth Aitken**  
**Department of Infectious Diseases**

Dr Elizabeth Aitken obtained her PhD 'Malaria in pregnancy: immunity and a mechanism for low birth weight babies' at the University of Melbourne in 2011. Following this she worked briefly on immunity to malaria at the Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research and then at the University of Edinburgh. From 2012-2014 she worked at the University of Sao Paulo looking pulmonary malaria and also Plasmodium spp. infection in wild monkeys. In 2014, Elizabeth started work with Professor Stephen Roberson's laboratory at the University of Melbourne where she has been investigating targets and features of antibody which protect individuals from malaria, focusing on malaria in children and pregnant women, her aim being to use this information for the development of monoclonal therapeutics and vaccines. In addition to her research, since 2020 Elizabeth has also worked as a Lecturer in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, where she teaches introductory microbiology and co-coordinates the third-year capstone subject Techniques in Microbiology.

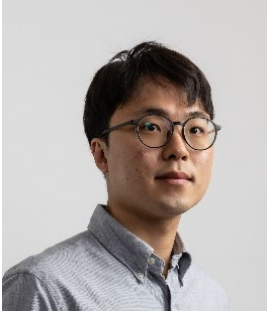
Connect with Elizabeth on [LinkedIn](#)



**Dr Kevin Lee**  
**Department of Medicine, Royal Melbourne Hospital (Honorary)**

Dr Kevin Lee is a post-doctoral research fellow at the Department of Medicine in Royal Melbourne Hospital. He received his PhD degree in 2015, investigating the role of GM-CSF in inflammatory arthritis and associated pain. Since then, he continued working with Prof John Hamilton and provided his expertise in immunology and various preclinical approaches to further our understanding of how cytokines and chemokines control the function of immune cells in facilitating the pain development associated with inflammatory arthritis and osteoarthritis.

Connect with Kevin on: [LinkedIn](#)



**Dr Seungyoul (Sean) Oh**  
CSL

Seungyoul (Sean) Oh is a University of Melbourne Bachelor of Biomedicine (Honours) & PhD graduate. His interest in immunology research stemmed from undertaking a semester research project during his final year of Bachelor's degree. This experience inspired Sean to first undertake Honours and then a PhD with Associate Professor Mark Chong at St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research. Having found a passion in the field of Immunology and T cells, his PhD has exploited the latest cutting-edge single-cell sequencing technologies to explore the development of T cells within the immune system. He established a comprehensive map of T cell development, as well as identifying relevant genetic markers. Sean completed his PhD last year, and has since landed a full-time scientist role at CSL. At CSL, Sean is actively involved in the development of new stem cell therapies for rare genetic blood diseases.

Connect with Seungyoul via [LinkedIn](#)



**Dr Bow Tauro**  
Partnership Manager – Illumina, University of Melbourne

Bow holds a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from The University of Melbourne. He has published numerous cancer research journal articles and received 3000+ citations for his work. Bow has worked in research, health-tech, start-up, sales, corporate advisory and partnership roles. He has managed teams and has experience in company research and analysis, commercialisation, capital raising, business development, strategic sales, partnership management and project management.

Connect with Bow via [LinkedIn](#)

## “How did I end up here?” Panel Discussion



**Moderator: Professor Natalie Hannan**  
**Associate Dean Diversity and Inclusion, for the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences; and Professorial Fellow, Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Royal Women's Hospital/Mercy**

*Bio to come*



**Dr Louise Allen**  
**Department of Medical Education**

Louise is a dietitian by background and is currently a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Melbourne Medical School's Department of Medical Education. She completed her PhD in 2020 which focused on exploring the broad impacts of continuing professional development in the health professions, including looking beyond impacts such as knowledge, skills and attitudes, to explore longer term impacts such as the formation of networks and relationships and the benefits that your learners, colleagues, patients and institutions gain from you attending professional development amongst others. More recently she has explored how we undertake evaluation in the health professions and how we can do it better. She was awarded a 2020 Fulbright Postdoctoral Fulbright Scholarship, which because of COVID she undertook in 2022-23. Her Fulbright research aimed to understand how physicians learn and if this changes over time, how they see themselves as learners, and what learning they find meaningful. is an early-mid career researcher and behavioural scientist who specialises in digital mental health and trauma-affected populations. Olivia is interested in leveraging technology, including wearables and smartphones, in assessing and treating a range of physical and mental health problems.

Connect with Louise on [LinkedIn](#)



**A/Prof Prahlad Ho**  
**Divisional Director of Diagnostic, Outpatient and Cancer Services, Northern Health**  
**Chair of Research Advisory Committee, Northern Health**  
**Department of Medicine (Northern Health) - Honorary**

Associate Professor Prahlad Ho is a laboratory and clinical haematologist and is Divisional Director of Diagnostic and Outpatient Services and also Medical Divisional Director for Cancer Services at Northern Health. Prahlad was the Director of Clinical Haematology at Northern Health and was instrumental in expanding the Thrombosis Service. He is currently also the Chair of the Research Executive Committee overseeing research strategy for Northern Health.

Prahlad is the ex-Treasurer of the Thrombosis and Haemostasis Society of Australia and New Zealand (THANZ) and the Vice-President of the Australian/New Zealand chapter of International Union of Angiology.

Prahlad is actively involved in clinical and laboratory research and has published in multiple international peer-reviewed journals. He heads the NECTAR Research Group and is the Principal Investigator in numerous malignant and non-malignant clinical trials. His research interest is in global coagulation and endothelial biomarkers and its influence in predicting thrombotic complications. He completed his PhD through the University of Melbourne under a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)/Heart Foundation scholarship. He is currently an adjunct Associate Professor (Research) at Australian Centre for Blood Diseases, Monash University as well at the University of Melbourne (RMH).

Connect with Prahlad on [LinkedIn](#)



**Dr Tegan Podubinski**  
**Department of Rural Health, University of Melbourne**

Dr Tegan Podubinski graduated from Monash University with a Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology in 2015. She is currently a Research Fellow in the Department of Rural Health, based in Wangaratta. She is a Psychology Board of Australia Registered Psychologist with General Registration and Clinical Endorsement, as well as a Board-Approved Supervisor (Psychology). She is a Member of the Australian Psychological Society.

Tegan's research focuses on rural and remote (mental) health workforces and aims to increase the ability of rural and remote communities to access quality health services. She wants to understand why people come to work in rural areas and why they stay, how health services can better attract and retain staff, and what organisations can do to improve staff wellbeing and engagement, especially when disaster strikes. She is also interested in how health care is provided in rural and remote areas, and what can be done to improve client outcomes. She is highly engaged with the local community to develop locally responsive strategies to build the (mental) healthcare workforce.

Tegan is currently leading a body of work exploring the impact of natural disasters on the mental and physical health of rural communities, and how access to healthcare has changed (or not changed). She is also leading a project investigating the role of virtual reality systems in building the rural health workforce. Tegan is involved in various other collaborations, including a program of research looking at the impact of COVID-19 on rural placements for nursing, allied health and medical students.

Connect with Tegan via [LinkedIn](#)



**Dr Simon Preston**  
**SYNthesis Research**

**Bio still to come**

## Plenary Speaker: Equity in STEMM- what are the issues?”

In this session I will present my career path as a disabled woman academic. I will share some of our findings of NHMRC outcomes providing evidence that gender bias significantly contributes to the lack of retention of women in Australian STEMM, data that contributed to the recent change in the NHMRC Investigator Grant scheme. I will also highlight the issues we currently face in advocating to improve the retention of other underrepresented academics in Australian STEMM.



### **Professor Louise Purton**

**Head, Stem Cell Regulation Unit, St. Vincent’s Institute of Medical Research; and Department of Medicine at St. Vincent’s Hospital, MMS, The University of Melbourne.**

Professor Louise Purton is internationally recognised for her research delineating the intrinsic and extrinsic regulation of blood cell production in healthy and cancer states. She received the 2022 International Society for Experimental Hematology McCulloch and Till Award for her exceptional research contributions to the field of haematology and stem cells, being the first Australian woman to receive this award.

Louise is also passionate about fostering the career development of the younger researchers and is an advocate for supporting all underrepresented groups in the workplace. In 2021 she founded Equity in Australian STEMM, which is a grassroots organisation comprising academics in Australia. Their advocacy significantly contributed to the recent changes in the NHMRC Investigator Grant funding scheme to improve funding outcomes for women and non-binary applicants. Louise has had a profound bilateral hearing impairment since she was a child, and recently became a recipient of two cochlear implants.