

Critical Care Connections 2026

DIVERSITY IN CRITICAL CARE

PROGRAM

Agenda

1:45 pm **REGISTRATION**

2:10 pm **WELCOME**

Professor David Story, Head of the Department of Critical Care

2:15 pm **SESSION 1**

Chair: **Dr Chuan-Whei Lee**

Dr Edith Waugh, Royal Darwin Hospital and The University of Melbourne

Where the risk lies: lessons from Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory for perioperative care

Dr Violet Mukaro, The University of Melbourne

Trust first: Exploring attitudes to clinical research in African Australian Communities

Associate Professor Kimberley Haines, Western Health and The University of Melbourne

Consumer Engagement in Critical Care: What I've learnt over 10 years

3:15 pm **AFTERNOON TEA**

3:45 pm **SESSION 2**

Chair: **Dr Chuan-Whei Lee**

Dr Lucy Modra, Austin Health and The University of Melbourne

Sex and gender in critical illness

Dr Simone Elliot, The University of Melbourne

Privacy versus Accuracy in Critical Care Education

Dr Glenn Harrison, The Royal Melbourne Hospital and Epworth

Developing our Indigenous Medical Workforce

Agenda cont.

- 4:45 pm** **PANEL**
Chair: **Associate Professor Kara Allen**
All speakers and **Belinda McLeod-Smith**, Consumer Representative
- 5:15 pm** **LAUNCH OF THE MELBOURNE CRITICAL CARE ACADEMY**
Professor Jonathan Knott, Critical Care and Medical Education, The University of Melbourne
- 5:20 pm** **CLOSING REMARKS**
Professor Sarath Ranganathan, Head of the Melbourne Medical School and Department of Paediatrics, The University of Melbourne
- 5:25 pm** **ONLINE MEETING ENDS**
- 5:25 pm** **DRINKS AND NETWORKING**

Meet our presenters



PROFESSOR DAVID STORY

Dave Story is the Foundation Chair of Anaesthesia and Head of the Department of Critical Care at the University of Melbourne. He is the Immediate Past President of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists and a staff anaesthetist at Austin Health where he provides perioperative care for most procedural specialties including liver transplantation. Dave's main research interest is clinically and cost-effective approaches to reduce perioperative risk, complications, disability, and mortality. He also does translational work in acid-base disorders; environmental impact research, and is a consumer investigator in diabetes care. His academic and ANZCA roles include supporting students, trainees, and fellows in pursuing research, education, and leadership. His love of the outdoors led to research in altitude physiology, subsequent anaesthesia career, environmental advocacy, recreational hiking and bike riding.



DR CHUAN-WHEI LEE

Dr Chuan-Whei Lee is a consultant anaesthetist and pain medicine specialist at Royal Melbourne Hospital. She is a staff specialist and joint clinical lead of perioperative medicine in the Department of Anaesthesia and Pain Management (RMH), clinical senior lecturer in the Department of Critical Care (University of Melbourne), and supervisor of training (Faculty of Pain Medicine, ANZCA). Chuan-Whei completed a Masters in Palliative Care in 2018 and her clinical and research interests include pain management in the older person, surgery in patients at the end of life, and the incorporation of palliative care concepts into the perioperative period.



DR EDITH WAUGH

Dr Edith Waugh is a specialist anaesthetist, Clinical Lead in Perioperative Medicine and Research at Royal Darwin Hospital, and Honorary Fellow of the University of Melbourne Department of Critical Care. She is a non-Indigenous researcher working within community governance structures alongside Aboriginal co-researchers, using mixed methods to examine perioperative equity in the Northern Territory. Her recent Churchill Fellowship explored culturally safe perioperative models of care for First Nations Peoples in Aotearoa New Zealand, Canada and the United States.

**DR VIOLET MUKARO**

Dr Violet Mukaro is a Senior Project Officer in the Department of Critical Care, Melbourne Medical School, University of Melbourne and a Victorian Future Leader Fellow for Clinical Trials. She has over 14 years' experience coordinating multicentre clinical trials in anaesthesia and oncology, with expertise in trial management and translational research, including contributions to major international trials such as the SNaPP Study and the ROCKeT Trial. Her current research focuses on health equity through culturally responsive co-design, improving awareness of and access to clinical trials among African Australian communities. She is a member of several University of Melbourne networks, including the Melbourne Medical School Diversity & Inclusion Working Group, the CALD Researcher Network, and the African Studies Group, as well as the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) Anaesthesia Research Coordinators Network and non-profit African Women Australia Inc.

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR KIMBERLEY HAINES**

Associate Professor Kimberley Haines is a NHMRC Emerging Leader Fellow and Principal Research Fellow in the Department of Critical Care, Melbourne Medical School, at The University of Melbourne. Kimberley is also the Physiotherapy Research Lead and Senior Critical Care Physiotherapist at Western Health, Melbourne, Victoria. She is an international leader in the field of critical care survivorship with methodological expertise in patient and family engagement, co-design, and qualitative research in vulnerable cohorts. She currently leads the icuRESOLVE research program that is focused on advancing the science of peer support and post-ICU care. She has published more than 120 peer-reviewed publications and has attracted \$20M in grant funding. Associate Professor Haines holds several leadership positions including as an executive member of the ANZICS Clinical Trials Group, Co-Chair of the ANZICS Patient and Family Engagement Working Group, and she serves on other international committees including for the American Thoracic Society Critical Care Assembly.

**DR LUCY MODRA**

Dr Lucy Modra is a Senior Staff Specialist in intensive care at Austin Health and Senior Clinical Fellow with the University of Melbourne's Department of Critical Care. Her PhD examined sex differences in illness severity, outcomes and treatment of the ICU patient population in Australia and New Zealand, and was awarded the 2024 University of Melbourne Dean's Award for Excellence in Graduate Research. In 2015, Dr Lucy co-founded the Women in Intensive Care Medicine Network, now formally affiliated with the Australia and New Zealand Intensive Care Society. She teaches at critical care courses on advanced resuscitation, airway emergencies and communication skills.

**DR SIMONE ELLIOTT**

Dr Simone Elliott is the lead for Assessment Quality in the Department of Medical Education. She serves on the Clinical Assessment Review Panel and is an item writer and member of the SJT and Written Assessment Review Panels for the Doctor of Medicine.

**DR GLENN HARRISON**

Glenn is a Wotjobaluk man (Wimmera districts Victoria), born on Wathaurong country (Ballarat), is married and has 3 adult children, 2 dogs, 5 chickens and 2 goldfish. He is practising Emergency Physician, obtaining his ACEM Fellowship in 2005, and has clinical appointments at Royal Melbourne Hospital (Naarm) and Epworth Hospital (Geelong - Wathaurong). Glenn has been actively involved in Indigenous health, previously held board member roles with the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) with additional roles as co-chair of the Indigenous Health Committee, previous board director at the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA) and continues on the board of the Aboriginal Community Elders Service (ACES) in Naarm. Glenn provides Cultural Safety Workshops with AIDA (AFL, specialist medical training colleges, health organisations) and is a facilitator for AIDA's Specialist Training Support Program. Glenn is founding Director of the Indigenous Internship program at Royal Melbourne Hospital established in 2016, mentoring, fostering and developing our growing Indigenous medical workforce and specialty training opportunities.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR KARA ALLEN

Associate Professor Kara Allen is a specialist anaesthetist and Head of Education in the Department of Anaesthesia and Pain Management at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. She is a Director of Professional Affairs at the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists where her portfolio includes implementation of strategic education projects and evaluation. She is an honorary staff member of the Department of Critical Care at the University of Melbourne, and the Gandel Simulation Service Lead for the Parkville Precinct. Her interests include the clinical learning environment, clinician experience and codesign of interventions.



BELINDA MACLEOD-SMITH

Belinda MacLeod-Smith is a senior healthcare improvement and consumer partnership leader. She has worked extensively across health system reform, quality and safety, and consumer engagement, with a particular focus on ensuring that lived experience informs policy, service design, and research. Belinda has been a foundation consumer partner in the icuRESOLVE (ICU Recovery Solutions Co-Led through Survivor Engagement) research program since its inception, working alongside Associate Professor Kimberley Haines and collaborators from the University of Melbourne and partner health services. Her contribution has helped shape the co-design, governance, implementation, and translation of research focused on improving recovery and survivorship following critical illness.



PROFESSOR JONATHAN KNOTT

Jonathan Knott is Head of Education in the Department of Critical Care and an Academic Specialist in the Department of Medical Education at The University of Melbourne. He has a wide array of research interests with specific focus on the management of the acutely agitated patient. He is involved in curriculum development both for the Disaster and Terror program and the Master of Medicine, and leads the Melbourne Critical Care Academy.



PROFESSOR SARATH RANGANATHAN

Professor Sarath Ranganathan is an internationally renowned clinician scientist and expert in respiratory medicine, specialising in detecting and monitoring lung disease in young patients. Prior to Sarath's role as Head of the Melbourne Medical School, he held several leadership positions in the Faculty including Stevenson Chair in Paediatrics, Head of the Department of Paediatrics and Academic Director in Clinical Education, Strategy and Risk. Sarath is a consultant respiratory physician at the Royal Children's Hospital and served as Director of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine between 2012 and 2020. He is also a Group Leader at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, a Principal Investigator of the Australian Respiratory Early Surveillance Team for Cystic Fibrosis (AREST-CF), and holds several international leadership roles within paediatric respiratory medicine.

More information

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