

# 2023 Annual Partnering Summit

Co-hosted by ACADI and MTPConnect

Tuesday 14 November 2023

We acknowledge the  
Traditional Owners of the land  
on which this event is taking place  
and pay respect to their Elders  
(past and present) and families.

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9.00am	<b>Introduction and welcome by Professor Elif Ekinci, Director ACADI</b> Welcome to Country by local Indigenous Elder
9.20am	<b>Opening remarks – Chair of ACADI Council, Professor Susan Alberti</b>
9.30am	<b>Keynote Address by Professor Brendan Murphy, former Secretary, Australian Department of Health</b> The importance of partnerships in a pandemic response; lessons learned in a federation
10.15am	<b>Welcome by Mr Stuart Dignam, CEO, MTPConnect</b>
10.20am	Morning tea and networking
10.50am	<b>Professor Andrew Boulton, University of Manchester</b> Setting the Scene: The global epidemic of type 2 diabetes and recent innovations in diabetic neuropathy and foot problems Introduced by Professor Tony Russell, President Australian Diabetes Society
11.10am	<b>SESSION 1: INNOVATION</b>   Facilitator: Renza Scibilia, Diabetes Advocate/JDRF <b>Diabetes Clinical Research - What's the Next Big Thing?</b> Presentations with Q&A Associate Professor Jo-Anne Manski-Nankervis, University of Melbourne Professor David O'Neal, St Vincent's Hospital Professor Alison Cowin, University of South Australia Professor Shane Grey, Garvan Institute of Medical Research
12.10pm	<b>Professor Katherine Tuttle, University of Washington</b> Setting the Scene: The burden of complications in diabetes care Introduced by Professor Richard Maclsaac
12.30pm	Lunch and networking
1.10pm	<b>Ms Justine Cain, Group CEO Diabetes Australia</b> ACADI Health Technology Innovation Challenge - winner announcement
1.30pm	<b>SESSION 2: INCLUSION</b>   Facilitator: Dr Cecilia Pham, University of Melbourne <b>Ensuring access for all Australians to clinical research through co-design</b> Panel discussion with: Professor Chris Nolan, Australian National University Jennifer Halliday, Australian Centre for Behavioural Research in Diabetes (ACBRD) Mr Ray Kelly, Ray Kelly Fitness and MRFF grantee Ms Meaghan Read, Diabetes Victoria
2.30pm	<b>Professor Ohad Cohen, Tel Aviv University/Medtronic EMEA</b> Setting the Scene: Innovations in the prevention of Hypoglycaemia and DKA Introduced by Associate Professor Spiros Fourlanos
2.50pm	<b>SESSION 3: IMPACT</b>   Facilitator: Hon. Jaala Pulford, Chair MTPConnect <b>Partnering for real world impact: an industry and investment viewpoint</b> Panel discussion with: Dr Nicholas Hunt, Endo Axiom & University of Sydney Dr Elena Velkoska, CSL Mr John Wright, Roche Diabetes Care Australia Dr Jesse Toe, IP Group Australia Ms Stephanie Morris, Artesian Venture Partners
3.50pm	<b>Closing remarks Professor Elif Ekinci followed by networking drinks</b>
4.30pm	Close



Bookings via Eventbrite:  
[go.unimelb.edu.au/88gs](https://go.unimelb.edu.au/88gs)

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**Professor Elif Ekinci,**  
Centre Director  
ACADI

## I warmly welcome you to the 2023 ACADI Partnering Summit, co-hosted with MTPConnect.

This is our second Summit and I'm certain you'll find the program reflects ACADI's commitment to advancing research into diabetes and its possible complications.

Our themes for this year "*Innovation, Inclusion and Impact*", could not be more relevant for researchers, health professionals and people living with diabetes. Throughout the day, you will have the chance to listen to insightful presentations, participate in meaningful discussions and connect with those who share your dedication to advancing knowledge and fostering progress in research and clinical management.

I encourage you to make the most of every opportunity for collaboration, learning, and exploration. It is through these connections and exchanges that we can collectively make a difference to the lives of people living with diabetes.

I wish you all a highly productive, enlightening, and enjoyable experience during the 2023 ACADI Partnering Summit. Let's work together, to undertake meaningful and impactful research to improve the lives of those affected by diabetes. Thank you for joining us.



**Stuart Dignam,**  
Chief Executive Officer  
MTPConnect

## I am delighted to welcome you to the second annual ACADI Partnering Summit.

Since establishment in 2015, MTPConnect has played an invaluable role in supporting Australia's life sciences sector. MTPConnect, as an independent, not for profit organisation, forges stronger connections between research and industry and maximises opportunities for Australians to make scientific and technological breakthroughs that bring life-saving medical products and solutions from bench to bedside.

The \$47 million TTRA program, funded through the Medical Research Future Fund and delivered by MTPConnect, was launched in June 2020 as an integrated research program to improve the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of diabetes and cardiovascular disease and their associated complications in Australia. In the three years since, the TTRA program has delivered on establishing two new national Research Centres, the Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovations (ACADI) and the Australian Stroke and Heart Research Accelerator (ASHRA), and three rounds of contestable funding which has supported 22 individual Research Projects. Many of the TTRA program's funding recipients are joining us today to speak to their experience with diabetes research translation.

I look forward to the 2023 ACADI Partnering Summit building on last year's efforts and the fostering of new and valuable networks and collaborations.



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**Professor Brendan  
Murphy AC**

Professor Brendan Murphy AC was Secretary of the Department of Health (2020-2023) during which time he oversaw the Federal government's response to the COVID19 pandemic.

Prior to his appointment as Secretary, he was the Chief Medical Officer for the Australian Government and prior to this, the Chief Executive Officer of Austin Health in Victoria. He was formerly CMO and director of Nephrology at St Vincent's Health, and sat on the Boards of the Centenary Institute, Health Workforce Australia, the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute and the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre. He is also a former president of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology.

Professor Murphy currently holds the following:

- a Professorial Associate with the title of Professor at the University of Melbourne
- an Adjunct Professor at Monash University and at the Australian National University
- a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences
- a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Physicians
- a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors

Keynote Speaker

## Setting the Scene: The global epidemic of type 2 diabetes and recent innovations in diabetic neuropathy and foot problems



**Professor  
Andrew Boulton,**  
University of  
Manchester

Andrew JM Boulton has authored more than 600 peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters, mainly on diabetic lower limb and renal complications. Among his many awards, he has received the ADA's Roger Pecoraro Lectureship, the EASD Camillo Golgi prize and was the first recipient of the international award on diabetic foot research. In 2017 he was the Banting Memorial Lecturer at Diabetes UK and also received the International Diabetes Endocrinologist Award of the year from the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists.

In 2019 he was ranked the number one UK diabetes researcher in the field of complications. Andrew is a previous editor of Diabetic Medicine and until recently was the senior associate editor of Diabetes Care. Currently, Andrew is President of the Worldwide Initiative for Diabetes Education. He is the immediate past-President of the International Diabetes Federation 2019-2022 and he is current Chair of EURADIA (European Alliance for Diabetes Research).

International Speaker

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Facilitator

## Ms Renza Scibilia, JDRF International

Renza is a renowned diabetes advocate and activist, and has lived with type 1 diabetes since 1998. She has over 22 years' experience in promoting a person-centred approach to the development, design and delivery of diabetes technologies, services, resources, research and education programs. Renza is also the Global Head of Advocacy for #dedoc°, an organisation that provides peer-networking and conference attendance opportunities for diabetes advocates under the banner #NothingAboutUsWithoutUs.



Session 1

## Associate Professor Jo-Anne Manski-Nankervis, University of Melbourne & Torch Recruit

Jo-Anne is an academic GP and conducts research into the development and implementation of technology to inform decision making in general practice. She is Chair of the Research Expert Committee for the RACGP and the Primary Care Clinical Informatics Director at the Centre for Digital Transformation of Health. She is also Chief Medical Officer at Torch Recruit, a start up that uses technology to identify people in general practice eligible for clinical trials.



Session 1

## Professor David O'Neal, St Vincent's Hospital

Professor David O'Neal is a professor and senior consultant endocrinologist with the Department of Endocrinology at St Vincent's Public Hospital. He has led multiple studies in novel diabetes technology and closed loop insulin delivery with significant national and international collaborations involving clinicians, academics and industry. He is the recipient of multiple awards and has had multiple publications cited as amongst the most influential in their field. David has a long-term research interest relating to the development of technology related to glycaemic control and the interface of patients with diabetes and technology, which led him to establish the Diabetes Technology Research Group which he continues to lead.



Session 1

## Professor Alison Cowin, University of South Australia

Alison is a world-leading authority in wound healing and scar formation with over 190 peer-reviewed papers, editorials and book chapters. Alison is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology and Wounds Australia, Co-Chair of the National AHRA Wound Research Initiative and a member of Wounds Australia National Research Committee. She was the founding President of the Australasian Wound & Tissue Repair Society. Her spinout company, AbRegen Pty Ltd develops antibody therapies for tissue repair.

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Session 1

**Professor Shane T. Grey**, Garvan Institute of Medical Research & University of New South Wales

Shane T. Grey leads the Transplantation Immunology Lab at Garvan Institute, directs the Functional Genomics of Type 1 Diabetes Complications, and heads UNSW's School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences. His research focuses on genetic control of inflammation and impact on immune cell inflammation and human disease. He has pioneered islet transplant programs in diabetes research as well as leading innovative research into gene therapy approaches.

Setting the Scene: The burden of complications in diabetes care



**Professor Katherine Tuttle**,  
University of Washington

Katherine R. Tuttle is the Executive Director for Research at Providence Inland Northwest Health, Regional Principal Investigator of the Institute of Translational Health Sciences, and a Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington. Prof. Tuttle is Chair of the Diabetic Kidney Disease Collaborative for the American Society of Nephrology. Katherine's research focuses on diabetes and chronic kidney disease, resulting in over 300 peer-reviewed articles. She's made pivotal contributions, such as elucidating principles behind glomerular hyperfiltration and advancing SGLT2 inhibitors. She has seen that work to the finish line over more than three decades to help deliver SGLT2 inhibition as the most impactful therapy to-date to reduce risks of kidney failure, cardiovascular events, and death in persons with and without diabetes. Katherine's work has shaped the "pillars of therapy" approach to chronic kidney disease in a most fundamental manner across the spectrum of scientific discovery, clinical trials, and population level implementation.

ACADI Health Technology Innovation Challenge - winner announcement



**Ms Justine Cain**, Group CEO Diabetes Australia

Justine Cain joined Diabetes Australia as the Group CEO in November 2021. With more than two decades of senior executive experience, her roles across the health and human services sectors have included transformational leadership, strategy development and execution, advocacy and complex stakeholder management. Ms Cain is a passionate advocate for ensuring lived experience is considered in all aspects of organisational performance and delivery.

International Speaker

Announcement

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Facilitator

## Dr Cecilia Pham, University of Melbourne

Cecilia is an Endocrinologist and a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne. She graduated from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Pharmacy and the University of Melbourne with a Doctor of Medicine. Her PhD research focuses on the link between glycaemic variability and sleep, as well as the metabolic, emotional, and well-being alterations associated with sleep disruptions in people living with diabetes. Cecilia is also a research fellow at the Centre for Diabetes and Obesity Research and Education.



Session 2

## Professor Chris Nolan, Australian National University

Chris is the Director of ACT Diabetes Services and a Professor of Endocrinology at the ANU. His clinical and research interests relate to diabetes and diabetes in pregnancy. He is a past President of the Australasian Diabetes in Pregnancy Society and a Council Member of the International Association of Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Groups. He directs an active diabetes research laboratory focussing on islet beta-cell failure in type 2 diabetes.



Session 2

## Jennifer Halliday, Australian Centre for Behavioural Research in Diabetes (ACBRD)

Jennifer is a PhD candidate and Research Fellow at the ACBRD, a partnership between Diabetes Victoria and Deakin University. Jennifer is the Project Manager for the TTRA-funded Hypo PAST (Hypoglycaemia Prevention, Awareness of Symptoms, and Treatment). HypoPAST is a fully online, self-guided, psycho-educational program, which aims to reduce fear of hypoglycaemia. Jennifer has a passion for translational research, with a strong focus on program and resource development around lived experiences and psychological impacts of diabetes, and upskilling health professionals in providing psychological and person-centred care. She is a co-author of the NDSS Diabetes and Emotional Health practical guide.



Session 2

## Mr Ray Kelly, Ray Kelly Fitness

Ray is a Kamilaroi man with 32 years' experience in the health and sports industries. Ray is an accredited Exercise Physiologist and his 'Too Deadly for Diabetes' program has seen many participants reduce or eliminate medications for type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure. In 2023 Ray was awarded a Medical Research Futures Fund (MRFF) grant into type 2 diabetes in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. He holds numerous advisory and teaching positions and is also Chairperson of the ACADI Indigenous Advisory Committee.

Session 2: INCLUSION

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Session 2

## Ms Meaghan Read, Diabetes Victoria

Meaghan (B.Sci Hons) is the Community Engagement Lead at Diabetes Victoria and is part of the ACADI co-design platform. Meaghan brings to these roles 37 years of lived experience with type 1 diabetes, together with qualifications and experience in laboratory, clinical and pharmaceutical research. Her passions lie across many areas of diabetes including elevating the role of lived experience in research and clinical practice; equitable access to information, treatment and technology for all people with diabetes; and the prevention of type 1 diabetes.

## Setting the Scene: Innovations in the prevention of Hypoglycaemia and DKA



Professor  
Ohad Cohen,  
Medtronic EMEA

Prof. Ohad Cohen, MD, MBA, serves currently as Senior Director, Global Medical Affairs for Medtronic Diabetes. Prof. Cohen is leading clinical trials as well as real world analysis of the use of technology in Diabetes as well as developing and running educational programs for Health care providers and for people living with Diabetes. Ohad Cohen is a Clinical Professor of Medicine and a senior Endocrinologist, at the Institute of Endocrinology, Chaim Sheba Medical Center, School of Medicine, Tel-Aviv university, Israel. He received his medical degree from the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Cum Laude. His Board Certification in Internal Medicine and in Endocrinology and Metabolism was at the Rabin Medical Center, Israel. Prof. Cohen pursued further post-Doctoral fellowships at Harvard medical school and at the Mayo clinic. His many publications span thyroid diseases, Diabetes Technology and Health Economics.



Facilitator

## The Hon. Jaala Pulford, MTPConnect

The Honourable Jaala Pulford was appointed as Non-Executive Director and Chair of MTPConnect in 2023, after a distinguished career as a senior minister in the Victorian state government (2014-22). Jaala was elected to the Victorian Parliament in 2006, serving most recently as Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy. In this key portfolio, Jaala led the establishment of mRNA Victoria and secured pandemic scale manufacturing with Moderna. Jaala also serves on a number of boards within the MTP sector and is a Vice-Chancellor's Fellow at University of Melbourne.



Session 3

## Dr Nicholas Hunt, Endo Axiom & University of Sydney

Nick is a co-founder and CEO of Endo Axiom. Endo is focused on the prevention of autoimmune diseases and improving the quality of life of people living with diabetes. They develop nanotechnology platforms to solve pharmaceutical's impossible challenges: oral insulin without hypoglycaemia and immune modulation for the prevention of type 1 diabetes without immune suppression. Nick is also a Senior Lecturer at the University of Sydney, Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) recipient, and leads the Biogerontology Group at the ANZAC Research Institute.

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**Dr Elena Velkoska, CSL**

Dr Elena Velkoska is an Associated Director, Cardiovascular and Metabolic Therapeutic Area and Translational Research at CSL Ltd. Her work spans across various aspects of drug development including early research activities, both internal and with external academic partners, as well as advancement of novel therapeutics to first-in-human trials and to late-stage global outcome trials. Prior to joining CSL, Elena had a successful academic career working at the University of Melbourne for more than 10 years where her research was aimed at developing novel approaches for early detection of disease and therapeutics for diabetes and cardiovascular and kidney disease. Elena completed her PhD in Pharmacology at The University of Melbourne.

Session 3



**Mr John Wright, Roche Diabetes Care Australia**

John is a Biotechnologist (Dublin City University) and completed his MBA with the University of New South Wales. He has gained extensive commercial experience in Oceania and South East Asian Markets, leading teams in the Life Science, Diagnostics and Medical Devices industries. His career experiences include Pharmaceutical Product Development, Production, Supply Chain, Sales, Marketing and Business Development. His partnering experience is in Molecular Diagnostics.

Session 3



**Dr Jesse Toe, IP Group Australia**

Prior to joining IP Group, Jesse led the Life Sciences Team of the University of Melbourne's Technology Transfer office. Jesse also spent almost four years working within Commercial Partnerships of Cancer Research UK executing licence agreements covering therapeutic, diagnostic and software technologies in preclinical and clinical development. Jesse has a PhD in immunology from the University of Melbourne at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research and a BSc (Hons) from the University of Melbourne.

Session 3



**Ms Stephanie Morris, Artesian Venture Partners**

Stephanie is an investor at Artesian, a leading early-stage venture capital firm in the Asia Pacific, which supports startups focused on Health Transformation, Critical Tech and Climate & Sustainability. She has experience from startups to multinational pharmaceutical firms. Stephanie's expertise spans innovation in healthcare and academic commercial partnerships, and she previously headed up medical commercialisation activities for Imperial College London. Stephanie holds a MBA from the University of South Australia, has graduate qualifications in both Business and Biomedical Science, is a Graduate of the GAICD, and a Certified Licensing Professional.

Session 3