

2025 Annual Partnering Summit

Co-hosted by ACADI and MTPConnect

13 - 14 November 2025

Welcome Event Thursday 13 November 2025

Woodward Conference Centre

Level 10, Law Building, University of Melbourne, Carlton

3:15pm	Registration opens
3:30pm	<p>Official Opening of the 2025 Partnering Summit</p> <p>Join us as we kick off the Summit with opening address by Prof Elif Ekinci. Hear how ACADI is paving the way for groundbreaking diabetes research and innovations.</p>
3:45pm	<p>ACADI Impact to Date</p> <p>Join Prof Elif Ekinci as she provides an engaging overview of ACADI's latest achievements and a roadmap for the future of the Centre and diabetes research founded in collaboration.</p>
4:10pm	<p>ACADI National Training Program Update</p> <p>Hear from A/Prof Sarah Glastras as we celebrate the highly competitive 2025 ACADI ECR and PhD Round 2 Award winners. Gain inspiration from the 2025 ACADI Mentoring Program reflections, and hear about what's ahead for the National Training Program in 2026.</p>
4:30pm	<p>Networking Drinks</p> <p>Connect with fellow attendees, build connections and find your next collaboration.</p>
5:30pm	Event Close

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Partnering Summit Friday 14 November 2025

Woodward Conference Centre

Level 10, Law Building, University of Melbourne, Carlton

8:30am

Registration Opens

9:00am

Welcome and Opening Address

The Partnering Summit begins with a Welcome to Country, followed by opening remarks from ACADI Director Prof Elif Ekinci, MTPConnect's Lauren Kelly, and ACADI Council Chair Prof Susan Alberti AC. Together, they will set the tone for a day dedicated to *Bridging the Gap: Translating Innovation to Impact in Diabetes Care*.

9:45am

Partnering with Industry – Bringing Discovery to Market

Exploring the critical role of industry-academia partnerships in accelerating diabetes innovation from discovery to market, speakers from biotech, pharma, and research will discuss their experiences in commercialisation, collaborative models, and lessons learned about what makes partnerships successful.

Chair: Alisa Selimovic. Speakers: A/Prof Garron Dodd, Robert Jukic, Prof David O'Neal, Dr Elise Needham.

10:20am

Morning Tea

10:40am

Morning International Keynote

Gene therapy for the management of diabetes: potential for transformational patient impact

Dr J. Fraser Wright | Scientific Co-Founder & Chief Gene Therapy Officer, Kriya Therapeutics (US)

Gene therapies have revolutionised the clinical management of multiple rare monogenic disorders with unparalleled impact on patients suffering from devastating diseases. However technical and operational barriers have historically constrained the evolution of the modality and its potential to address more prevalent chronic diseases. Dr Wright will provide a scientific background and historical perspective on progress in the field of gene therapy, including its current impact on the treatment of several genetic diseases and discuss the potential to transform the treatment and management of prevalent chronic diseases in the future.

11:25am

Showcase 1: Emerging Leaders in Diabetes Research

This session spotlights the next generation of researchers shaping the future of diabetes care. Providing fresh perspectives from across disciplines, speakers will introduce their work and share their vision for impact, highlighting the breadth of new talent driving diabetes research forward.

Chair: A/Prof Sarah Glastras. Speakers: Dr Quoc Ngo, Carys Campbell, Bernard Kelly-Edwards, Mariam Hachem, Dr Edith Holloway.

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11:55am	<p>Rapid-Fire Session 1: ACADI New Frontiers</p> <p>This fast-paced session will highlight some of the diabetes research breakthroughs from ACADI's cutting-edge projects and beyond. Our panel of speakers will deliver a short presentation showcasing their project's goals, progress, and potential real-world application.</p> <p>Chair: Dr Sof Andrikopoulos. Speakers: Dr Loren Sher, Prof Christopher Nolan, Dr Barbara White, Prof Akhter Hossain.</p>
12:35pm	<p>Showcase 2: ACADI HealthTech Innovation Challenge Spotlight</p> <p>The winning HealthTech Innovation Challenge team will deliver a short presentation about their innovation, followed by reflections from the judges on the projects potential impact and pathways to adoption.</p>
12:50pm	<p>Lunch</p>
1:45pm	<p>Afternoon International Keynote</p> <p>The Mechanism Matters: Building Bridges Between What Works and Why It Works in Diabetes-Related Kidney Disease</p> <p>Dr Petter Bjornstad Executive Director, University of Washington Medicine Diabetes Institute (US)</p> <p>As therapeutic options for diabetic kidney disease expand, understanding why treatments work is becoming as important as knowing that they work. International guest, Dr Petter Bjornstad will highlight how mechanistic companion trials—such as REMODEL, ATTEMPT, TREASURE-CKD and TRANSFORM-CKD—can bridge the gap between innovation and impact. He will share practical strategies for integrating imaging, physiological, and molecular approaches to advance precision medicine and improve outcomes in DKD.</p> <p>Proudly supported by Boehringer Ingelheim.</p>
2:30pm	<p>Translating Research to Care – Local Insights</p> <p>Researchers and community health leaders from across the ACADI ecosystem discuss how Australian diabetes research is being translated into clinical practice and public health impact.</p> <p>Chair: Meaghan Read. Speakers: Prof Michael Horowitz, Prof Josephine Forbes, Prof Spiros Furlanos, Dr Elizabeth Holmes-Truscott.</p>
3:05pm	<p>Afternoon Tea</p>

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3:25pm	<p>Rapid-Fire Session 2: Emerging Leaders in Diabetes Innovation</p> <p>This rapid fire session showcases the next generation of diabetes researchers and clinicians who are driving change across disciplines. With a focus on fresh perspectives and early-stage breakthroughs, speakers will share their work, the challenges they face in translation and impact, and their vision for the future of diabetes care.</p> <p>Chair: Renza Scibilia. Speakers: Dr Melissa Lee, Dr Dale Morrison, Dr Negar Naderpoor, Dr Rahul Barmanray.</p>
4:05pm	<p>Partnering for Impact: Building Bridges that Matter</p> <p>Innovation alone isn't enough—sustainable partnerships and funding are essential to ensure diabetes research translates into better care and outcomes. This final session will spotlight how cross-sector collaboration drives real change and explore how ACADI and its stakeholders can continue to strengthen ties with industry, government, and community partners to advance shared goals. The discussion will focus on actionable ways to deepen engagement and secure the support needed for long-term success.</p> <p>Chair: Prof Spiros Furlanos. Speakers: Prof David O'Neal, Adj Prof Glen Noonan, Lian Cunningham, Jared Berndt, Prof Sean Taylor.</p>
4:40pm	<p>Closing Address by Prof Elif Ekinci</p>
4:45pm	<p>Networking Drinks</p> <p>Closing out this year's Summit is an opportunity for attendees and speakers to network. Use the time to solidify partnerships, reflect on key takeaways, and discuss the potential for collaboration with fellow participants.</p>
5:45pm	<p>Summit Close</p>

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Partnering with Industry – Bringing Discovery to Market

Dr Alisa Selimovic
(Session Chair)

Senior Investment Manager in Life Sciences, IP Group

Alisa is a Senior Investment Manager in Life Sciences at IP Group, where she has been building new life science companies for the last 7.5 years. In her role, Alisa works with leading researchers and TTOs to source new opportunities, develop them into investable proposals, and create new companies. She is an observer on the boards of several IP Group portfolio companies and the Executive Chair of Reseptor Therapeutics. Alisa holds a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Oxford University. Before returning to Australia in 2017, she spent several more years in the UK working with global pharma and biotech as a life science-focused management consultant, followed by two years focused on fundraising and M&A in a UK biotech.

A/Prof Garron Dodd

Head of the Metabolic Neuroscience Laboratory, University of Melbourne

Associate Professor Garron Dodd's research focuses on how the brain controls metabolism and drives diseases such as obesity and type 2 diabetes. He is Founder and CSO of Gallant Bio and StealthCo, biotech companies developing next-generation brain-targeted therapies for metabolic disorders. His work has appeared in top journals including Nature, Cell, Cell Metabolism, Nature Metabolism, etc with several publications ranked in the top 1% by Altmetric. A/Prof Dodd has received 18+ awards—including the NHMRC Marshall and Warren Innovation Award—and secured over \$18 million in competitive funding from international agencies and industry partners.

Robert Jukic

Head of Medical Affairs, Boehringer Ingelheim

Robert Jukic is a seasoned medical affairs leader with extensive experience across the pharmaceutical and medical technology industries. As Head of Medical Affairs at Boehringer Ingelheim, he leads strategic initiatives that enhance clinical excellence and drive innovation in the Cardio-Renal-Metabolic space. His previous leadership roles encompassed various therapy areas, at both the Asia-Pacific and global levels, where he played a pivotal role in shaping global medical strategies and improving patient outcomes.

Prof David O'Neal

University of Melbourne

David O'Neal is a clinical endocrinologist with an interest in diabetes research. He is the deputy Director of the Australian Centre for Advancing Diabetes Innovations. He is also a Professor with the University of Melbourne and a senior consultant endocrinologist with the Department of Endocrinology at St Vincent's Public Hospital Melbourne. He heads a laboratory at the Baker Institute. He has established the Diabetes Technology Research Group in the clinical trials unit with the University of Melbourne Department of Medicine at St. Vincent's Hospital Melbourne. His research interests include investigator initiated clinical trials involving the evaluation of new technologies in the management of patients with diabetes and their interaction with the technology. He has research collaborations with clinicians, academics, and industry both in Australia and internationally.

Dr Elise Needham

Senior Therapeutics Commercialisation Specialist, MTPConnect

Elise is Senior Therapeutics Commercialisation Specialist at MTPConnect, to steer drug development with the Targeted Translation Research Accelerator program, which funds and supports novel treatments for diabetes and its complications, cardiovascular and renal diseases. Seconded full-time to CSL, the Program's industry partner for therapeutics, Elise was previously with Genesis Ventures at the University of Melbourne, for pre-seed investments. Elise gained prior industry experience by working in Germany for Boehringer Ingelheim, after a medial role with Bristol Myers Squibb. Earlier she had a technology transfer role at Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute.

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Morning International Keynote

Dr J. Fraser Wright

Scientific Co-Founder & Chief Gene Therapy Officer, Kriya Therapeutics (US)

Fraser Wright is the Scientific Co-Founder and Chief Gene Therapy Officer (CGTO) at Kriya Therapeutics. During his career he has contributed to numerous gene therapy development programs, including those leading to the regulatory approvals of multiple FDA approved commercial products: Luxturna® for RPE65/- Leber congenital amaurosis Type 2, the first gene therapy for a genetic disease; Kymriah®, the first CAR T-cell therapy for lymphoma and leukemia indications; and Beqvez™ for the treatment of hemophilia B.

Prior to becoming CGTO at Kriya, Fraser was a Professor of Pediatrics in the Center for Definitive and Curative Medicine at Stanford University. He was also the co-founder and Chief Technology Officer of Spark Therapeutics. Prior to co-founding Spark Therapeutics, he was the founding Scientific Director of the Clinical Vector Core Laboratory at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He was also previously the director of development and clinical manufacturing at Avigen. Fraser received his PhD in biochemistry and molecular immunology and his undergraduate degree in biochemistry and physiology from the University of Toronto.

Showcase 1: Emerging Leaders in Diabetes Research

A/Prof Sarah Glastras
(Session Chair)

Head of Department, Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney

Associate Professor Sarah Glastras is a clinician researcher, Head of Department, and Senior Staff Specialist in Endocrinology at the Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney and is an academic Associate Professor at the University of Sydney. She also consults at the Northern Sydney Endocrine Clinic. She undertakes basic science research in the area of foetal programming of chronic disease, and she is a principal researcher in a major NHMRC funded population-based project in gestational diabetes and pregnancy outcomes. She runs many clinical studies in the areas of diabetes, obesity, and hypertriglyceridaemia. She currently chairs the Diabetes Clinical Advisory Group within the Northern Sydney Local Health District and is the Training Lead of the TTRA-funded Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovations (ACADI).

Dr Quoc Ngo

Research Fellow, RMIT University

Dr Quoc Ngo received his PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Swinburne University of Technology in 2021 and is currently a Research Fellow at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. His research focuses on software-based medical devices and artificial intelligence, with a particular interest in developing non-invasive tools for disease detection and monitoring. Skilled in biomedical data analysis and machine learning, he is passionate about advancing digital health technologies to enable early diagnosis and improve patient outcomes.

Carys Campbell

Research Assistant at the Kolling Institute, University of Sydney

Carys Campbell is involved in pre-clinical and clinical research in diabetes, pregnancy and obesity. Carys is coordinating a multi-site clinical trial "Operation Glucose", investigating the use of continuous glucose monitors in patients with insulin-requiring type-2 diabetes undergoing surgery. Operation Glucose aims to assess whether continuous glucose monitors can improve diabetes management in this vulnerable cohort through reducing glycaemic variability, supporting blood glucose control and improving clinical outcomes.

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Showcase 1: Emerging Leaders in Diabetes Research (continued)

Bernard Kelly-Edwards

Artist and Cultural Advisor, Flash GM

Bernard Kelly-Edwards is the Artist and Cultural Advisor for Flash GM. A proud Gumbaynggirr man with lived experience of Type 2 Diabetes, Bernard brings his creative and progressive story to life through truth-telling and powerful reflections on his personal journey living with T2D. Grounded in the land to which he belongs, Bernard centres his work on culturally informed, solution-focused approaches that he shares with community members in his role as Cultural Advisor. He understands the importance of listening to stories—recognising that by listening to symptoms, we can better plan for improved health outcomes. Bernard recently completed the Indigenous Health Leadership Program with the Melbourne Poche Centre, where he contributed to the 2025 cohort by sharing insights on leadership and cultural resilience.

Mariam Hachem

Clinical Trial Project Manager, University of Melbourne

Mariam has a background in diabetes research, public health, and clinical trials. She is driven by improving health outcomes by working on meaningful and sustainable health programs. She has specific interests in chronic disease, diabetes, emergency and humanitarian health, health equity and health systems in Australia and globally. She has a particular focus on improving health outcomes for people in the Middle East and for Indigenous Peoples globally. She is state President of the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) and Secretary of the Australian Lebanese Medical Association (ALMA) in Victoria with a focus on educating the Lebanese community about important health topics, donation drives for medicines and events for community.

Dr Edith Holloway

Senior Research Fellow, The Australian Centre for Behavioural Research in Diabetes, Deakin University

Dr Edith Holloway is a Senior Research Fellow at the Australian Centre for Behavioural Research in Diabetes (ACBRD; Deakin University) and a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Emerging Leadership Fellow (EL1; 2025–29). She co-leads a research stream to promote 'Optimal Emotional Health' among people with diabetes, one of three streams at the ACBRD. Her principal research interests focus on upskilling health professionals in evidence-based care and the development of real-world interventions to support the emotional wellbeing of adults living with diabetes.

Rapid-Fire Session 1: ACADI New Frontiers

Dr Sof Andrikopoulos (Session Chair)

CEO, Australian Diabetes Society

Dr Sof Andrikopoulos is currently the CEO of the Australian Diabetes Society and has previously served as President, Treasurer and Chair of the Program Organising Committee of the Society. Prior to this Dr Andrikopoulos was the Head of the Islet Biology and Metabolism Research Group at the University of Melbourne Department of Medicine (Austin Health), which conducted discovery research in the genetic and biochemical mechanisms of islet beta cell dysfunction in type 2 diabetes. Dr Andrikopoulos was awarded a NHMRC Award for Research Excellence and a Diabetes Australia Research Trust Millennium Award. Dr Andrikopoulos has published more than 130 research articles in the etiology and management of type 2 diabetes.

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Rapid-Fire Session 1: ACADI New Frontiers (continued)

<p>Dr Loren Sher</p>	<p>Emergency Specialist & Program Director, Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) Dr Loren Sher is an Emergency Specialist and the inaugural Program Director of the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED), Australia's first state-wide, 24/7 virtual emergency care service. Since its launch in 2020, the VVED has supported over half a million Victorians, reducing pressure on physical emergency departments and delivering safe, high-quality care at home. Previously, Dr Sher led the Paediatric Emergency Department at Northern Hospital and established a paediatric HIV clinic in South Africa, experiences that shaped her commitment to equitable healthcare. A recognised leader in digital health innovation, she is driving new models of care that integrate technology with emergency medicine to create scalable, sustainable solutions. Dr Sher is currently completing a PhD at La Trobe University, evaluating digital innovations in emergency care with a focus on system-wide transformation, safety, and equity.</p>
<p>Prof Christopher Nolan</p>	<p>Endocrinology, Australian National University Christopher Nolan is the Director of Diabetes Services in the ACT and a Professor of Endocrinology at the Australian National University Medical School. His main clinical and research interests relate to diabetes, including diabetes in pregnancy. He has previously been President of the Australasian Diabetes in Pregnancy Society and a Council Member of the International Association of Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Groups. In addition to administrative, clinical and teaching duties in Canberra, he directs an active diabetes research laboratory focussing on islet beta-cell failure in type 2 diabetes, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and placenta in diabetic pregnancy.</p>
<p>Dr Barbara White</p>	<p>Senior Research Fellow, Austin Health and Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovations Dr Barbara White is a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Medicine at Austin Health and ACADI, and an Honorary Senior Fellow with the Baker Department of Cardiometabolic Health. She leads the Islet Biology and Metabolism Research Group, specialising in obesity and type 2 diabetes research. Over her 22 year career she has secured major competitive funding through the NHMRC and more recently the MRFF Targeted Translational Research Accelerator grant, and has produced more than 35 publications including work in Nature and Nature Communications. Her program spans discovery to translation, developing new therapeutic approaches for metabolic disease and its complications including diabetic kidney disease. Dr White also teaches and mentors across Bachelor of Biomedicine, BMedSci (Honours) and MD programs, and contributes to national diabetes guideline development and university leadership committees. Her collaborative work with clinicians, researchers and industry partners is advancing innovative strategies for diabetes and obesity management.</p>
<p>Prof Akhter Hossain</p>	<p>Florey Institute, University of Melbourne Professor Hossain received his PhD from the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan in 2001. He leads the Insulin Peptides Laboratory at the Florey Institute, University of Melbourne. His research focuses on developing insulin, insulin-like peptides, and their analogues to treat diabetes, obesity, and neurological disorders. Over the past decade, he has secured more than \$10 million in research funding (including six NHMRC grants as CIA), published over 190 papers (e.g., five in JACS), and holds five patents. He collaborates with leading pharmaceutical companies (e.g., Takeda, Novo Nordisk) and serves on editorial boards and national grant review panels.</p>

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Afternoon International Keynote

Dr Petter Bjornstad

Executive Director, University of Washington Medicine Diabetes Institute (US)

Dr Petter Bjornstad is Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, Raisbeck Endowed Chair of Diabetes Research and the Executive Director of the UW Medicine Diabetes Institute at the University of Washington, where he leads an interdisciplinary team focusing on multi-omics integration, clinical, and translational research in diabetes and metabolic disorders. He directs a clinical and translational research program dedicated to understanding obesity-related kidney disease and diabetic kidney disease, as well as cardiovascular disease. His group includes dedicated bioinformaticians, biostatisticians, postdoctoral researchers, clinician-scientists, regulatory specialists, and research coordinators, supported by advanced computational resources.

Dr Bjornstad's work bridges molecular discoveries and patient-oriented studies, translating scientific findings into improved clinical outcomes.

Translating Research to Care – Local Insights

Meaghan Read (Session Chair)

Community Engagement in Research Specialist; ACADI Co-Design Platform Lead

Meaghan Read is a leader in community engagement in diabetes research and serves on the Community Advisory Committee for the Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovations (ACADI) and as Chair of the Australasian Type 1 Diabetes Immunotherapy Collaborative (ATIC) Community Engagement Panel. She works closely with researchers and lived experience experts nationally and internationally, focusing on empowering community voices throughout the research lifecycle. Meaghan consults on strategies to embed meaningful engagement and co-design in diabetes research and has contributed to publications and presentations on these approaches. With professional experience in laboratory, clinical, and pharmaceutical research and project management—combined with 39 years of lived experience of type 1 diabetes—Meaghan brings unique insight to her advocacy. She is passionate about equity, access, and eliminating diabetes stigma, driving initiatives that ensure research reflects the needs and perspectives of the diabetes community.

Prof Michael Horowitz AO

Director - Endocrine and Metabolic Unit, Royal Adelaide Hospital

Professor Michael Horowitz AO has led the Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) in Translating Nutritional Science to Good Health at the University of Adelaide since 2007. His research activities focus on gastrointestinal motor, sensory, and hormonal function, particularly in relation to diabetes mellitus, appetite regulation and critical illness. Professor Horowitz has co-authored 810 peer-reviewed papers and 43 book chapters and his H-index is 136. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science by the University of Adelaide in 2021 and the Camillo Golgi Prize by the European Association for the Study of Diabetes in 2022. In the King's Birthday Honours 2023, Michael was listed as an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to endocrinology, particularly diabetes, as a researcher, educator and clinician-scientist.

Prof Josephine Forbes

Group Leader, Diabetes & Metabolism, Mater Research-UQ

Professor Josephine Forbes from Mater Research-UQ in Queensland, is the current President of the Australian Diabetes Society advocating and supporting better and more equitable health care and research funding for people with diabetes. Her translational research extends from bench to bedside for novel therapies to prevent type 1 diabetes and kidney disease in vulnerable groups including youth and those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

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Translating Research to Care – Local Insights (continued)

<p>Prof Spiros Fourlanos</p>	<p>Director, Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology, Royal Melbourne Hospital Professor Spiros Fourlanos is Director of the Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH) Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology and honorary Associate Clinical Professor with the University of Melbourne. He obtained his medical and PhD degrees at the University of Melbourne. His doctoral thesis was performed at the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute on 'Latent Autoimmune Diabetes in Adults (LADA): New Clinical, Immunogenetic and Metabolic Perspectives'. Spiros is an author on over 170 peer-reviewed publications and is currently a co-stream lead in the University of Melbourne Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovations (ACADI) collaborative. He was a previous Australian Diabetes Society (ADS) Board Member, ADS honorary treasurer and is currently co-chair of the ADS In-Hospital Diabetes sub-committee.</p>
<p>Dr Elizabeth Holmes-Truscott</p>	<p>Senior Research Fellow, Deakin University; Deputy Director, Australian Centre for Behavioural Research in Diabetes Elizabeth leads a varied program of applied research examining psychosocial aspects of diabetes. Her work currently focuses on: a) understanding and addressing diabetes stigma; b) understanding and reducing barriers to optimal health and self-care behaviours, and; c) the promotion of person-reported outcome assessment tools alongside biomedical markers. Elizabeth is Behavioural Platform lead for the Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovations (ACADI; 2022-2025), co-lead of the international consensus on ending diabetes stigma and discrimination, and coordinates the Diabetes MILES – Australia collaborative. Elizabeth is a journal editor for 'Diabetic Medicine', and an advisory member to The Obesity Collective stigma expert group as well as The diaTribe Foundation (US) dStigmatize Research Group.</p>

Rapid-Fire Session 2: Emerging Leaders in Diabetes Innovation

<p>Renza Scibilia (Session Chair)</p>	<p>Director Community Building, Global Responsibility, Breakthrough T1D Renza Scibilia has lived with type 1 diabetes since 1998 and is a passionate advocate and activist. She is Director of Community Building and Communications in the Global Access Team at Breakthrough T1D (formerly JDRF), where she champions person-centred approaches to diabetes technologies, research, and education. Renza also serves as Global Head of Advocacy for #dedoc°, a European-based organisation fostering peer networks and amplifying the principle of #NothingAboutUsWithoutUs at international conferences. With extensive experience as a consultant, facilitator, and media spokesperson, Renza is a sought-after speaker on topics including peer support in healthcare, diabetes technology, language and communication, and reducing stigma. She is the author of the blog Diabetogenic and a regular contributor to health publications worldwide.</p>
<p>Dr Melissa Lee</p>	<p>Endocrinologist, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne; Senior Clinical Research Fellow, University of Melbourne Dr Melissa Lee is an adult endocrinologist and early career clinician-researcher at the University of Melbourne and affiliated with the Diabetes Technology Research Group, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne and Werribee Mercy Hospital. She has a special interest in type 1 diabetes and the use of technologies to improve outcomes for people living with diabetes. Melissa obtained her PhD in 2022, evaluating the use of automated insulin delivery systems to optimise metabolic control for people with type 1 diabetes and impaired awareness of hypoglycemia. She was a recipient of a NHMRC postgraduate scholarship, co-funded by Diabetes Australia. She has over 40 authored publications in peer-reviewed journals relating to type 1 diabetes, with a focus on diabetes technologies over the last 5 years.</p>

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Rapid-Fire Session 2: Emerging Leaders in Diabetes Innovation (continued)

<p>Dr Dale Morrison</p>	<p>Mid-career Researcher, Exercise Physiologist and Research Fellow, University of Melbourne; Department of Medicine at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne.</p> <p>Dr Morrison received his PhD in 2017 from Deakin University, followed by academic and teaching positions at Deakin University, the University of Melbourne and Baker Heart & Diabetes Institute. Dr Morrison's research experience includes exercise physiology, whole-body glucose metabolism, counter-regulatory hormone regulation, labelled tracer studies, skeletal muscle physiology, and how technology can be used to improve the lives of people living with type 1 diabetes. Dr Morrison's primary research interest is in improving exercise outcomes in people with type 1 diabetes and his published research regarding technology use during exercise has been incorporated into best practice guidelines and consensus publications regarding safe exercise in people with type 1 diabetes.</p>
<p>Dr Negar Naderpoor</p>	<p>Senior Lecturer, CREDO, Baker Department of Cardiometabolic Health, University of Melbourne</p> <p>Dr Negar Naderpoor is a Consultant Endocrinologist at Monash Health and Senior Lecturer at the University of Melbourne's Centre for Research and Education in Diabetes and Obesity. Admitted as a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 2014, she completed endocrinology training at Barwon Health, Flinders Medical Centre, and Monash Health. Negar earned her PhD from Monash University in 2018, focusing on insulin resistance in obesity and polycystic ovary syndrome. Passionate about integrating clinical practice with research, she provides inpatient and outpatient care in diabetes and gestational diabetes while supervising PhD candidates and medical students. Her research interests include diabetes technology, gestational diabetes, and endocrine disorders such as thyroid, adrenal, and bone disease. Negar is committed to advancing multidisciplinary care and translating scientific findings into improved outcomes for people living with complex endocrine conditions.</p>
<p>Dr Rahul Barmanray</p>	<p>Endocrinologist and Physician in General Medicine, Royal Melbourne Hospital</p> <p>Dr Rahul Barmanray is an endocrinologist and physician in general medicine, clinician-researcher, medical educator, and co-founder with special interests in diabetes in-hospital and digital health solutions. He has completed a PhD in diabetes in-hospital and has contributed over 140 book chapters, research papers, and conference abstracts to national and international publications and meetings.</p>

Partnering for Impact: Building Bridges that Matter

<p>Prof Spiros Furlanos (Session Chair)</p>	<p>Director, Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology, Royal Melbourne Hospital</p> <p>Professor Spiros Furlanos is Director of the Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH) Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology and honorary Associate Clinical Professor with the University of Melbourne. He obtained his medical and PhD degrees at the University of Melbourne. His doctoral thesis was performed at the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute on 'Latent Autoimmune Diabetes in Adults (LADA): New Clinical, Immunogenetic and Metabolic Perspectives'. Spiros is an author on over 170 peer-reviewed publications and is currently a co-stream lead in the University of Melbourne Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovations (ACADI) collaborative. He was a previous Australian Diabetes Society (ADS) Board Member, ADS honorary treasurer and is currently co-chair of the ADS In-Hospital Diabetes sub-committee.</p>
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Partnering for Impact: Building Bridges that Matter (continued)

<p>Prof David O'Neal</p>	<p>University of Melbourne David O'Neal is a clinical endocrinologist with an interest in diabetes research. He is the Deputy Director of the Australian Centre for Advancing Diabetes Innovations. He is also a Professor with the University of Melbourne and a senior consultant endocrinologist with the Department of Endocrinology at St Vincent's Public Hospital Melbourne. He heads a laboratory at the Baker Institute. He has established the Diabetes Technology Research Group in the clinical trials unit with the University of Melbourne Department of Medicine at St. Vincent's Hospital His research interests include investigator initiated clinical trials involving the evaluation of new technologies in the management of patients with diabetes and their interaction with the technology. He has research collaborations with clinicians, academics, and industry both in Australia and internationally.</p>
<p>Adj Prof Glen Noonan</p>	<p>CEO, Diabetes Victoria, Diabetes Innovation and Impact Foundation. Glen Noonan is a seasoned CEO, advisory partner, and board director with over 35 years' experience leading transformational change across the health, research, and corporate sectors. As CEO of Diabetes Victoria, he provides strategic direction and leadership across diabetes advocacy, policy, prevention, research, programs and services, community engagement and philanthropy. Glen is also an Adjunct Professor at Deakin University. Glen has led the establishment of the Diabetes Innovation and Impact Foundation (DIIF), an innovative initiative to generate funds and support world class diabetes research. He also serves as Co-Chair of the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing External Sector Advisory Group, contributing to statewide policy and strategic direction for population health and wellbeing. Prior to his current role, Glen was a Senior Partner at PwC for 25 years where he led the firms Australian Transformation Practice, advising on complex large-scale transformation programs.</p>
<p>Lian Cunningham</p>	<p>MD, PhD; VP of Clinical Affairs, Endogenex Lian brings 20+ years of clinical affairs and leadership experience to the Endogenex team. Her prior leadership roles include VP of clinical affairs at both BAROnova and TriReme Medical, Inc., and medical director/VP of clinical research and education at VNUSMedical Technologies (acquired by Covidien). Earlier in her career, Lian was an assistant professor at Loyola University of Chicago and a practicing vascular surgeon in Shanghai, China.</p>
<p>Jared Berndt</p>	<p>Associate Director, MSL Manager, Eli Lilly Australia Jared Berndt is an Associate Director in Eli Lilly's Medical Department, a pharmaceutical professional with over a decade of experience across commercial and medical roles. He has spent the past seven years at Eli Lilly focusing on the cardiometabolic health portfolio.</p>
<p>Prof Sean Taylor</p>	<p>Director of Onemda & Professor of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, University of Melbourne Professor Taylor is descendent of the Dauareb Tribe, one of the eight tribes of Mer Island in the Eastern Torres Strait region. Sean has over twenty five years of clinical experience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health working at different levels across Australia in range of academic and research interest, as well as clinical practice. Sean currently holds a Bachelor of Nursing Science, Graduate Certificate in Health: Diabetes Management & Education, Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) and a Doctor of Public Health. He holds joint appointments as NT Health Executive Director Aboriginal Health and Diversity and Menzies School of Health Research Deputy Director Indigenous Leadership and Engagement based in Darwin and is an Adjunct Associate Professor, Public Health and Tropical Medicine with James Cook University.</p>