



Speaker Bios – 2022 Annual Partnering Summit

PANEL Therapeutics

Prof Kevin Pflieger

Professor Kevin Pflieger is Director, Biomedical and Health Innovation at the University of Western Australia (UWA) and the Western Australia Life Sciences Innovation Hub. He is also Head of Molecular Endocrinology and Pharmacology at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, Deputy Director of the Australian Research Council Centre for Personalised Therapeutics Technologies and Chief Scientific Advisor to Dimerix Limited. Professor Pflieger currently serves as President of the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists and is a member of the British Pharmacological Society (BPS) International Advisory Group, as well as being a Fellow of the BPS.

Professor Pflieger has developed extensive expertise in profiling receptor binding and function at the molecular and cellular levels over the last 20 years, particularly involving G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs). He also has globally-recognised expertise in the bioluminescence resonance energy transfer (BRET) technology, including his patented Receptor-Heteromer Investigation Technology (Receptor-HIT) for studying heteromers. His publications on BRET and heteromer pharmacology have been published in journals that include Nature Methods, Nature Protocols and Nature Chemical Biology.

Professor Pflieger also has experience in research translation, being a named inventor on a number of patent families and being a spin-out company Chief Scientific Officer for 6+ years. This company, Dimerix, is now listed on the ASX and is in Phase 3 clinical trials for focal segmental glomerulosclerosis and treatment of inflammation resulting from Covid-19. He is also a scientific co-founder of RAGE Biotech Pty Ltd and chairs the Advisory Board of Veintech Pty Ltd.

Professor Pflieger supports innovation and entrepreneurship training as Chair of Biodesign Australia and co-Director of the Australian Clinical Entrepreneur Program.



Ted Fields

Ted is a Research and Cultural Advisor at the Centre for Health Equity Training Research & Evaluation, UNSW. Ted is a Member at the Gaawaadhi Gadudha Alliance, the Co-Chair of Narran Lakes Nature Reserve Joint Management Committee, and the Director of Uraah Innovations & Cultural Services.

Ted is a Gamilaraay/Yuwaalaraay man born and raised in Walgett in Western NSW. Ted's exposure to his language and culture has been at the earliest days of his life. Ted's work over the past two and half decades has been to promote the understanding and knowledge base of Gamilaraay and Yuwaalaraay/Yuwaalayaay languages and cultures. Ted has been working in cultural heritage management for over twenty years including cultural advisory work with National Parks and Wildlife, Department of Land and Water Conservation, and member of Namoi River Management Committee, and Namoi Groundwater Management Committee. Having been an active member of Walgett Local Aboriginal lands Council (WLALC) for 30 years, in 1996 Ted became the youngest member to become chairperson of WLALC, and also secretary of WLALC. Ted has also previously worked as a field officer for the Western Aboriginal Legal Service NSW, a Senior Cultural Advisor Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, for Connected Communities in Walgett, and coordinator for the Gamilaraay Giwiirgal Gunu Cooperation.

Ted is a Chief Investigator on an NH&MRC Medical Research Future Fund grant (\$560,209) called the Gaawaadhi Gadudha Study (with Yashadhana & de Leeuw) which is exploring how connection to Country and participation in walaay impacts Aboriginal cultural resilience, health and quality of life. He is a member of the Gaawaadhi Gadudha Alliance along with other members who represent the Yuwaalaraay, Gamilaraay and Yuin Nations of NSW. Other research projects he has contributed to include an evaluation of the health of Aboriginal culture at Dhariwaa (with Ridges); a Cooperative Research Centre (Vision CRC) funded project investigating sociocultural determinants of diabetic eye health among Aboriginal people living with diabetes, where he conducted interviews and focus groups, contributed to qualitative data analysis, and co-authored a peer-reviewed publication (with Yashadhana); and a NH&MRC funded longitudinal cohort study on Aboriginal youth health and wellbeing, where he worked as a community-based researcher, successfully partnering with community organisations to administer surveys and collect clinical measures with community youth and parents (with Yashadhana).

An important part of Ted's work is the provision of walaay/cultural camps, that are entirely community resourced and run. Cultural camps bring Gamilaraay/Yuwaalaraay Elders and youth from the Western NSW region together on country to participate in language reclamation, cultural activities, and in depth learning about cultural and physical and cultural landscapes. Ted is also the Director of Uraah Innovations and Cultural Services an organisation that delivers Gamilaraay/Yuwaalaraay language and culture programs in schools in Tamworth and development of online language and culture resources. Ted is also a member of Murdi PAAKI Region Aboriginal Languages Working Group.



Prof Josephine Forbes

Josephine is the NH&MRC Professorial Leadership Research Fellow and lead of Chronic and Integrated Care Program at Mater Research, the University of Queensland in Brisbane.

Prof Josephine Forbes is a translational researcher performing bench to bedside studies on novel therapies to prevent diabetes and major complications, kidney and cardiovascular disease. To do this, she brings together global teams of scientists, clinicians, industry, funding organisations and consumers. Josephine is an Australian Diabetes Society Director, the Chair of their Research Advisory Committee and previously the ADC Annual Meeting Program Chair, a previous Chair of the Diabetes Australia Research Program and an editor for pre-eminent medical journals including *Kidney International*. She has also been a consultant for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) as part of their professional advisory panel and the T1D clinical Research Network RoadMap, BEAT-CKD Collaborative, the National Diabetes Strategy Implementation Consultation Group as well as MRFF TTRA accelerator priority setting.

Professor Forbes has published more than 200 research articles with ~13000 citations and five patents, and received the Commonwealth Health Minister's Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research, and the TJ Neale Award for Outstanding Contribution to Nephrology from Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology. Professor Forbes sits on the ACADI Management Committee, is the Current taskforce chair for formation of a National Diabetes Research Strategy, and is the Incoming President for the Australian Diabetes Society – The Peak Body for Diabetes Professionals.

Prof Michael Cowley

Michael Cowley is Professor and Head of the Department of Physiology at Monash University.

Michael has a focus on obesity, diabetes, and metabolic disorders. He received his BSc from the University of Melbourne, and did his PhD at Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research, before a post-doctoral fellowship at The Vollum Institute in Oregon. Professor Cowley was later an Assistant then Associate Scientist at Oregon National Primate Research Center in the USA, where he pioneered the use of obese monkeys as a model for pre-clinical assessment of metabolic drugs. In 2003, Professor Cowley founded Orexigen Therapeutics, which has led to the approval of his invention Contrave/Mysimba for weight loss in many countries. In 2008 Michael returned to Australia to Monash University. His work has mapped the neural circuits in the brain that sense nutrients and fat to control appetite and body weight. His current research focusses on the role of the brain in controlling blood pressure and blood glucose by understanding brain/kidney, brain/fat, pituitary/muscle and brain/liver communication.



Prof Leonid Churilov

Leonid Churilov (PhD FAHMS) is Professor of Biostatistics at Melbourne Medical School, University of Melbourne and ACADI Biostatistics Platform Lead.

In 2007- early 2019 he was Head of Statistics and Decision Analysis at Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, Melbourne, Australia. Prof Churilov co-authored over 450 publications in the areas of modelling methodology and clinical applications, including those published in New England Journal of Medicine, The Lancet, British Medical Journal, Nature Biotechnology. He is a Fellow of Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences and a recipient of international and national awards from the Operational Research (OR) professional societies of the USA, Japan, and Australia, as well as a 2000 Victoria Fellowship. He is a recipient of the Ren Potts Medal of the Australian Society for Operations Research that recognises outstanding contributions to theory and practice of OR.

Prof Churilov is an internationally recognized expert in design and analysis of clinical trials, with specific interest in early phase and adaptive designs, and in the use of health analytics and statistical modelling for decision support in clinical and health care systems. He is an Associate Editor and/or an Editorial Board member for five journals. The outcomes of Prof Churilov's work have informed changes in clinical guidelines both in Australia and overseas. In his current role, Prof Churilov contributes biostatistical, health analytics, and decision modelling expertise to multiple large international clinical trials and to a number of smaller pre-clinical, clinical, imaging, and service evaluation studies in the areas of general neurology, stroke, epilepsy, spinal cord injury, diabetes, gynaecology, and anaesthesia. He also serves on DSMBs for multiple clinical trials. He is an immediate Co-Chairperson of the Australasian Stroke Trials Network and a Chair of Australian Clinical Trials Alliance Excellence in Trial Statistics Award selection panel for 2021 and 2022.