



Speaker Bios – 2022 Annual Partnering Summit

PANEL Medical Devices and software

Elpis Barons

Elpis is a highly skilled healthcare business and research executive with proven leadership skills and extensive experience building, operating and leading extensive, complex clinical studies, developing scientific strategy, and providing overall project management for pivotal research programs across a variety of digital health, medical device, MedTech and diagnostic organisations.

Elpis is Founder and Director of Barons Medical Consulting (BMC), an advisory and contract research organisation (CRO), working with leaders of international early stage MedTech and Digital Health companies that are developing and executing a commercialisation and clinical trials strategy. BMC is currently the Australian Sponsor for a several innovative US and EU based medical device companies and works closely with its US affiliate ABio Clinical Research Partners, broadening its global reach.

BMC partners with its clients to deliver comprehensive sponsorship and monitoring services that range from strategy creation, to site selection, HREC applications, monitoring and sponsorship responsibilities. Since founding BMC in 2009, Elpis has worked with several international companies to develop and implement First-In-Human and pivotal studies for technologies that have succeeded in obtaining investment, and regulatory approval in multiple territories, including pioneering CGMs for T1DM.

With over 20 years in the industry in senior roles such as the CEO of a corporate accelerator, commercialisation and marketing specialist with MedNova (Galway, Ireland), part of the leadership team that saw the cardiovascular medical device start-up's acquisition by Abbott Laboratories in 2001, Elpis remains active in the international MedTech industry. She holds advisory board and mentorship positions with several Australian universities and research institutions, a judge and mentor for MedTech Innovator US and APAC , board advisor to Navi Medical Technologies and NED of Apop Biosciences.

Elpis completed her B.Sc. at Monash University and worked at Baker IDI in Melbourne in cardiovascular research.

Prof Victoria Palmer

Professor Palmer completed her PhD in Applied Ethics in 2007 and has developed a distinguished career in mental health and primary care research, and codesign methods for health systems improvement and transformation. In her 12.5 year research active career (accounting for relative to opportunity), she has obtained over A\$22 million in category 1 grant funding and completed over 30 research projects as either the lead Chief Investigator or as a contributor.

Since 2018, Victoria has lead the >10 member Integrated Mental Health Research Program in the Department of General Practice, Melbourne Medical School after being the Deputy Lead for the five years prior. Professor Palmer is an accomplished interdisciplinary researcher and is the inaugural Director of the ALIVE national research translation centre to implement mental health care at scale in primary care and community settings.



David Burren

David is the Principal at Bionic Wookiee and has lived with Type 1 diabetes for over 40 years.

David has self-built, and used, closed-loop insulin pump systems for five years.

David coordinates multiple communities of People with Diabetes, and is an advocate for People with Diabetes in many forums including the European Associate for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) conference, the Advanced Technologies and Treatment for Diabetes (ATTD) conferences, and the Australian Diabetes Congress since 2018.

Since 2019, David has worked as a researcher with the Baker Heart & Diabetes Institute on multiple clinical trials of AID (Automated Insulin Device) technology.

David's previous career history involves work in IT infrastructure engineering (in hardware and software), as a professional wildlife photographer, and as a tertiary photography lecturer.

Veronica Collum

Veronica is a Registered Nurse and supports nurses at Austin Health on a busy Cardiothoracic unit as a Clinical Nurse Educator. Veronica also privately teaches a group of Diploma of Nursing students. Many of Veronica's patient cohort have Diabetes; she supports nurses and patients learning about diabetic issues and care.

In 2001, Veronica was diagnosed with gestational diabetes with her first pregnancy, then Type 2 diabetes in 2012. Veronica has also been diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes and will be commencing insulin pump therapy soon.

Veronica endeavours to keep up to date with current Diabetes management for herself, for nurses that she teaches, and for improvements in diabetes management for patients.

Veronica has a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, she completed a Bachelor of Nursing in 1993 and Post Graduate studies in Cardiothoracic Critical Care Nursing in 1997.

Dr Lian Cunningham

Dr. Lian Cunningham is Vice President of Clinical Affairs at Endogenex Inc., an US-based clinical stage medical device company developing a novel, energy-based endoscopic therapy for Type 2 Diabetes.

Dr. Cunningham has approximately 20 years of medical device development experience, leading clinical development and regulatory functions. Her extensive experience ranges from proof of concept (First-in-Human) to pivotal to post-market phases. Over the years, she has successfully obtained regulatory approvals for various medical devices including 510(K) to PMA products. She has unique perspectives in medical device innovations in a start-up environment.

Dr. Cunningham came from academic background. She was previously an assistant professor at Loyola University Chicago and an attending vascular surgeon in Shanghai, China.