

About our Speakers:



Professor Nicola Lautenschlager
Head, Melbourne Medical School

Nicola joined the University of Melbourne in July 2008 as Professor and Chair of Old Age Psychiatry and Director of the Academic Unit for Psychiatry of Old Age in the Melbourne Medical School's Department of Psychiatry. More recently she held the additional dual portfolios of Deputy Head and Research Director of the Melbourne Medical School. In October 2022 she was appointed interim Head of the Melbourne Medical School. Nicola is also a consultant old age psychiatrist at the Older Adult Mental Health Program, Royal Melbourne Hospital Mental Health Service, Melbourne.

Originally from Germany, Nicola undertook her medical training and doctoral research at the Technical University of Munich and her postdoctoral studies at Boston University. A clinician-scientist by training, she holds particular research interests in dementia and aged mental health with experience across clinical trials and cohort studies as well as translational and implementation research.

Plenary Session



Professor Christobel Saunders, AO
MMS Research Director and James Stewart Chair of Surgery at Royal Melbourne Hospital

Professor Christobel Saunders is the James Stewart Chair of Surgery at Royal Melbourne Hospital, Consultant surgeon at RMH and PeterMac and interim Director of Research at Melbourne Medical School, having moved from Western Australia at the end of 2021. She is also Chief Medical Officer to the multi-award winning biomedical start-up OncoRes. She sits on the boards of several health and research organisations including as Vice-President for All.can International and Chair All.can Australia, Breast Cancer Trials, the Australian Centre for Value Based Health Care and PathWest and was a long-standing member of the CRC Advisory Committee (Commonwealth Dept. Industry, Innovation & Science) and founding member of the Cancer Australia Advisory Council and past-President of the Cancer Council WA and Breast Surgical Society of ANZ .

Christobel is closely involved in strategic planning and management of health and cancer services in Australia including being on the Medicare Review Advisory Committee. She led the first WA cancer framework and has advised state and federal governments on cancer for nearly 20 years, as well as contributing to cancer policy in developing countries (Bhutan and Timor L'Este).

Christobel is internationally recognised as one of Australia's most prominent research-orientated cancer surgeons, and has substantially contributed to cancer research including clinical trials of new treatments, psychosocial, translational and health services research. Christobel has performed research for >30 years evaluating the efficacy and utility of therapy for early breast cancer, and has chaired the development of the Cancer Australia Early Breast Cancer Guidelines, Optimal Care Pathways and International Consortium for Health Outcomes breast cancer dataset. In the past five years, Christobel has published over 200 peer-reviewed journal articles, two book chapters and one book. She is a frequent lecturer on cancer to community groups and allied health professionals. She served as Chair of UWA Human Ethics committee for many years. Since 2002, she has been an investigator on over 100 grants totalling more than \$54M (\$46.7M as a Chief Investigator and >\$25M in funding in the past 5 years). Professor Saunders is responsible for conducting numerous clinical cancer projects and collaborates on multiple local, national and international clinical trials. Her research has helped the establish a number of new cancer treatments such as MRI for breast cancer, intra-operative radiotherapy and new cancer localisation methods.

In recognition of her sustained career excellence and innovation, Christobel has been publicly acknowledged through numerous awards and honours including Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) in 2018, WA Scientist of the Year (2017) and Cancer Council WA Career Achievement Award (2021), and she was elected to the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science in 2016.

She is committed to teaching and mentoring of students, young researchers and clinicians, establishing the UWA Student Surgical Society, a mentoring programme for women surgeons and established the UWA Masters in Surgery programme.

Clinician Scientist Pathways Panel Discussion



Prof Sebastian King (panel moderator)
Director, Colorectal and Pelvic Reconstruction Service; Paediatric Colorectal Surgeon, The Royal Children's Hospital; Professor, University of Melbourne

Professor Sebastian King established and leads the Colorectal and Pelvic Reconstruction Service at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. Following his PhD at the University of Melbourne, which focused upon the motility patterns of children affected by slow transit constipation, Sebastian completed his paediatric surgical training at The Royal Children's Hospital. He then completed his fellowship in neonatal surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada.

Sebastian's clinical role is focused upon children born with anorectal malformations or Hirschsprung disease, and those affected by chronic constipation. His ongoing research is supported by The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation, the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Medical Research Future Fund and the Federal Government. Sebastian is passionate about curing the significant intestinal motility conditions that affect many children internationally.



Dr Laila Ibrahim
Consultant Paediatrician, Department of General Medicine and Hospital in the Home, The Royal Children's Hospital; Clinician-Scientist Fellow, Clinical Paediatrics, Murdoch Children's Research Institute; Honorary Fellow, Department of Paediatrics, The University of Melbourne

Laila is a consultant paediatrician in General Medicine at the Royal Children's Hospital and a Clinician-scientist fellow at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute with a strong research focus on common childhood infections and keeping children out of hospital. Her PhD was aimed to investigate the clinical and non-clinical outcomes of home versus hospital intravenous treatment, which were efficacy and safety, quality of life and cost-effectiveness.

Connect with Laila on Twitter: @LailaIbrahim



Dr Melissa Lee
Fellow in Adult Congenital Heart Disease and Imaging, Royal Melbourne Hospital; Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Department of Medicine RMH; Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Department of Paediatrics, The University of Melbourne; Research Officer, Heart Research Group, Murdoch Children's Research Institute

Bio Melissa is an early career cardiologist who is passionate about a career as a clinician-researcher. Her research career started in 2010 when she was a medical student completing a year of full-time research in congenital heart disease and loved it. This led to the commencement of a part-time PhD predominantly alongside full-time clinical work starting in 2014 as an intern then junior doctor. Melissa completed her PhD in 2018 in time to start studying for physicians' exams the year after and was selected onto Cardiology Advanced Training starting in 2020. She completed her cardiologist specialist training last year and is currently undergoing further subspecialty training in Adult Congenital Heart Disease and Imaging at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. She currently holds a 5-year MRFF Investigator grant to continue her research in

congenital heart disease. In 2020 she was awarded the Victorian Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research (Clinical Research category).



A/Prof Samantha Loi
Neuropsychiatry Centre, Royal Melbourne Hospital and Department of Psychiatry, University of Melbourne

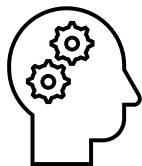
Associate Professor Samantha Loi is an old age psychiatrist and neuropsychiatrist working at the Royal Melbourne Hospital Neuropsychiatry service and Department of Psychiatry at the University of Melbourne. She works clinically with people with young-onset neurocognitive disorders including Huntington's disease and has multiple research publications and grant funding in the area of young-onset dementia, ageing and mental health of older adults. Sam is the current Victorian Chair of the Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age of the Royal Australian New Zealand College of Psychiatrists and Chair of the Young-Onset Dementia Special Interest Group.



Dr Jesse Zanker
Department of Medicine, Western Health (Honorary)

Dr Jesse Zanker is a clinician-investigator. Jesse is a geriatrician with Western Health, Echuca Regional Health (his hometown hospital), Aboriginal Community Elders Services, and director of Aria Health. Jesse submitted his PhD in March 2023 studying sarcopenia (muscle loss) in Australia and New Zealand, for which he won the MDHS Dean's Excellence Award, and the Career Investigator Award at the Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine (ANZSGM) annual scientific meeting in May 2023. As part of his PhD Jesse was the ANZSGM travelling scholar to University of California, San Francisco in 2019. Jesse is currently a post-doctoral research fellow with the OnTRACK team at Melbourne Health Unimelb, studying dementia and frailty in First Nations Elders. Jesse is passionate about translating evidence into practice, particularly in the care of older adults and First Nations Elders.

Policy and Changing Practice Panel Discussion



Mr Ken Knight (Panel Moderator)

Head of Research Impact & Consumer Involvement at Murdoch Children's Research Institute

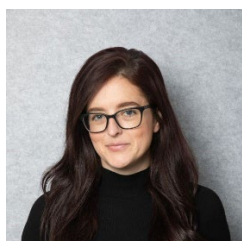
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A/Prof Stephanie Best

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, VCCC Alliance, Australian Genomics, University of Melbourne

Associate Professor Stephanie Best PhD, SFHEA, MCSP is the senior implementation science research lead for the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Alliance and Australian Genomics. In these roles she provides leadership, builds implementation science capacity and establishes cross cutting implementation research. She has over a decade of experience in the field of implementation of complex health interventions following an extensive international clinical & management career as a chartered physiotherapist. Since moving in Australia in 2017, Stephanie has secured over Au\$80m in grant funding providing implementation expertise & leadership on a range of projects including several high-profile studies e.g., MRFF Australian Genome Reference Database (CIA Daniel Macarthur) & Automating Reanalysis of Genomic Data (CIA Zornitza Stark). She has built an international reputation in implementation science, publishing widely with 60+ peer reviewed papers in high impact journals, e.g., JAMA & Genetics in Medicine. Stephanie is on the editorial board of BMC Health Services Research, co-convenes the Australian New Zealand Academy of Management Health Management stream & is co-chair of the Melbourne Academic Centre for Health (MACH) Health Services Research committee. Her research interests include methods to investigate implementation of complex clinical interventions such as clinical genomics, equity, professional identity and leadership.



Dr Olivia Metcalf

Department of Psychiatry and Centre for Digital Transformation of Health, MDHS, University of Melbourne

Olivia is an early-mid career researcher and behavioural scientist who specialises in digital mental health and trauma-affected populations. Olivia is interested in leveraging technology, including wearables and smartphones, in assessing and treating a range of physical and mental health problems.

Connect with Olivia on [LinkedIn](#)



A/Prof Christopher Schilling

**Health Economics Senior/Principal Research Fellow
Melbourne School of Population and Global Health**

Bio still to come



Prof Zoe Wainer

Deputy Secretary, Public Health at Victorian Department of Health

Bio still to come

Advice from the Supervisors Panel Discussion



Moderator: Assoc Prof Catherine Quinlan
Academic Lead (Graduate Research), Melbourne Medical School and Paediatric Nephrologist, Murdoch Children's Research Institute

A/Prof Quinlan is an academic paediatric nephrologist with a career focus on genetic kidney disease and education. She leads the Kidney Flagship at Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), a comprehensive clinical research pipeline for genetic kidney disease. She established the state-wide renal genetics service in Victoria with the support of Melbourne Genomics and the RCH Foundation. Cathy is Academic Lead (Graduate Research) at the University of Melbourne School of Medicine, where she is currently supervising 3 students completing PhDs as well as advanced trainees, honours students and advanced clinical trainees in paediatrics. To date she has supervised 3 completed PhD students and 4 clinical advanced trainees. She is a member of the American Society of Nephrology Education committee and the NephMadness Blue Ribbon Panel.

Connect with Cathy on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/doctor-catherine-quinlan/>



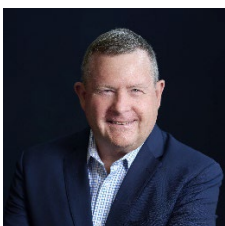
Professor Jeanie Cheong
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Melbourne Medical School, University of Melbourne; Clinical Sciences, Murdoch Children's Research Institute; and Neonatal Services, Royal Women's Hospital, Parkville.

Jeanie Cheong is a Neonatal Paediatrician at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne, Principal Research Fellow at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, and an Honorary Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne. She is an international leader in the field of long-term outcomes of high-risk preterm infants. She is the Director of the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Newborn Medicine, and heads the Victorian Infant Collaborative Study, the longest running epidemiological program of research on outcomes following extremely preterm birth. Jeanie was awarded the MMS Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Supervision by Honorary Staff in 2022 in the leader category.



Dr Alison Compton
Team Leader, Brain and Mitochondrial Research, Murdoch Children's Research Institute; Clinical Associate, Victorian Clinical Genetics Services; and Honorary Fellow, Department of Paediatrics, The University of Melbourne

I am a laboratory-based researcher in the field of Mitochondrial Disease genetics, with a focus on novel disease gene discovery and the adoption of new genomic technologies for improved patient diagnosis. I have supervised 9 research higher degree students on various projects which focused on patient diagnosis, novel disease gene discovery and characterisation, and the utility and development of new genomic technologies for improved diagnostics. I also chair RHD student advisory committees. I enjoy training and fostering my students' development into the amazing researchers that they have ultimately become; their interest and passion is always invigorating.



Assoc Professor Chris French
Department of Medicine, Royal Melbourne Hospital

Chris is a clinician researcher, working as a neurologist at Royal Melbourne Hospital and pursuing a range of translational neuroscience research projects in the Melbourne Brain Centre. He is Deputy Head of the RMH Department of Medicine and Director of the MDHS Honours program, with a keen interest in Graduate Research and currently supervises several students.



Professor Meredith Temple-Smith
Department of General Practice and Primary Care

I am a sexual and reproductive health researcher, and I am interested in finding practical solutions to ensure that everyone can access the type of care they need to manage issues such as sexually transmissible infections, sexual health, contraception, and pregnancy loss. I have supervised more than 20 research higher degree projects on a variety of different research projects which have focussed on sensitive issues and/or marginalised populations. I also chair RHD student Advisory Committees. My great joy is learning from my students. They have taught me new methods, new ideas, and offered new content areas – my students always expand my horizons! I like to stay in contact with my students after they have completed, and I get enormous pleasure from seeing all the changes they make in the world.