

# REHABILITATION, AGEING AND INDEPENDENT LIVING (RAIL) RESEARCH CENTRE

## Member eBulletin #1

### A message from the Director

Welcome to the first RAIL Member Network eBulletin. Thank you for registering your interest in our research centre. We now have over 70 members across a variety of disciplines within Monash Australia and Malaysia. Through monthly bulletins we will provide you with information about grants, conferences, events and webinars related to rehabilitation, ageing and independent living. We will also provide you with updates on the growth and development of the centre as well as opportunities for research partnership and engagement.



**Professor Keith Hill,  
RAIL Director**

Membership of RAIL is a self nomination process, and everyone who has submitted their details into the online survey is now a member of RAIL. This is an ongoing process, and so new staff, or staff who over time decide they would like to be involved can still join RAIL by completing the [survey](#). If anyone wishes to cease being a member of RAIL, then please forward an email stating this to [spahc.rail@monash.edu](mailto:spahc.rail@monash.edu), and you will be removed from the distribution list for RAIL.

**Please distribute the eBulletin to others in your network who may be interested.**

### ***What's in this edition?***

- Early-Mid Career Researcher Grant
- RAIL Level B Research Fellow
- News - Monash Lens
- Upcoming events - RAIL launch, member forums
- Early and mid career research support activities
- Upcoming conferences
- Member contributions

## RAIL Research Centre staff profiles and skills

It is apparent from reviewing the very diverse backgrounds and skill sets of staff who have become members of RAIL that there is likely to be strong benefits in supporting new collaborations among members, that may have potential to form new and stronger interdisciplinary grant applications, research student supervision and publication outcomes.

To enhance cross discipline collaboration, and promote externally the diversity and strengths of the Monash RAIL network of researchers, we would like to develop a summary of member profiles. It is anticipated that this will include a photo, email contact, and a summary of the main research areas, brief bio, and research skills being collated into a single document. We envisage two valuable targets for distribution of this information: (a) for internal distribution to all RAIL members, so that you can identify other researchers who have similar interests or skill sets you may wish to involve in your ongoing research activities; and (b) to promote to external stakeholders the strength and diversity of the Monash RAIL membership.

We will be contacting all RAIL members in coming weeks to ask if you are happy to have your research details as described above to be included in a RAIL membership document for internal and external distribution.

### Staff profile - Dr Natasha Brusco



Dr Natasha (Tash) Brusco is an experienced Physiotherapist and Health Economist, with 20 years of health service experience in clinical, management and leadership roles across multiple public and private health services. Her research interests focus on health economics, rehabilitation models of care program evaluation, stroke care and workplace health and safety. Tash will lead the Rehabilitation arm of RAIL.

### Early-Mid Career Researcher Grant

Applications close for the first round of RAIL Early-Mid Career Research (EMCR) grants on **Friday 4th October**.

The objectives of this scheme are to:

- Support early-mid career researchers with high research potential to progress their research careers by funding high quality research projects and pilot research projects on a competitive basis
- Encourage cross disciplinary research collaboration
- Enhance the staff member's competitiveness in bidding for external research funds
- Provide experience in preparing a grant application for peer review
- Provide research funding for projects that are strategically aligned with RAIL's research priorities
- Provide an opportunity for research mentorship

A total of \$60,000 is available for this round of RAIL EMCR research grants, with individual applications able to apply for up to \$15,000.

Grant information, guidelines and application form are available from [spahc.rail@monash.edu](mailto:spahc.rail@monash.edu).

### **RAIL Level B Research Fellow**

Would you like to join our team? We have a fantastic opportunity to be part of a team of researchers within RAIL, working closely with other RAIL members, researchers and collaborators on existing research projects, as well as developing new projects and activities to grow the activity, outcomes and profile of the new Centre.

The Research Fellow will contribute to the development of new grant applications, coordinate research projects (including the preparation of ethics applications, research protocols and reports), assist with data collection, manage and analyse data, communicate and collaborate with external stakeholders, contribute to research papers for publication and dissemination, and the presentation of research outputs both internally and externally. They will assist with future grant, fellowship and research tender applications. The successful applicant will also contribute to the other activities within RAIL.

Further information about the position can be found [here](#). Applications close **Wednesday 9 October 2019, 11:55 pm AEDT**.

### **News**



### **Monash Lens**

The latest edition of the Monash Lens, 'The challenges of an ageing population' provides an excellent overview of some of the challenges and benefits associated with ageing societies, and highlights some of the current issues associated with ageism, and the focus of the current Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. The short video features several RAIL members, including Dr Alana Hewitt (Department of Occupational Therapy), and Associate Professor Pei Lee Teh (Monash Malaysia, Gerotechnology Lab). The video can be accessed at:

<https://lens.monash.edu/2019/09/12/1376222/the-ageing-population>

## Upcoming Events



### **RAIL Launch**

The official Rehabilitation, Ageing and Independent Living Research Centre launch will be held in early 2020. Further information will be circulated shortly.

### **Member forums**

RAIL will run regular member forums to provide an opportunity to bring together key industry and RAIL members and facilitate networking and collaborative opportunities. Member forums will have light refreshments available before and after each event. Zoom facilities will be available for the member forums, for those not able to physically attend the session. We will aim to vary times to provide options that might suit member's varying work patterns, including breakfast, late afternoon, and lunch sessions. A calendar of dates and locations for upcoming forums will be developed and circulated in the near future.

#### ***The first RAIL member forum will be:***

Title: Demystifying RAIL – the vision, what it offers to the Monash and external communities, and an introduction to the Director.

Presenter: Professor Keith Hill, Director of RAIL

Venue: Meeting Room C1.02, Building C, Peninsula campus

Date and time: Thursday 31 October, 8.30-9.30 (refreshments available)

Please [RSVP](#) if you are able to attend, and indicate if attending in person or through zoom. Zoom details will be circulated to those indicating an interest in participating through zoom.

### **Early and mid-career research support activities**

One of the important targets of RAIL is to support the career development of early and mid career researchers in associated areas of research. Two initial strategies to support this include:

1. Informal pre-submission grant application review. We are happy to offer an informal grant review process for early to mid career researchers, aiming for a relatively quick turn-around. The small number of staff of RAIL who are available to assist with this may not have the direct content knowledge related to the grant, but will have strong experience in successful grant writing, that may be able to assist with grant refinements before submission. If you are interested in the review process, please contact Cassie Stephens ([spahc.rail@monash.edu](mailto:spahc.rail@monash.edu)) in advance so that we can organise a reviewer in the required timeline.
2. Presentation practice sessions. Where a main conference that may involve a number of RAIL early to mid career researchers is known to be occurring, we are able to provide an opportunity for practice presentations, providing the opportunity in a friendly relaxed environment to do a practice presentation and receive feedback and questions, in preparation for the formal conference presentation. We are offering a

session in lead-up to the upcoming Australian Association of Gerontology conference (Sydney, Nov 6-8), and the preceding Emerging Researchers in Ageing conference (Sydney, November 5). If you are interested in a practice presentation session for either of these upcoming conferences, please email [spahc.rail@monash.edu](mailto:spahc.rail@monash.edu), and then we will schedule a session in the week of October 28-Nov 1.

### Upcoming conferences

- Bold Ideas Better Solutions: The Hopkins Centre Symposium, free event hosted by the Hopkins Centre in Brisbane on 18th October 2019  
<https://www.hopkinscentre.edu.au/impact>
- 7th National Brain Injury Conference hosted by Brain Injury Australia in Melbourne, 28th and 29th October 2019  
<https://braininjuryconference.com.au/>
- November 4-5 2019, Sydney - 18th National Conference of Emerging Researchers in Ageing. Theme: Equity and Diversity. -  
<http://www.era.edu.au/ERA+2019>
- November 5-8 2019, Sydney – 52<sup>nd</sup> Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) conference. Theme: Coming of age together-New ways of knowing and acting. -<https://www.aag.asn.au/national-conference/2019-conference>
- Annual General Meeting of the Australian Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association (ARATA), including a panel discussion by national Assistive Technology Stakeholders, hosted in Melbourne on 13th November 2019 at 5pm on the close of Day 2 of the Oceanic Seating Symposium  
<https://www.arata.org.au/>
- Oceanic Seating Symposium, hosted in Melbourne, 12th to 14th November 2019  
<http://www.cmnzl.co.nz/oceania-seating-symposium/>
- December 4-7 2019, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – 1<sup>st</sup> World Congress on Falls and Postural Stability. NOTE – Late breaking abstracts being accepted until October 31 - <http://wcfps2019.org/#>
- May 27-29 2020, Melbourne – The Australian and New Zealand Society of Geriatric Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting. Theme: Vision for the future. Abstract submission open (closes February 2020).  
<http://www.anzsgmconference.org/>
- Abstract submissions opening on 19th October 2019 for the Australian & New Zealand Association for Health Professional Educators (ANZAHPE) 2020 Conference, hosted in Melbourne, 12th July to 15th July, 2020 <https://www.anzahpe.org/2020-conference>
- Latest NDIS-hosted events for Scheme participants, families and/or providers  
See <https://www.ndis.gov.au/news/events>

### Member contributions

We would love to showcase current research from our members. We invite you to submit a short story (and relevant images) about any research you are working on that aligns with RAIL. Submissions are due by the 30th of each month to [spahc.rail@monash.edu](mailto:spahc.rail@monash.edu)