

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



MONASH IS A GLOBAL UNIVERSITY WITH A PRESENCE ON THREE CONTINENTS AND AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

As a young university, our outlook is progressive and optimistic.

We are focused on empowering our people to make positive and lasting impact.

- Established 1958
- 347 students commenced in 1961
- Now Australia's largest university

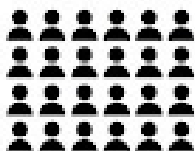
OUR PEOPLE

87,000+

STUDENTS FROM MORE THAN

160

COUNTRIES



16,000+
STAFF

4
MAJOR AUSTRALIAN CAMPUSES



52% DOMESTIC STUDENTS

35% INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

13% OFFSHORE STUDENTS

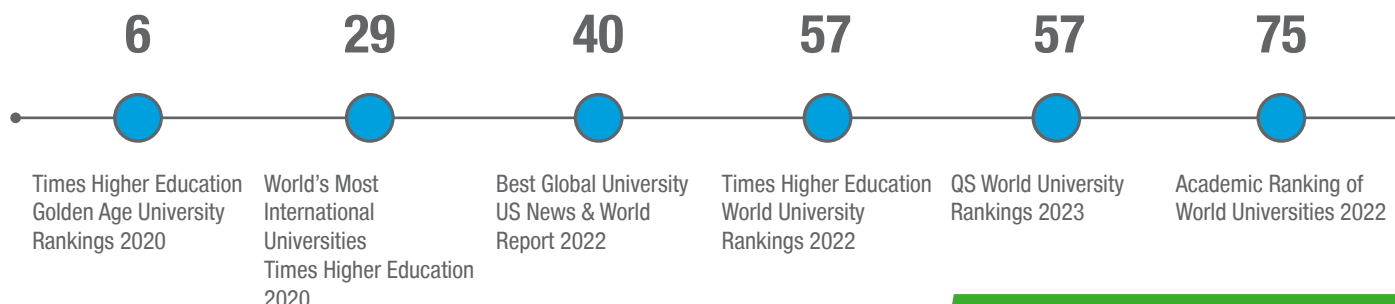


450,000+

IN OUR GLOBAL ALUMNI COMMUNITY

OUR RANKINGS

TOP 100 UNIVERSITIES



Times Higher Education Golden Age University Rankings 2020

World's Most International Universities Times Higher Education 2020

Best Global University US News & World Report 2022

Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022

QS World University Rankings 2023

Academic Ranking of World Universities 2022

#54
EMPLOYABILITY



GLOBAL UNIVERSITY GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY RANKING
(QS World University Rankings 2022)

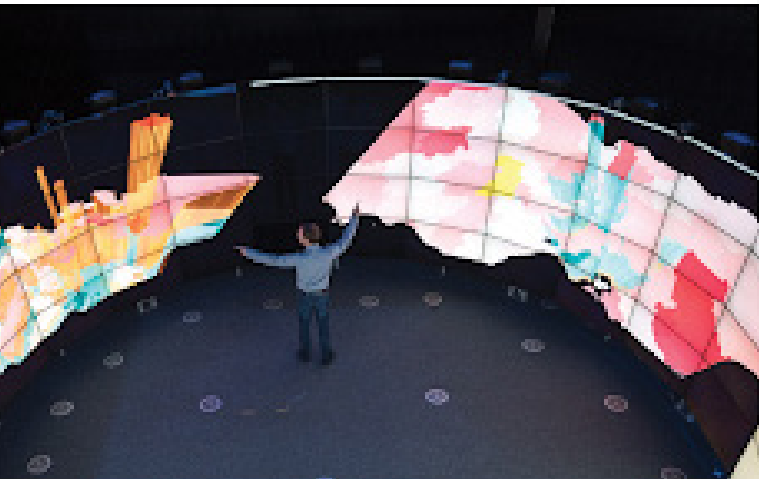


THE GOOD UNIVERSITIES GUIDE 2021 AWARDED MONASH FIVE STARS FOR:

- Staff qualification
- Student demand

OUR RESEARCH VALUE

MONASH HAS AMONG THE **HIGHEST RESEARCH REVENUES** OF ANY AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY, TOTTALLING NEARLY



\$462.1 MILLION

TOTAL RESEARCH INCOME

AND WE SPENT

\$1 BILLION

ON RESEARCH

The information was correct at time of publication (August 2020)

OUR ECONOMIC IMPACT

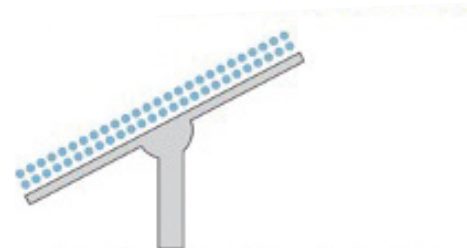
MONASH DIRECTLY ACCOUNTS FOR **\$5.2 BILLION** WORTH OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY ANNUALLY FOR AUSTRALIA

MONASH GENERATES **\$6.60** FOR EVERY \$1 OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING

WE CONTRIBUTE **25% OR \$2.3 BILLION** TO VICTORIA'S INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION EXPORT MARKET

IN 2017 WE COMITTED **\$135 MILLION** TO OUR NET ZERO INITIATIVE

MONASH IS EQUAL **42 GLOBALLY** FOR OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS*



*Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2022. Figures correct as of March 2020.



Department of General Practice

Established in 1975, the Monash University Department of General Practice is a globally recognised medicine, teaching and research department and one of the largest in Australia. The Department continues to strive for excellence in research and teaching in order to improve outcomes for patients through the advancement of general practice.



“Did you get the memo?” Colour coordination in the DGP office

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Our 2023 Annual report shares stories and achievements from the DGP, and reflects on future growth and development.

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WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

I am pleased to present the Department of General Practice Annual Report for 2023. Over the last year staff and students of the department have been engaged in a wide variety of significant activities in both education and research. I am proud to highlight their achievements in this report.

We have settled in at 553 St Kilda Road and integrated into the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, the largest research-based school in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. The colocation has benefitted the department with greater strategic synergies in advancing sustainable, evidence-based and high-quality healthcare and strengthened health systems. It has also given us the opportunity to conduct our teaching activities at The Alfred Centre, providing our students with cutting-edge educational facilities.

In 2023, The Department of Health and Aged Care engaged us to undertake a key initiative within the National Endometriosis Action Plan that is the development, implementation and evaluation of a general practice endometriosis management plan. This project which has \$5 million of funding has the potential to create real benefit for the one in seven Australian women who currently experience endometriosis. I was delighted also to learn that the SPHERE CRE has secured further NHMRC funding of \$2.5 million for another five years.

In other research news, the TROPHI initiative has officially kicked off, marking the beginning of a new collaboration between the Monash University Department of General Practice, the University of Melbourne Department of General Practice (the Universities) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. TROPHI will build research capacity in primary care in the Eastern region of Melbourne. MoNREN has also undergone significant renewal in its operations, providing a valuable networking platform for general practitioners, researchers and other primary care practitioners in the Southeast of Melbourne.

Many staff and students have been recognised for their outstanding work in 2023. Dr Jennifer Neil received the Dean's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning. Dr Sonia Srinivasan, an academic GP registrar in our department was awarded the Charles Bridges Webb Memorial Award 2023 from the RACGP. Dr Karen Nolidin won the AAAPC Early Career Researcher Best Paper Award and Melis Selagmolu, a PhD student in the department received the AAAPC Travelling Fellowship Award. I was also honoured to receive an Order of Australia in the King's Birthday Honours List and Fellowship of the Academy of Health and Medical Sciences this year.

The post-pandemic ease of restrictions has allowed us to travel once again to showcase our work and strengthen collaborations with national and international partners. In June I visited the state of the art Sheba Hospital in Tel Aviv to explore collaboration opportunities between ARC Sheba and Monash University. In July, Dr Nadida Kachkouche was invited by the School of Medicine at Nagoya University to visit Japan as part of the COIL project. Many students and staff have also resumed travelling to present at various national and international conferences. We had the privilege to host three international researchers in our department, Patty Thiele as a visiting scholar from University of Manitoba Canada, Dr Ina Laugessen, a GP and PhD student from Denmark, and our colleague Professor Wendy Norman from Canada.

This year we will say our farewell to Dr David Oberklaid, who has been a senior lecturer in the Department since 2018. Dr Oberklaid brought with him a wealth of experience especially in the area of safe practice and standards.

I would like to conclude by thanking all the staff and students of the Department and our GP supervisors for your efforts this year and extend my heartfelt congratulations for all your success and excellence throughout the year. As we approach the holiday season, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with peace and joy. Let's look forward to another year of success in 2024.



Professor Danielle Mazza AM FAHMS

Head of Department of General Practice
School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine
Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
Monash University

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM



Professor Danielle Mazza
AM FAHMS

Professor of General Practice and Head of Department



Professor Grant Russell

Professor of Primary Care Research



Dr Jennifer Neil

Curriculum and Assessment Lead



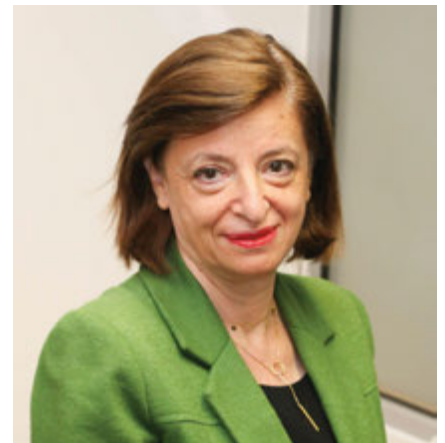
A/Prof Chris Barton

Research Training Coordinator



Dr Atish Manek

Senior Lecturer



Dr Nadida Kachkouche

Senior Lecturer



Dr Cathy Grech

Senior Lecturer



Mrs Sandra Zovko

Senior Clinical Site Administrator



Ms Levina Rahardjo

Executive Assistant to Head of Department

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2016-2023

PRIORITIES	STRATEGIES
<p>Research and Education:</p> <p>Innovative and excellent research and education focused initiatives that grow the national and international reputation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build on existing research strategies• Increase use of digital technologies and educational innovations• Align teaching content to research findings• Respond to market demand• Drive market demand
<p>Partnerships:</p> <p>Strategic partnerships that focus on University and healthcare priorities and provide growth in research opportunities and education innovation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leverage Department research translation capability• Connect and strengthen key regional, national and international networks• Support Faculty to have a focus on primary care• Foster interdisciplinary links with relevant partners within the University
<p>Profile:</p> <p>Marketing and communication that positions the Department as a global leader in education and research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise the internal and external profile of the Department• Integrate communication and marketing into all Departmental work
<p>Workforce:</p> <p>Workforce development that addresses sustainability and promotes excellence within the Department in the areas of research, education, systems and processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build the Department's expertise through high-impact star recruitment• Recognise excellence and innovation• Increase exposure to and involvement in global best practice• Provide an aligned, effective and efficient service• Increase staff research and teaching capability

EXTERNAL MEMBERSHIPS, COMMITTEES, INVITED/GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Professor Danielle Mazza AM FAHMS

Memberships/Committees

- Member, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Smart Families Expert Working Group
- Member, National Women's Health Advisory Council and Co-chair of the Council's Access, Care and Outcomes Subcommittee
- Member, Endometriosis Advisory Group (EAG), Department of Health
- Member, Therapeutic Goods Administration Women's Health Product Advisory Committee
- Member, Community Pharmacist Statewide Pilot Clinical Reference Group, Safer Care Victoria
- Member, The National Cervical Cancer Screening Program Clinical Guideline Working party
- Member, Victorian Women's Health Advisory Council and Chair of it's Access to LARC and Termination and Member of it's Women's Health Research Subcommittees
- Member, RANZCOG Endometriosis Guideline Development Group
- Member, RANZCOG Abortion Guideline Development Group (Abortion GDG) June 2022 – December 2023
- Member, NHMRC CRE assessment panel
- Member, NHMRC Research Translation Centre Panel
- Chair of the RACGP Redbook (Preventive Care Guidelines for general practice) 10th Ed working group
- Member, Editorial Board for the Journal of Antibiotics
- Member, RACGP Research Expert Committee
- Editorial Advisory Board member, British Medical Journal Sexual & Reproductive Health
- Member, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Senior Management Committee
- Member, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Research Committee

Invited/Guest presentations

- RACGP Academic Post 2 Workshop, Keynote Presentation, "Developing your research career in primary care research", August 2023.
- Western Victoria Primary Health Network, Project ECHO, "Unintended Pregnancy", August 2023.
- Department of Health Victoria and RACGP, "Advancing women's health in primary care", August 2023.
- The Annual Castan Centre for Human Rights Law Conference, Panel, "Reproductive rights and health", July 2023.
- The Health Sector Summit, "Working together to improve health outcomes for Victorian women and girls", March 2023.
- Australian College of Midwives, "Primary care, preconception and abortion", March 2023.

A/Prof Chris Barton

External memberships, committees, and guest presentations

- Deputy Convener, Primary Care Special Interest Group, Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ)
- Member of the Scientific Committee, Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group (PC4)
- Member of the Australian and New Zealand Association for Academic Primary Care (AAAPC)
- Member of the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Research Committee
- Guest Editor for a special research topic for the journal *Frontiers in Allergy: asthma and mental health*
- NHMRC Grant Review Panel Member for the Loneliness, Social Isolation and Chronic Disease Targeted Grant Scheme
- International reviewer for the Chief Scientist Office of the Scottish Government research grants scheme
- Member writing group for TSANZ vaping cessation guidelines
- Invited attendee at the Future of Asthma planning day, Newcastle NSW
- Guest presenter to a webinar to promote Academic Post opportunities to Victorian GP registrars
- Invited presentation to the Lung Health Promotion Centre - E-cigarette and Smoking Cessation update day, at the Alfred Hospital
- Invited webinar presentation: Tackling Vaping in Children and Adolescents. Presentation and panel discussion for the Integrated Care Communities of Practice (CoPs) for the Greater Dandenong, Casey, Cardinia region.
- Examined a PhD thesis for University of Sydney
- Invited attendee at a workshop hosted by Asthma Australia to develop a communication strategy for Oral Corticosteroid Stewardship

Prof Grant Russell

External memberships/committees

- Past President of the Australian Association for Academic Primary Care (2015-2017) and current chair of AAAPC's Policy Advisory Committee. He is Primary and Community Care Platform lead of Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centre and Chair of the Editorial Advisory Committee for the Australian Journal of General Practice.

Dr Jennifer Neil

- Dean's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning
- Dr Jennifer Neil is Curriculum and Assessment Lead in the Department of General Practice for the Monash University Medical School. As well as designing and delivering curriculum for the Year 4C General Practice rotation, she has brought her expertise in family violence into both the Medical School and more widely throughout the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences through her update of the PACTs family violence program for health professionals and through curriculum and assessment collaborations with the Master of Physiotherapy, Department of Radiography and Master of Mental Health. She has designed a vertically integrated family violence curriculum by developing and delivering a family violence program for the Year 2 Medical Students in 2022 and 2023. Jennifer has consistently delivered teaching of an excellent standard as evidenced by student feedback. Jennifer has been a GP educator in family violence for many years, having trained hundreds of health professionals to respond to family violence and been an invited speaker both nationally and internationally on multiple occasions since 2021.

Dr Jennifer Neil – external memberships and presentations

Memberships 2023

- Deputy chair RACGP specific interest group on abuse and violence
- Steering committee WONCA special interest group on family violence (from October 2023)

Invited speaker 2023

- GP Supervisors Australia "How to support your registrar on trauma informed care."
- The University of Melbourne Medical Student Conference: Advocacy in medicine
- Safer Families Festival of Ideas "Tools used in the identification and response to family violence."

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITION

AAAPC Travelling Research Fellowship

Awarded to Melis Selamoglu
Date awarded: March 2023
Awarded by: Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care

The AAAPC Travelling Fellowship has given me the opportunity to travel to Milan, Italy and present two abstracts from my PhD research at the European Respiratory Society Congress titled, “Perceptions of general practitioners in Istanbul on e-cigarettes as smoking cessation aids” as an oral presentation and, “A qualitative study of Australian general practitioners on e-cigarettes for smoking cessation” as a poster presentation. I am very thankful and grateful to the AAAPC for awarding me with this fellowship as it has given me the chance to present my findings on a world leading stage and meet with many delegates from around the world that have the similar interests as mine.



The King's Birthday 2023 Honours: Member of The Order of Australia

Awarded to Prof Danielle Mazza AM
Date awarded: June 2023
Awarded by: The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Professor Danielle Mazza was appointed as a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia (General Division) by the Governor-General in his capacity as Chancellor of the Order of Australia, with effect from 12 June 2023 for her significant service to medicine and to medical research, particularly to women's health.



Best poster presentation at the TSANZSRS 2023 conference Primary Care Special Interest Group Awards

Awarded to Dr Sanduni Madawala
Date awarded: April, 2023
Awarded by: Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand Conference (TSANZ)

I attended the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand Conference (TSANZ) in 2023, prior to submitting the final thesis and found it an invaluable experience. I am thankful for getting the opportunity to learn further about important research developments in respiratory health, particularly relating to care for people with COPD. I received the TSANZ Travel Award and was awarded best poster presentation at the TSANZSRS 2023 conference Primary Care Special Interest Group Awards. Receiving this prize was very encouraging, particularly in continuing to work with understanding and improving the care experience for people with COPD.

Third Place Finalist - Faculty Final Three Minute Thesis

Awarded to Claire Hutton
Date awarded: June 2023
Awarded by: Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University

Participating in the Three Minute Thesis was a great, if nerve-wracking, experience. Condensing my research ideas and progress-so-far into layperson language in such a short timeframe was an incredibly useful exercise! And, when you've been immersed in a topic for so long (especially as a part-time PhD student), you can start to lose sight of what it all means. So, while getting a prize was lovely, it was even more special, after both the School and Faculty finals, to have people come up and tell me how important they thought the topic is. Great motivation to keep going!



Monash University Jubilee Honours Scholarship

Awarded to Jenna Perkins
Date awarded: June 2023
Awarded by: Monash University

Receiving the Monash University Jubilee Honours Scholarship lightened my financial burden, enabling me to focus on my studies without worries about living expenses. It provided the freedom to dedicate more time and energy to my education, enhancing my honours degree experience significantly.

Vice President External 2024 of the Australian Medical Student Association

Awarded to Jade Guitera
Date awarded: Elected in July 2023
Awarded by: the Australian Medical Student Association members

This was a very humbling and rewarding journey of working in a team of 4 to consult with all the medical student societies around Australia and put together a vision of what the association could become under our leadership. This role will culminate my 6 years of volunteering within the organisation next year and I hope to give back as much as it has given me!



AAAPC Early Career Researcher Best Paper Award

Awarded to Dr Karen Nolidin
Date awarded: August 2023
Awarded by: AAAPC / EPIC Research Unit

A fantastic honour that recognises the work of early career researchers in primary care research.

Sexual Health Society of Victoria Best Poster Award 2023

Awarded to Dr Sonia Srinivasan
Date awarded: August 2023
Awarded by: Sexual Health Society of Victoria

An opportunity to share our work at SPHERE with our clinical colleagues from other disciplines

Dean's Award for outstanding contribution to student learning

Awarded to Dr Jennifer Neil
Date awarded: October 2023
Awarded by: Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

It is an honour to be recognised for my contribution to family violence teaching in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences



Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (FAHMS) award ceremony

Awarded to Prof Danielle Mazza AM
Date awarded: October 2023

The Academy welcomed its new Fellows in a ceremony in Brisbane on 12 October, where they were announced by the Academy's Interim President Professor Ingrid Scheffer AO FRS FAA FAHMS.

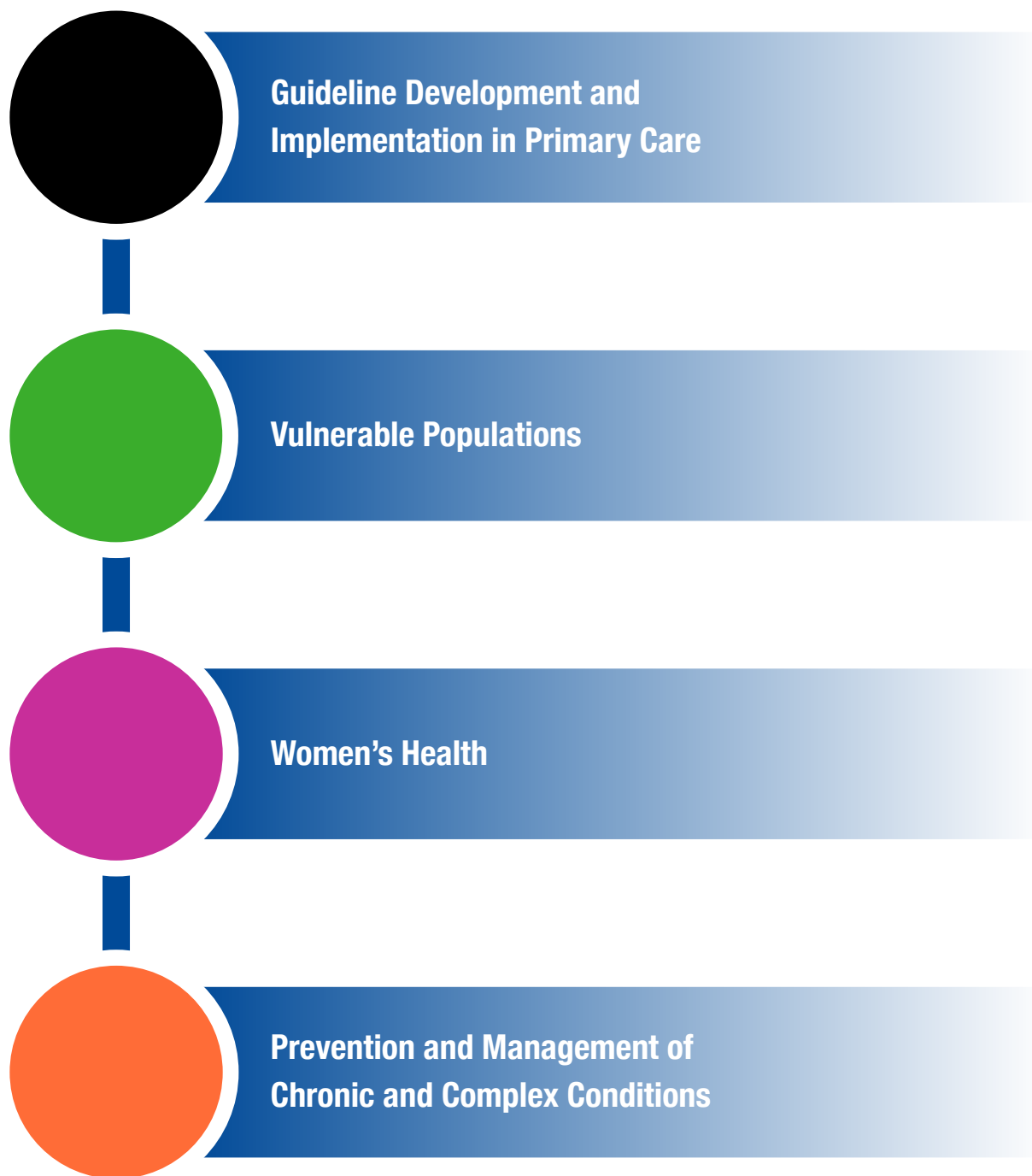
Fellows are elected by their peers for their significant contributions to health and medical sciences - it is a selective process that recognises the best and brightest in Australia and highlights those who are truly making a difference in health.

School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Honours Thesis Excellence Award

Awarded to Lauren Moloney



AREAS OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE



● GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

THE IMPLEMENTING WORK-RELATED MENTAL HEALTH GUIDELINES IN GENERAL PRACTICE (IMPROVE) TRIAL (2019-2023)

Author: Dr Vera Costa



IMPRovE (Implementing work-related Mental health guidelines in general PRacticeE) is a pragmatic parallel cluster randomised controlled trial designed to assess the effectiveness of an implementation strategy to increase GP's adherence to the NHMRC-approved Clinical Guideline for the Diagnosis and Management of Work-related Mental Health Conditions in General Practice (the Guideline).

The intervention involved academic detailing, resource provision and support through a community of practice (CoP). The trial rollout started at the end of 2020 and was delivered nationally, across diverse jurisdictions. This partnership program aimed to foster high-quality GP behaviour towards patients with work related mental health conditions. We measured GPs' adherence to the Guidelines measured at baseline and 9 months after the intervention, using virtual simulated patient scenarios. Over the trial period, patients who presented to participating GPs with mental health symptoms (directly or indirectly related to work stressors) were invited to complete surveys on their mental health status, and work participation every 3 months for 9 months. We recruited a total of 127 GPs from 96 GP clinics across Australia. Since the end of the delivery of the intervention

in September 2022, we completed qualitative data collection to the inform the realist evaluation of the trial and have been analysing data across multiple outcomes.

Our focus for the next few months of the trial is to publish and disseminate the trial outcomes, including GP adherence to guidelines, changes in patient health and work outcomes and an economic analysis and process evaluation. We will hold a stakeholder forum before the end of year to discuss how successful the proposed IMPROVE intervention was in the Australian setting for increasing GP adherence to work-related mental health guidelines, and explore next steps towards influencing sustainability and scalability of strategies developed and implemented in the trial.

● WOMENS SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Authors: Claudia Morando-Stokoe, Dr Maria de Leon-Santiago



SPHERE is a Centre of Research Excellence in Sexual and Reproductive Health for Women in Primary Care that is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). This is the first dedicated Centre to lead research that is aimed at improving the quality, safety, and capacity of primary health care services to achieve better outcomes in women's sexual and reproductive health.

We are delighted to announce that SPHERE has received another NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence grant, which will allow us to continue our work for an additional 5 years.

As we reflect on the last 5 years, we appreciate all the hard work and dedication of our staff, students and stakeholders. Since SPHERE started, we have undertaken more than 80 research projects, have featured more than 100 media articles and helped change the landscape of sexual and reproductive healthcare for women in Australia.

SPHERE will support the design and conduct of studies within 4 areas of women's sexual and reproductive health:

<p>Workforce Support</p> <p>We develop innovative strategies so that the Australian primary care workforce can meet the sexual and reproductive health needs of women in Australia.</p>	<p>New Models of Care</p> <p>We develop and trial alternative ways of providing abortion and contraception services to make them more accessible, especially in rural and regional areas of Australia.</p>
<p>Addressing Consumer Needs</p> <p>Understanding consumer needs and preferences is also important in helping women achieve optimal sexual and reproductive health.</p>	<p>Using Data to Advance Knowledge</p> <p>Health data sets are useful in gaining insights into the state of women's sexual and reproductive health in Australia and identifying gaps in service provision.</p>

This research program is guided by a team of national and international researchers and experts in women's health, general practice, pharmacy, nursing, epidemiology, knowledge translation, health economics, and policy development.



SPHERE MAJOR PROJECTS:

The AusCAPPS Network



The Australian Contraception and Abortion Primary Care Practitioner Support Network (AusCAPPS) improves equitable access to long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) and early medical abortion (EMA) services in primary care. To support the expansion of best-practice service delivery across Australia, the AusCAPPS Network connects EMA and LARC providers through peer-networking opportunities and access to resources and training. The AusCAPPS Network is an ongoing project.



The ORIENT Study

The ORIENT (ImprOving Rural and regional accEss to long-acting reversible contraceptioN and medical abortion through nurse-led models of care, Tasksharing and telehealth) Study is a stepped-wedge pragmatic cluster-randomised controlled trial which aims to assess the effectiveness of a nurse-led model of care in general practice at increasing uptake of LARC and improving access to medical abortion in rural and regional areas. The ORIENT Study is due to finish in 2025.

The ALLIANCE Trial

The ALLIANCE (Quality family planning services and referrals in community pharmacy: Expanding pharmacists' scope of practice) Trial aims to support the use of effective contraception among women at high risk of unintended pregnancy, by introducing private consultations, contraceptive counselling and referral services in a community pharmacy setting. The ALLIANCE Trial is due to finish in 2025.



The Endo-MP Project

The Endometriosis Management Plan (Endo-MP) project will aim to develop and implement an Endometriosis Management Plan to support the navigation and management of endometriosis and chronic pelvic pain for providers and their patients through primary care settings and is expected to improve the quality of life for individuals with the condition and reduce associated economic costs. The Endo-MP Project is due to finish in 2026.

The EXTEND-PREFER Project

The EXTEND-PREFER Project aims to assess whether an online educational video developed specifically for CALD women speaking one of four languages (Mandarin, Cantonese, Hindi or Arabic) and for women in rural or remote areas will increase their contraceptive knowledge, preference for, and uptake of LARC. The EXTEND-PREFER Project is due to finish in 2024.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Author: A/Prof Chris Barton

Researchers from several groups within the Department of General Practice continue to make important contributions to understanding of the primary care needs and experiences of vulnerable populations. This theme cuts across several areas of research in the department. Below we profile some of the areas the department is contributing to research and scholarship in vulnerable populations.

THE ROLE OF STIGMA IN THE EXPERIENCE OF PRIMARY CARE AMONG PATIENTS WITH SMOKING RELATED CHRONIC ILLNESS

A/Prof Chris Barton and Dr Sanduni Madawala

This year, A/Prof Chris Barton has overseen the publication of several papers focusing on experiences of stigma in health care settings among people who smoke and who have developed smoking related chronic illness. Two papers were published in 2023 from data collected just prior to COVID-19, funded by the Shepherd Foundation. These involved analysis of data from a nationwide survey of smokers and ex-smokers and highlight the role stigma plays in smokers experience of care, and the impact these experiences have on help-seeking and trust in primary care. The first of these papers, authored by Sanduni Madawala formed part of her PhD thesis, and has already been cited extensively, including as part of the Lung Foundation Australia Blue Print for Action on COPD.

Sanduni completed her doctoral research in this area earlier this year and has continued working in the DGP as a post-doctoral research assistant with A/Prof Barton. Her research has linked experiences of stigma in primary care, with perceptions of vulnerability that impacted the health and help-seeking of adults living in the community with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Sanduni was awarded a Thoracic Society award for her presentation of qualitative findings from interviews she conducted with COPD patients at the national conference held in Christchurch New Zealand, and she presented findings at the Alfred Hospital Respiratory Research Forum, to the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs, and as part of the Lung Health Promotion Centre Vaping and Smoking Cessation update day.

Research into the experiences of stigma in primary care and strategies to address this will continue in 2024. Several grant applications have been submitted to extend this work. Additionally, an honours student will join our research team in 2024 to conduct a survey of COPD patients and how affective states impact upon perceptions of communication with health care providers and contribute to perceptions, and anticipation, of stigma in health care settings.



BMedSc Honours student Isabel Lee presenting her poster at the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences BMedSc Honours oral and poster assessment.

STUDIES OF MODELS OF CARE AND EXPERIENCES OF TRANS AND GENDER DIVERSE HEALTH CARE

Dr Riki Lane

Across the year several Scholarly Intensive Placement students have contributed to research led by Dr Riki Lane that are exploring models of care and experiences of primary care among Victorian trans and gender divers communities. This work has provided an opportunity for these fifth year medical students to work collaborative with the Gender Clinic at Monash Health and advancing this work with this vulnerable community.

The work was further bolstered during the year with a BMedSc Honours student, Isabel Lee, undertaking her honours research conducting a mixed-methods study of TGD healthcare with the Monash Health Gender Clinic under the supervision of Dr Riki Lane and Prof Grant Russell. Also this year, Georgia Webb began her PhD under the supervision of Riki and is conducting a series of studies to investigate the experiences of Trans, Gender Diverse and Non-Binary individuals seeking hormone therapy. She has begun a systematic review of qualitative studies to understand the experiences and opinions of trans, gender diverse and non-binary people receiving hormone therapy internationally, in primary care settings.

Across the year Dr Lane has continued to support and mentor past students to write papers arising from research conducted with the Gender Clinic publishing three articles in 2023 including two in the Q1 ranked journal Transgender Health, and an article in Journal of Medical Imaging and Radiation Oncology.

- > Coventry, J., Lane, R. & Osadnik, C. Exploring Interactions Between Transgender, Gender-Diverse, and Nonbinary Individuals and Allied Health Professionals in Clinical Practice: A Scoping Review. *Transgender Health*. 2023. In press.
- > Solanki, P., Colon Cabrera, D., Barton, C., Locke, P., Cheung, A., Spanos, C., Grace, J., Erasmus, J. & Lane, R. Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy for the Trans, Gender Diverse, and Nonbinary Community: Coordinating World Professional Association for Transgender Health and Informed Consent Models of Care *Transgender Health*. 2023. 8(2): 137-148
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MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES OF CARERS DURING THE TRANSITION OF THEIR FAMILY MEMBER TO RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE

Dr Vera Costa

The transition of an older family member into a residential aged care facility (RACF) is often

challenging for both the person being admitted and their family carer. In 2019 we received a small grant from the Rehabilitation Ageing and Independent Living (RAIL) Research Centre to conduct a systematic review and survey study to better understand these issues. This work has now been completed and led to two publications. The first, a systematic literature search and narrative review, was used to identify factors contributing to adverse mental health among family carers following the decision to move a family member to a RACF. This work was published in 2022 in the journal BMC Geriatrics.

We then investigated the predictors of poor mental health outcomes among family-carers of residents after transitioning into residential aged care, in a cross-sectional survey study. We compared psychological distress and burden outcomes between carers whose relative was admitted within the last 12 months, or longer than 12 months ago. The findings provide insight to which factors are predictive and protective of poor mental health outcomes of family-carers during the transition of an older relative to a RACF, and may inform the design of screening tools and better tailored interventions to support this population during and after admission. This work is currently under review and anticipated to be published in the coming months.

Lead Investigator - Dr Vera Camões-Costa

Other investigators: A/Prof Chris Barton, Dr Samantha Chakraborty, Prof Bianca Brijnath, Dr Xiaoping Lin and Dr Alana Hewitt.

Publications / outcomes:

- > Camões-Costa, V., Taylor, B., Barton, C., Chakraborty, S., Hewitt, A., Lin, X., & Brijnath, B. (under review). Mental health outcomes of family-carers after admission to aged care: A cross-sectional survey study. *Australasian Journal on Ageing*.
- > Camões-Costa, V., Loganathan, J., Barton, C., Chakraborty, S., Hewitt, A., Lin, X., & Brijnath, B. (2022). Factors contributing to the mental health outcomes of carers during the transition of their family member to residential aged care: a systematic search and narrative review. *BMC Geriatrics*, 22(1), [433]. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12877-022-03105-4>
- > Chow B, Camões-Costa V. Support for informal carers of older people in the transition to residential aged care: a scoping review protocol. *JBI Evid Synth*. 2021 Jun;19(6):1418-1424. <https://doi.org/10.11124/JBIES-20-00231>



● PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC AND COMPLEX CONDITIONS

This past 12 months researchers from the Department have completed several projects and contributed to a range of meetings and publications on topics associated with the prevention and management of chronic and complex conditions. These include:

PRIMARY ALDOSTERONISM RESEARCH

Professor Grant Russell

Professor Grant Russell has continued his productive collaboration with investigators at the Endocrine Hypertension Unit at the Hudson Institute on a series of projects designed to increase screening and detection rates for Primary Aldosteronism in Australian primary care. Gaining additional funding in 2023 for a four-year study to implement screening for primary aldosteronism, the team continues to publish extensively from work in this area.

STUDIES OF CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE (COPD) MANAGEMENT IN PRIMARY CARE

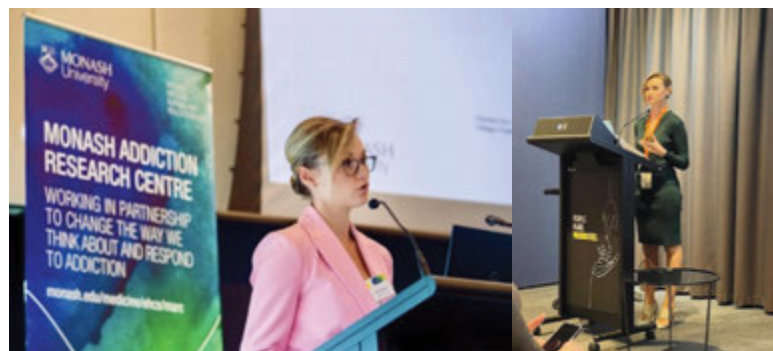
A/Prof Chris Barton is involved in a number of collaborations investigating the management of COPD in primary care. In 2023 he was part of a team that secured funding from the RACGP to conduct a pilot study of a COPD risk calculator that is being developed by researchers at the University of Melbourne. A/Prof Barton is a co-investigator on several grant applications submitted to NHMRC and MRFF schemes in 2023 to further develop and evaluate this tool in the coming year.

Research into GP management of COPD exacerbations is also being undertaken in collaboration with the Department of Physiotherapy at Monash University. A/Prof Barton has formed a productive collaboration with A/Prof Christian Osadnik to understand GPs needs to manage COPD in primary care. They co-supervise GP and PhD student Dr Bianca Perera who is based in Launceston where she is conducting research into the management of acute exacerbations of COPD. A qualitative study of GPs experiences of care for patients following exacerbation of COPD was published in the British Journal of General Practice earlier this year and Dr Perera, was interviewed by BJGP Life for a podcast discussing her research and the management of acute exacerbations of COPD by GPs. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.3399/BJGP.2022.0342>

E-CIGARETTE RESEARCH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE

Researchers in the department made a number of important contributions to research into the growing epidemic of vaping and e-cigarette use in Australia. Led by A/Prof Chris Barton, the department is conducting research to understand GPs needs in relation to discussing e-cigarettes with their patients, particularly in the context of smoking cessation. Work with GPs in this area is being undertaken by Melis Selamoglu as part of her PhD and recent publications from her thesis are already being highly cited and have led to several invitations to present on this topic to groups such as GPs in the GOLDNet PBRN, and the Lung Health

Promotion Centre clinical update day on Vaping and Smoking Cessation. Our group has held discussions with peak bodies including Quit Victoria and policy makers with the Tobacco and E-Cigarette Control Branch of the Department of Health and Aged Care. A/Prof Barton is also contributing to the development of clinical guidelines on vaping cessation by the Thoracic Society of Australian and New Zealand to be released early in 2024.



Melis Selamoglu presenting her research on GPs perceptions of e-cigarettes for smoking cessation at The Monash Addiction Research Centre Symposium (May 2023) (left) and the Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care (August 2023) (right).

Our work in e-cigarettes is now being extended to understand the health information of young people who are concerned about e-cigarettes and vaping. Working together with the University Health Service, our team has been collecting data from university students about their knowledge, attitudes, concerns and information needs about e-cigarettes. This work will form part of an honours thesis being completed by Tasneem Kamoni and has provided opportunity for research placement and intern students to contribute to data collection. More than 1000 responses to the survey have been received to date and Tasneem will lead the analysis of this data in 2024.

FUTURE OF ASTHMA IN AUSTRALIA MEETING

A/Prof Chris Barton

In May 2023, I was invited to be part of a group of 30 leading respiratory researchers, key stakeholders and professional bodies, that met to discuss actions that could be taken to improve the increasing problem of poor asthma outcomes in Australia.

Held in Newcastle, the day was an opportunity to hear and understand evidence of declines in asthma control, concerns about medication mis-use, and receive updates on policy initiatives for patients with asthma.

The meeting had a focus on actions that could be undertaken now to address the concerns that were identified and identify key strategies and action for 2023-2024. A report is being prepared that will detail the findings from the meeting and will be available soon and will be a helpful guide for research and clinical activities in the next few years.

MONASH RESEARCH AND EDUCATION NETWORK (MONREN)

Authors: Prof Grant Russell, Dr Jennifer Neil, A/Prof Chris Barton, Sharon Clifford, Isabella Papadopoulos

MonREN is the Monash University Department of General Practice's Practice Based Research Network (PBRN). PBRNs represent collaborations between clinicians in general practice, consumers, policy makers and academics that are dedicated to working together on relevant research questions to translate new knowledge into practice. MonREN aims to form a collaboration with primary care clinicians and practices in order to come together to identify and answer research questions that can improve primary care practice. Thanks to the work begun as part of the 2021-2022 Monash Partners-MonREN PBRN project, enthusiasm for MonREN has been growing for both internal and external stakeholders. This was largely due to two stakeholder forums we conducted in 2022, held with multiple stakeholders including GPs, practice managers, practice nurses, data providers and Primary Health Networks all in attendance.

In 2023, the MonREN Steering Committee focused on developing strong governance for MonREN so we can build on these foundations and facilitate new exciting collaborations with primary care in our region. This included the appointment of Sharon Clifford as the MonREN Network Manager, continuing our Stakeholder Advisory Group, creating a MonREN Management Group and partnering with Monash Partners and local Primary Health Networks. Much work has been completed to develop processes and procedures to enable researchers to hear the voice of general practice, whilst providing GPs and practice staff with opportunities to build research capacity and attend professional development and networking events. DGP educators and Monash University medical supervisors were also included in MonREN for the first time in 2023.

The work completed by MonREN in 2023 included:

- The final report on the Monash Partners-MonREN PBRN project was submitted to Monash Partners.
- Guidelines and approaches to MonREN membership were refined.
- New members were actively recruited, with members of the Network endorsed as either MonREN or MonREN+ members.
- Advocacy around funding for sustainability and linking with external contacts was developed, for example, MonREN is a member of the WONCA Global PBRN Initiative and the National PBRN Managers Group.
- Professor Russell presented on the evolution of MonREN at the AAAPC and WONCA conferences.
- Our active and involved MonREN Stakeholder Advisory Group continued, including membership of GPs and practice staff, experienced primary care researchers and 3 consumer representatives.
- Completion of an honours thesis by Isabella Papadopoulos on the experiences of and preferences for communication from Australian general practice by older, Greek patients with limited English proficiency

- Completion of 3 evidence briefs on the following topics with the assistance of Scholarly Intensive Placement (SIP) students:
 - > 75+ Health Assessment
 - > Mini-Mental State Exam
 - > MyMedicare patient registration model.
- An online MonREN Member Forum, including a research prioritisation exercise, took place in October, garnering positive feedback.
- A refresh of the MonREN logo and website was undertaken.
- An application was submitted to an RACGP Education Research Grant 12 month grant on the topic of 'How a PBRN can improve educational practice and work satisfaction for GP supervisors in an undergraduate medical program'.

Reflection from Isabella Papadopoulos on her experience of working with MonREN during her Honours project:

As part of MonREN's process of expansion and improvement, to better serve general practice, MonREN invited stakeholders to identify areas of local need for research, and identify questions they would want addressed in future MonREN research. In 2022, MonREN held two forums to identify areas of local need. While there is extensive literature on the role of the doctor in doctor-patient communication, MonREN stakeholders noted a gap in the evidence base relating to patient preferences for communication. From this process, one of the projects identified



to be pursued in 2023, asked for research about how patients want to be communicated with by their general practice. My honours research project was conceptualised from this initial research question. Given the Australian community is both ageing and multicultural, my project aimed to identify the experiences of and preferences for communication from Australian general practice by older, Greek patients with limited English proficiency, being a group particularly vulnerable to the negative effects of inadequate communication with general practice. Given the need for this research within the Australian community, I worked closely alongside the MonREN team and its stakeholders, who were enthusiastic and engaged throughout all aspects of the project. Importantly, this enthusiasm about this research was also expressed by the study participants, who welcomed me into their community group, as they recognised the importance of this topic, and its opportunity to improve patient experience of care. Working alongside MonREN to answer a research question that all stakeholder groups were appreciative of, made this experience worthwhile and rewarding, highlighting the impact this research can have for general practice and members of the community.

PARTICIPATION IN THE TRANSDISCIPLINARY UNDERSTANDING AND TRAINING ON RESEARCH - PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (TUTOR-PHC) PROGRAM - UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO, CANADA

Author: Dr Vera Costa



Tutor-PHC is a one-year interdisciplinary research training program involving mentors and trainees from many disciplines such as nursing, family medicine, psychology, epidemiology, and many others. Each year the Department of General Practice provides funding for a member of staff or a student who has shown potential for research excellence in primary care to attend the program. This year's program has been undertaken with

Early Career researcher trainees from Canada, UK, New Zealand, India, and Australia. The program started in April with a symposium, in London (Ontario). This was the first face-to-face symposium post pandemic (the first in the last 3 year), and meeting with the mentors and other trainees on the program. The opportunity to networked, exchanged ideas, concerns, and solutions, and to bond as a working group was as extremely valuable. Together, trainees learned about concept of interdisciplinary research team in Primary Health Care, the

role of patients and decision makers, mixed methods research, impact narratives, grant generation and patient/community engagement. In June, 3 weeks of workshops were held about leadership in interdisciplinary teams. In September an online discussion forum was held over 8 weeks to discuss projects being developed by each group of trainees across the globe. In November, another 3 weeks of workshops were held on engaging policy and decision makers, where trainees practice communicating their research idea in an 'elevator-pitch'. During the face-to-face Symposium, each group was presented with a grant call based on a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) request for proposals, targeting multi-morbidity. Through online forums, the team will develop a proposal focussing on interdisciplinary care in PHC. This exercise will conclude early 2024, and provides an increased understanding of the process and components that go into making a successful grant application, different roles on a multidisciplinary research team.

RACGP ACADEMIC POST PROGRAM

Authors: A/Prof Chris Barton and Sharon Clifford

The Department of General Practice continued to work with the RACGP through 2023 to deliver an Activity Program to support the Academic Post program. Delivered with our partners from Bond and Griffith Universities, the program has been facilitated by the Department of General Practice since 2017 and was awarded the Dean's award for excellence in Industry Engagement for education in 2021. The program comprises a mixture of workshops, webinars, and online learning and mentoring support to academic registrars around Australia. The Academic Post program has been very successful and received positive feedback from participants every year. We are excited to continue to provide high quality learning and support to participants in the Academic Post program again in 2024. Academic Post program contributors and partners Monash University staff: A/Prof Chris Barton, Prof Danielle Mazza AM FAHMS, Prof Grant Russell, Dr Jennifer Neil, Dr Cathy Grech, Prof Karen Price, Ms Sharon Clifford. Partners and guest presenters: Prof Paul Glasziou (Bond University), Prof Nick Zwar (Bond University), A/Prof Kylie Vuong (Griffith University), Prof Katharine Wallis (University of Queensland), Dr Rita Morrow (Melbourne University), Dr Michael Tam (University of NSW), Dr Bryan Palmer (Griffith University), Dr Karen Frelich (past academic registrar), Dr Daniel Epstein (past academic registrar).

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

YEARS 1 AND 2

Authors: Dr Nadida Kachkouche and Dr Cathy Grech

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Department of General Practice coordinates and administers the teaching of Clinical Skills in years 1 and 2 of the Monash medicine course at Clayton campus.

The clinical skills team includes the Year 1 Clinical Skills coordinator Dr Nadida Kachkouche, the Year 2 Clinical Skills coordinator Dr Cathy Grech, the Undergraduate Administrative Officer Ms Marion Daniels and our highly esteemed clinical skills tutors.

The Clinical Skills program comprises of 25% of the year 1 and Year 2 curriculum and prepares students for a smooth transition from pre-clinical to clinical years.

In Year 1 and 2 students learn the fundamentals of the medical interview, patient-centred history taking and physical examination skills, as well as communications skills, clinical reasoning skills and certain procedural skills.

Innovation in 2023

Year 1: Introducing the UEDIT Approach to the Learning and Teaching of Physical Examination Skills-

In 2023, the Year 1 Clinical Skills coordinator Dr Nadida Kachkouche introduced the Understand Explain Demonstrate Instruct Test (UEDIT) approach, to the learning and teaching of physical examination skills to the year 1 medical students.

The aim of introducing the UEDIT approach to physical examination is to provide medical students who are in their pre-clinical years with a basic foundation to the process of physical examination skills using a guided framework that they can follow.

The UEDIT framework approach acknowledges the fact that physical examination skills incorporate both professionalism and adequate examination techniques. It also highlights the need for a clear understanding of human anatomy and physiology which in turn leads to a better understanding of the examination findings and what they mean.

The UEDIT framework approach can be applied and adapted to any physical/clinical examination as it takes into account:

- A. Professional attitude and behaviour including the following;
- Professional attire
 - A valid consent to be obtained at the start before examining a patient
 - Treating patients with respect and dignity
 - The use of clear and respectful language
 - The application of health and safety measures

B. Adequate examination techniques including;

- An understanding the reasoning behind an examination technique
- Adequate understanding of human anatomy
- Adequate explanation provided to the patient
- The understanding of instructions by the patient
- Adequate understanding of the examination findings and what they mean
- Necessary equipment

A detailed PowerPoint presentation document on the application of the UEDIT approach to the examination of the peripheral nervous system of the upper limbs was shared with the students. The document included an accompanying video-recording.



-Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Program – Academic Collaboration-

In July 2023, the Year 1 Clinical Skills Coordinator, Dr Nadida Kachkouche received an invitation from the Graduate School of Medicine at Nagoya University to participate in a COIL medical Education class.

The visit was part of an academic collaboration aimed at deepening the relationship between Monash and Nagoya University as part of the COIL project that commenced in 2022. During the visit, Dr Kachkouche participated in face-to-face clinical skills tutorials involving the introduction to physical examination skills and peer physical examination. She also delivered a presentation that gave students the background and purpose of COIL education.

The visit provided an opportunity for Dr Kachkouche and her counterpart for this program at Nagoya University, Dr Itzel Bustos to discuss the students' feedback on the COIL sessions and to plan the 2024 COIL accordingly.



-Year 2 Assessment-

Our team from Clayton has once again been working hard with our colleagues in Malaysia and Gippsland to develop authentic and reliable assessment processes across the Monash MED campuses. In 2023, Monash Medicine moved away from OSCE-style examinations and instead conducted APEX - Assessment for Progression Examinations. These assessments were undertaken by Year 2A through to Year 5D students. They were conducted throughout the year and involved students performing specified tasks, receiving feedback on their performance by an examiner, and if the required standard was not achieved, further chances to re-sit the assessment again later. The students and examiners relished the chance to be involved in an assessment process that also included the opportunity for learning via feedback and the overwhelming feedback to this change in assessment processes has been very positive.

-Wrap-Up-

Once again, we would like to express our gratitude to our wonderful administrator Marion Daniels and our hardworking and dedicated team of tutors. We would also like to thank our wonderful simulated and real patients and – of course- our Year 1 and 2 students, who we have so enjoyed teaching this year.

=Year 2=

Year 2 Podcast Development: “The Leap: The Classroom to the Clinic”-

Our Year 2 students have often expressed anxiety about entering the clinical world in Year 3B. Cathy has continued working with the MED Educational team, along with the members of the Clinical Years teaching teams, to create learning opportunities that try to ease and aid this transition. One of these opportunities is a podcast for our Year 2 students, titled “The Leap: The Classroom to the Clinic”, in which Cathy interviews specialists in the areas the students are covering. The interviews cover topics such as what drew the specialist to their field, what working as a specialists and student on rotation in their field is like, as well as practical tips around history taking, examination, investigations. Cathy would like to thank Dr Ben Seyer for his production of the podcasts and all the interviewees – she continues to really enjoy the process and is learning a lot herself!

YEAR 4C

Author: Dr Jennifer Neil

The year commenced with a flurry of activity including finding our feet at the Alfred Centre, our new teaching venue. Many thanks go to Ms Sandra Zovko and Ms Marina Gelfand who although new to their positions, put in so much hard work making last minute bookings and communicating changes with simulated patients, students and teaching staff. The first rotation went smoothly, and we enjoyed our first experience of doing some of our acute and serious stations in the Alfred Simulation Centre over the road. We continued with our focus on clinical reasoning and prescribing including a new prescribing lecture written and delivered by Dr Atish Manek with a focus on safe prescribing practices.

We also had some new teaching staff members to welcome, Dr Allara Walsh-Howe, Dr Chavy Arora (who had taught previously as an academic registrar) Dr Jagdeesh Dhaliwal and Dr Simon Hattle. Also new to the team was Dr Sonia Srinivasan, our 2023 academic registrar. We have an incredible team of dedicated, experienced educators on our team and a fantastic teaching program that has been refined now over many years. This is evidenced by the end of year feedback that we get from students. Some examples of comments from the 2022 end of year feedback are as follows:

“Case based learning in tutorials has been wonderful and I particularly enjoyed the lecture style teaching of topics before the tutorials. Overall GP has been my favourite rotation to date!”

“Really appreciated having in person teaching at a central location – felt more connected with my peers, huge positive effect on my mental health due to less isolation, and felt as though with extra guidance, interaction and structure that I learnt more in 9 weeks than I did in the past two years.”

“The face to face teaching was great, especially the simulated patient stations. The structure of the program was fantastic.”

Also new this year, was the introduction of the APEx (Assessment for Progression Examination). APEx was introduced throughout the medical degree and in year 4C it took the place of one of the end of year OSCE stations. Students were given a list of possible systems that we might ask them to examine. Experienced educators from our Wednesday team then would ask each student in turn to examine two systems on a simulated patient. Dr Kimberley Yew is to be congratulated on the work that she put into preparing us for the APEx and Ms Sandra Zovko and Ms Marina Gelfand for their organisation of the event.

This year we taught 282 students, had 15 regular teaching staff, 2 professional staff, multiple sessional staff who took various lectures and fill in tutorials and 174 GP supervisors. I'd like to thank our GP supervisors who take so much time and effort to teach our next generation of doctors. Placement helps students to better understand the role of the GP in our health system and the complexity of the patients that we manage. We have successfully recruited 16 new practices and 37 new GP supervisors to our GP affiliate pool this year.

The GPSN (GP students network) has held multiple events throughout the year and I had the privilege of joining them for a tri-university clinical skills event at The University of Melbourne as well as the GPSN careers night on Clayton campus which was very well attended. My congratulations to the 2023 GPSN chair Daniel Castellana who has certainly helped to increase the standing of the profession of general practice amongst his student peers.

This year we say goodbye to Dr David Oberklaid who has been with us since 2018, Dr Chathuri Siriwardene and Dr Aiesha Javed. We wish them all well in their future endeavours and thank them for their time teaching into our program.

YEAR 5D

MED5101 SCHOLARLY INTENSIVE PLACEMENTS

Author: Dr Atish Manek

SIPs with the DGP provide an opportunity for students to engage in scholarly work either supervised by a world-leading DGP-Research Team (Research SIP) or a Community General Practitioner (Professional SIP). The DGP was excited to continue its involvement with the SIP program and proposed varied and enticing placements for students to undertake in 2023.

Some examples of 2023 DGP Professional SIPs included; “Investigating Secondary Prevention of Coronary Heart Disease in General Practice: A Clinical Audit” & “Assessing the effectiveness of the Bone Bus and how it aids in fracture prevention in the local community. While students benefited through scholarly and clinical work, practices and their patients benefited by having data analysed and presented for service improvement and / or delivery of patient education material. A special thank you is extended to participating General Practice Supervisors.

The 2023 DGP Research SIPs were of equally high quality and variety. Examples included; “Feasibility of Online Compassion Training in Final Year Medical Student Curriculum”, & “Dissociative Identity Disorder and Dissociative Symptoms in people with Gender Incongruence: A Critical Review of Literature”. Similar to 2022, the high quality of 2023 DGP Research SIPs will enable a number of students to be named as authors on subsequent publications. We look forward to reporting on the continuing success of DGP Scholarly Intensive Placements in 2024.

COMMUNITY PILOT

Author: Dr Atish Manek

We completed a new pilot programme for 2023, with the aim of attracting more medical students to select general practice as a future career choice. Yr 5D students ‘opted-in’ to complete a 6 week ‘speciality rotation’ in the community. The students spent 2 of these days in a traditional GP setting, and 2 days in a RACF supervised by a GP. We hope the students (and their supervisors) will benefit from patient contact across different settings, and appreciate the challenges this brings.

We will be rolling out a similar program for 2024, and at the time of writing are in the process of reflecting on 2023 to inform the 2024 offering.

YEAR 3 PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH PRACTICUM STUDENTS

This year the Department hosted two, third year public health students as part of the Public Health Research Practicum Unit. During their semester long placement, the students were embedded with a research group and participated in a range of research activities and learning opportunities in the department.



Nikhil Mehta (left) and Mia Davis (right)

GENERAL PRACTICE STUDENTS NETWORK (GPSN)

Author: Daniel Castellana (GPSN Monash Chair - 2023)



The General Practice Students Network (GPSN) Monash is a student-run committee that aims to raise awareness and promote General Practice as a medical career to Monash medical students across all year levels. We facilitate numerous events throughout the year for medical students, ranging from information evenings about pathways to GP after medical school; revision lectures and OSCE nights to supplement academic learning; and hands-on clinical skills nights to further practical experience. In addition, we further support students through creating academic resources on General Practice-related topics to support their studies, from weekly MCQs to practice OSCE stations.

In 2023, we expanded our Year 4C Social & Clinical Skills Night to be held across multiple Year 4C Monash sites throughout Metro and Rural Victoria (Bendigo, Traralgon, Mildura). Year 4C medical students rotated through different stations in small groups under the guidance of final year students to learn and practice essential GP skills including ear examination, eye examination (including fundoscopy), breast examination, prostate examination, cervical screening testing, and how to approach Murtagh's 10 Step GP Management Plan. Students also had the opportunity to socialise with fellow GP students over dinner courtesy of our Platinum Sponsor Monash Rural Health (MRH) Regional Training Hub.



In collaboration with the other GPSN committees across Victoria and Tasmania (GPSN University of Melbourne, Monash, Deakin and Tasmania), GPSN facilitated a State Event for all medical students across all 4 universities that involved a full-day workshop aimed at clinical students. Participants were given the opportunity of hands-on ultrasound practice overlooked by ED Physicians and sonographers, including ultrasound-guided cannulation and eFAST scanning, followed by supervised practice of essential clinical skills, including suturing, eye examination and plastering. Special thanks to Dr Jennifer Neil (Curriculum & Assessment Lead for Monash 4C General Practice) from Department of General Practice who facilitated the eye examinations and provided the ophthalmoscopes for the session. GP Registrars from RACGP spoke to medical students about the benefits of a career as a GP and what the pathway to becoming a GP looks like.

Our annual GP Careers Night allowed medical students to learn more about careers in General Practice and be inspired by hearing insight from doctors at different stages of their GP careers. Our panel of speakers included GP Consultants and GP Registrars from both Metro and Rural Victoria who each spoke about their personal journey and experience in General Practice, followed by a Q&A session answering students' questions. Many thanks to Dr Jennifer Neil for being one of our main speakers on the GP Panel and providing insightful answers to students' questions alongside numerous pearls of wisdom about all things GP. Special thanks also to RACGP who helped sponsor the networking section of the night and provided further information to students about how to pursue a career in General Practice after medical school.

Other events we successfully ran included our Mental Health Week to raise awareness for mental health amongst GPs and medical students; our Pre-Clinical Escape Room for pre-clinical students, and our "How to 4C" seminar that gave tips to incoming 4C students on how to make the most of their GP placements.

Thank you to all GPSN committee members, our main sponsors MRH Training Hubs and RACGP, and to all Monash medical students for attending our events and using our resources. We would also like to thank DGP for their continued support of GPSN Monash. We look forward to continuing this partnership to further expand this growing network of medical students and keep fostering interest in General Practice amongst Monash medical students.



ACADEMIC POST GP REGISTRARS 2023

Author: Dr Sonia Srinivasan



The Academic Post year has been a wonderful period of professional development as I've learnt how to manage three roles all of which complement one another: clinical general practice, medical student teaching and primary care research. This year I successfully passed the RACGP written and clinical fellowship exams. I have also been teaching 4th Year Monash University Medical students every Monday in their General Practice rotation, and have found that teaching students has enormous benefits on my own clinical practice. I have been supported by the RACGP Academic Post Programme to

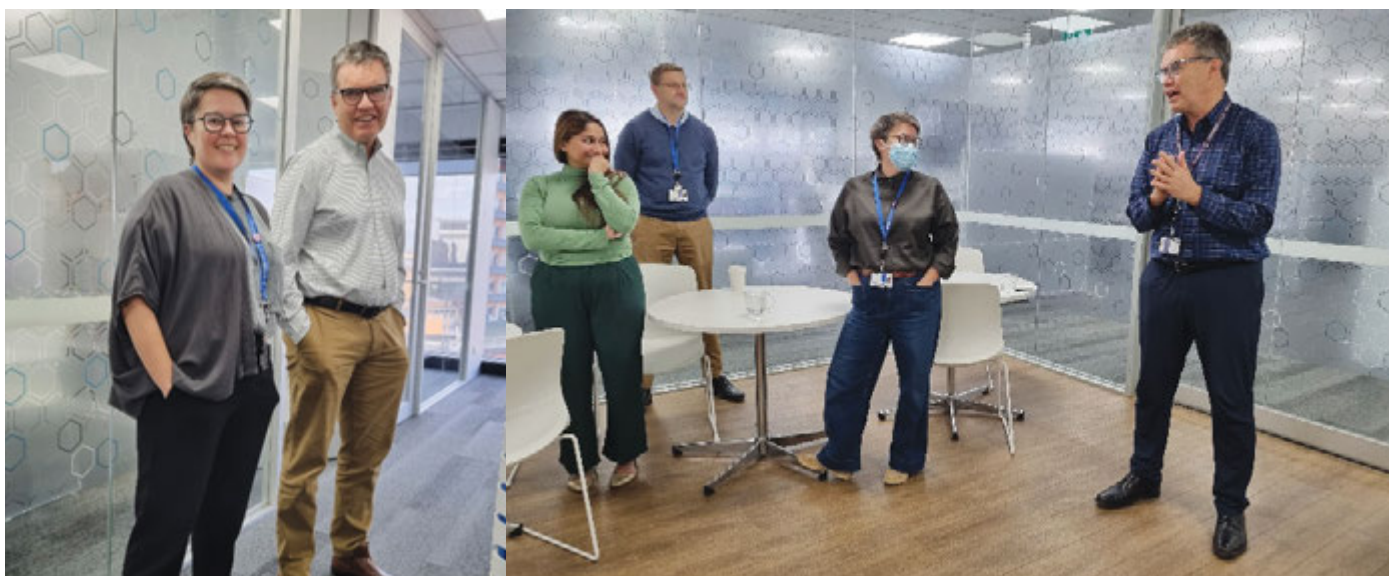
present at the AAAPC conference in Melbourne, the Australian Sexual and Reproductive Health Conference in Manly, and the WONCA Conference in Melbourne. I was also fortunate to be awarded the RACGP Foundation Charles Bridges Webb Memorial Award for my Academic Post Project, "Supporting primary care provision of contraception and abortion: an evaluation of digital content from an Australian virtual community of practice." I have really enjoyed being part of a network of GP Registrars all of whom are interested in research and medical education. I look forward to continuing to build upon these skills once I achieve RACGP Fellowship.



VISITING RESEARCHERS

DR PATRICIA THILLE

Earlier this year the department welcomed Dr Thille as a visiting scholar from the University of Manitoba, Canada. Dr Thille is an early career academic and primary care health services researcher and qualitative methodologist. She has a PhD in Sociology and has gained recognition for her research in the critical health services field. She integrates social theory, public ('consumer') involvement in research, and most recently, arts-based methodologies to draw attention to stigmatization and related communication and quality of care challenges in clinical care. During her visit Dr Thille worked closely with Prof Grant Russell on several projects of shared interest. She presented to the departments academic seminar series and gave a talk on research paradigms to the Graduate Research Group. She also contributed to a grant application with A/Prof Barton to develop stigma interventions for patients with chronic respiratory illness.



DR INA GRØNKJÆR LAUGESEN

In the spring 2023 Dr Ina Grønkjær Laugesen is visiting the Department of General Practice at Monash University as part of her PhD study program.

Ina is a GP registrar from Denmark. She graduated as a medical doctor from Aarhus University in 2013 and before starting her PhD studies, she has practiced in both hospital and primary healthcare settings. In Denmark, Ina is part the Quality Improvement Research Group at the Research Unit for General practice in Aarhus lead by Prof Flemming Bro. The research group takes a particular interest in the developmental stage of interventions, as this crucial step helps ensure that future interventions are as solid and realistic as possible and that they can be implemented in real-world settings.

The Department of General Practice at Monash University is a leader in implementation science in the general practice setting, and Ina is grateful for the opportunity to stay at the department and learn from leading experts in the field.

Ina's PhD project concerns anticoagulation therapy in general practice. It is well-established that anticoagulation therapy is effective in preventing strokes in patients with atrial fibrillation. Nevertheless, Danish registry studies indicate that approximately one-third of patients do not receive treatment as recommended in the guidelines. In Denmark the treatment responsibility rests with the general practitioner for the majority of these patients. Ina's project is using a mixed methods approach to explore barriers and enablers of guideline adherent treatment in general practice, to inform the development of an intervention to improve guideline adherence.

In the first months of her visit Ina has been welcomed in the department. She has been given the opportunity to be part of Professor Danelle Mazza's research group and participate in the department's numerous exciting activities, whereby she has gained insights of great value to her PhD project and future academic career. During her stay she will also have the opportunity to contribute with her perspectives on improvement research at an academic seminar, and to share her knowledge of the Danish health care system, the role of the GP and the current challenges in the field.

'I am enjoying my time at the department and in Melbourne. My family and I have had such a warm welcome everywhere; people are generous and the city is amazing. I look forward to the rest of my stay and I really hope to create a foundation for future experience exchange and collaboration'

TEACHING STAFF

YEAR 1 & 2

Program Coordinators

- Dr Cathy Grech
- Dr Nadida Kachkouche

Administrator

- Ms Marion Daniels

Tutors

- Dr Julian Dart
- Dr Danielle Dowman
- Dr Tony Lucarelli
- Dr Buddy Reid
- Dr Robyn Ridgway
- Dr Ella Rose
- Dr Chathuri Siriwardene
- Dr Harishan Tharmarajah
- Dr Laxman Tharmarajah
- Ms Jacquie Wise
- Dr Simon Wong
- Dr Kathy Wallace
- Dr Caitlin Harrison
- Dr Anu Achar
- Dr Laxmi Iyengar
- Dr Marion Tissera
- Dr Angela Dougall
- Dr Sheila Manmathan
- Dr Cheryl Oh
- Dr Rif Syeda
- Dr Phil Perlstein

YEAR 4C STAFF

Curriculum and Assessment Lead

- Dr Jennifer Neil

Senior Lecturers

- Dr Atish Manek
- Dr Phil Feren
- Dr Jagdeesh Dhaliwal
- Dr Simon Hattle
- Dr David Oberklaid

Lecturers

- Dr Kimberley Yew
- Dr Claire Denness
- Dr Pradeep Vijayanand
- Dr Allara Walsh-Howe
- Dr Anu Achar
- Dr Chavy Arora
- Dr Harishan Tharmarajah

Regular sessional staff

- Dr Paki Rizakis
- Dr Leslie Segal

Academic Registrar

- Dr Sonia Srinivasan

Additional teaching staff

- Prof Grant Russell
- Dr Karen Freilich
- Dr Phil Perlstein
- Dr Andy Morgan
- Dr Kay Li
- Dr Chathuri Siriwardene

Guest lecturers

- Prof Danielle Mazza
- Prof Leon Piterman
- Prof Geoff Sussman
- A/Prof Greg Goodman
- A/Prof Abi Tenen
- A/Prof Michael Storr
- A/Prof Michael Storr
- Dr Thomas Dickson
- Dr Ron Schweitzer
- Dr Megan Stewart
- Ms Heather Miller
- Dr Cathy Grech
- Ms Michelle Templeton
- Dr Libby Jamieson
- Ms Kate Gledhill
- Dr Shish Malgwa
- Ms Jagjit Manek

HONOURS STUDENTS



Jarrod Cross, BMS Honors

What do women think about medical abortion being provided by their GP



Herrah Naveed, BSc Honors

Adolescents experience accessing emergency contraception from pharmacists



Bronwyn McDonald, BMS Honors

What are GP registrar experiences of abortion and long-acting reversible contraception



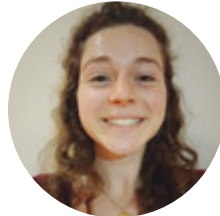
Jenna Perkins, BMS Honors

Contraception counselling and provision at 6 week postnatal check



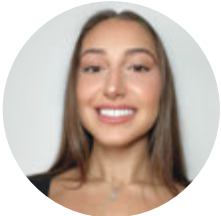
Selma Karovic, BSc Honors

Access to postpartum contraception: Clinician and stakeholder perspectives



Jade Guitera BMedSc(Hons)

Understanding the GP experience of negotiating paediatric mental health access



Isabella Papdopoulos, BMS Honors

Communication from General Practice: The Experiences and Preferences of Older Greek Patients with Limited English Proficiency



Isabel Lee (She/They), BMedSc Honors

TGD healthcare with the Monash Health Gender Clinic



Tasneem Kamoni

What are the health information needs of young people about e-cigarettes

DOCTORS OF PHILOSOPHY

The Department of General Practice continues to attract outstanding candidates to our PhD program. Our students comprise both medically trained doctors working in general practice and students from a host of health disciplines with a passion for research in primary care and community settings.



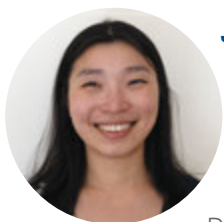
Tesfaye Hambisa Mekonnen

Investigating Musculoskeletal Injury Outcomes Among Workers' Compensation Beneficiaries.

Tesfaye is an international Ph.D. student with a strong interest in improving workers' compensation outcomes, including return to work and work disability for musculoskeletal conditions.

Tesfaye received a Monash University Graduate Research Scholarship and joined the Department of General Practice in 2022.

Tesfaye's PhD project specifically investigates the timing of health service and its effects on worker outcomes for accepted workers' compensation claims of musculoskeletal conditions, including the high prevalence conditions of low back pain.



Jeana Wong, PhD

A mixed methods evaluation of the ORIENT trial

Jeana joined SPHERE in 2023 as a PhD candidate and is being co-supervised by Prof Danielle Mazza, Dr Jessica Botfield, and Dr Noushin Arefadib. Her research project is aimed at understanding which components of the ORIENT intervention and implementation support activities worked and why. Jeana also holds a Master of Public Health (University of Melbourne) and has experience working as a registered nurse and public health officer.



Pip Buckingham, PhD

Contraceptive counselling in community pharmacy: An opportunity to integrate primary health care

Pip started their PhD at the Department of General Practice in 2019. Their research, conducted within the SPHERE Centre of Research Excellence, is focused on understanding how community pharmacists' roles could be enhanced or extended, to address contraceptive care service provision gaps in the primary care system. Pip's research interests include contraception and abortion, person-centred care, LGBTQA+ health and wellbeing and gender-affirming care.



Susan Saldanha

Assessing the risk factors and health consequences of reproductive coercion in Australian general practice

Susan joined the Department of General Practice and SPHERE in 2022 as a PhD candidate. Susan's research aims to understand who is at greater risk of experiencing reproductive coercion (pregnancy coercion, contraception sabotage, coerced abortion, forced sterilisation etc.), how it impacts on an individual's health, and how it manifests in general practice. The findings of her PhD will provide insight and guidance for general practitioners to better identify and support individuals who have or are currently experiencing reproductive coercion.



Georgia Webb

Differential outcomes for Trans, Gender Diverse and Non-Binary individuals seeking hormone therapy.

Georgia is a first year PhD student. Her project focuses on the various healthcare pathways available to trans, gender diverse and non-binary wishing to undergo gender affirming hormone therapy. She became interested in this topic through her interactions with gender affirming care, and in hopes to further expand the knowledge of the care pathways to improve the experiences of trans, gender diverse and non-binary people when interacting with healthcare. The project is utilizing a mixed-methods approach, creating a cohort of hormone therapy clients to analyse what factors lead to be better personal outcomes after initiation of hormones, and interviewing clients from the cohort to understand their personal journeys whilst in the system. This year, she has begun a systematic review analysing the experiences and opinions of trans, gender diverse and non-binary people receiving hormone therapy through primary care.



Zaynah Ali

Evaluation of a community pharmacy intervention that promotes the safe and effective use of contraceptive medicines amongst women at high risk of unintended pregnancy.

Zaynah's PhD project focuses on the evaluation of community pharmacy as an intervention to improve access to safe and effective use of contraceptive medicines amongst women deemed high risk of unintended pregnancy. The PhD project forms part of the ALLIANCE Trial, which is a multi-university, multi-disciplinary and international collaboration funded by the Medical Research Future Fund. The ALLIANCE

Trial will investigate whether increasing the community pharmacy scope of practice to deliver high-quality, structured, patient-centred, effectiveness-based contraceptive counselling and a referral to a contraceptive provider results in a subsequent influx in use of effectiveness-based contraception in these women, and therefore a reduction in unintended pregnancy. At current, Zaynah is completing a scoping review titled: Intervention's to Expand the Pharmacist's Scope of Practice within Community Pharmacy.



Nishadi Withanage

Evaluating primary care-based preconception care interventions that reduce identifiable risks and improve pregnancy outcomes.

Nishadi Withanage is a PhD student with a strong interest to improve women's preconception health through Australian general practice

Her PhD project aims to: (1) determine the effectiveness of preconception care interventions targeted at reproductive-aged women and men (2) understand the feasibility of identifying women who may most benefit from preconception care in general practice (3) explore general practitioners, practice nurses and women's acceptability and preferences for provision/ receiving preconception care in general practice. "



Melis Selamoglu

General practitioners' perceptions of e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation aid: Implications for policy and practice

General practitioners (GP's) have an important role in providing patients who smoke with health information, support and treatment to encourage them to quit smoking. Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) are increasingly being marketed to smokers as a smoking cessation aid and with the growing availability and popularity of e-cigarettes, new challenges are emerging in supporting patients to quit smoking. Due to the limited evidence available around the efficacy of e-cigarettes as an aid to smoking cessation, there is ongoing uncertainty around whether or not the use of e-cigarettes should be considered as a smoking cessation method. Melis' doctoral research will focus on the perceptions and prescribing intentions of GP's towards the use of e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation alternative to provide useful information to guide policy on e-cigarettes and contribute to guideline development internationally and nationally on the potential role and place of e cigarettes as a smoking cessation aid."



Jess Moulton

Co-designing nurse-led models of care to increase access to early medical abortion and long-acting reversible contraception in rural and regional general practice

Jessica a PhD candidate at SPHERE CRE and the Department of General Practice at Monash University. She has over 5 years' experience in women's sexual and reproductive health research and service provision. Jess completed a Master of Public Health from the University of Melbourne in 2019 specialising in gender and global health, and also holds a BSc (Food and Nutrition) from Deakin University. She has varied experience, previously working as a Policy Officer on family violence workforce development for the Victorian Department of Education and Training and in client services at Marie Stopes Australia, aiding the provision of sexual and reproductive health services. Her PhD aims to co-design a nurse-led model of care to increase access to medical abortion and long-acting reversible contraception in rural and regional general practice.



Areni

Improving access to healthcare for refugee women living with chronic pain

Areni is a clinical Osteopath undertaking her PhD full-time within the Department of General Practice at Monash University. Her mixed methods research explores the factors that influence access to quality health care for refugee women living with chronic pain in Australia. Her enquiry hopes to provide greater insight into the delivery of culturally sensitive care to facilitate positive health outcomes for vulnerable populations"



Clare Hutton

The challenges of providing care to fellow doctors

My PhD focuses on doctors who provide care for their peers, looking at the challenges involved when your patient is also a doctor.

I have had a longstanding interest in doctors' health, having worked as the consultant psychologist for the AMA (Vic) Peer Support Service since its inception in 2008. As well as part-time PhD study, I teach in post-grad counselling programs at Deakin University, provide psychological support on humanitarian aid training programs and have a small private practice as a counselling psychologist.

PHD COMPLETIONS

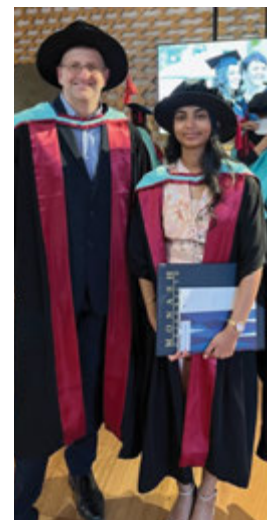
SANDUNI MADAWALA



Supervisors: A/Prof Chris Barton, A/Prof Narelle Warren, A/Prof Christian Osadnik

Title: *The experience of primary healthcare for patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease who continue to smoke*

Sanduni's project investigated the healthcare experiences of patients diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) who continue to smoke. Experiences of stigma can act as a barrier to accessing and engaging with health services for these patients. The study explored the health care experiences of this group who are at high risk of poorer health outcomes and disease progression.



KAREN PRICE



Supervisors: Prof Grant Russell and A/Prof Chris Barton, (Prof Jan Coles ret.)

Title: *The role of peer connection in Australian general practice*

The thesis presents a ground-breaking exploration of the workplace of general practice with a focus on the relational experiences of GPs with their peers. The relational constructs Karen developed help understand GPs' wellbeing, sustainability and situational learning and the challenges GPs face in contemporary clinical practice. Through a relational lens she explored how situational learning can be effectively improved and to support the clinical and affective challenges GPs face in their day to day working lives.



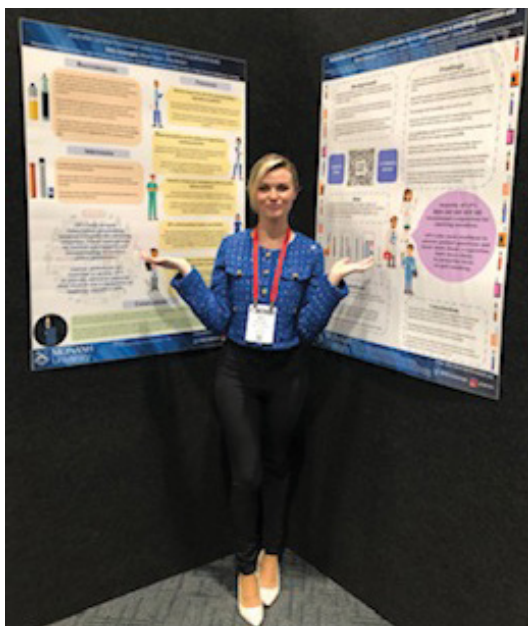
PHD JOURNEYS

Melis Selamoglu is a PhD student from the Department of General Practice at Monash University and is supervised by Associate Professor Chris Barton. She is in her final year of her PhD and her thesis is focussed on general practitioner's perceptions of e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation aid. Her research is a mixed methods study and involves both qualitative and quantitative data collection with Australian, Turkish and UK GP's.

Previously she completed a Bachelor of Health Sciences and a Master of Health Sciences (Health Policy) from La Trobe University. Her thesis investigated barriers and facilitators to tobacco plain packaging policy in Turkey and has been published by Health Promotion International titled, 'Two steps forward, one step back: The lead up to plain packaging policy in Turkey'.

Since the commencement of her PhD, Melis has added two more publications as primary author to her name, a protocol paper for her systematic review in BJGP Open and the findings of the systematic review titled 'General practitioners' knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and practices surrounding the prescription of e-cigarettes for smoking cessation: a mixed-methods systematic review' published in BMC Public Health.

She currently has a qualitative manuscript under review by BMC Primary Care on Australian general practitioner's knowledge, attitudes and prescribing intentions on e-cigarettes as smoking cessation aids.



In 2022, Melis had the opportunity to present her findings from Australian GP's at multiple national and international conferences. She first presented her quantitative findings at a one-day symposium run by the Monash Addiction Research Centre (MARC) as an oral presentation in May.

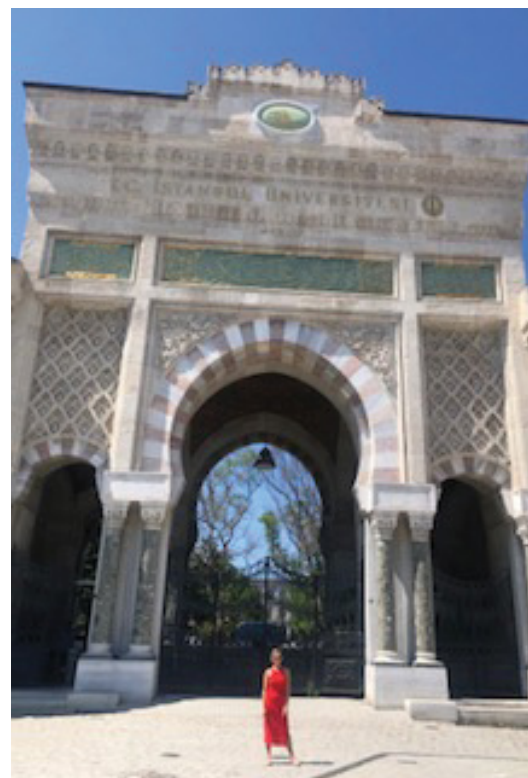
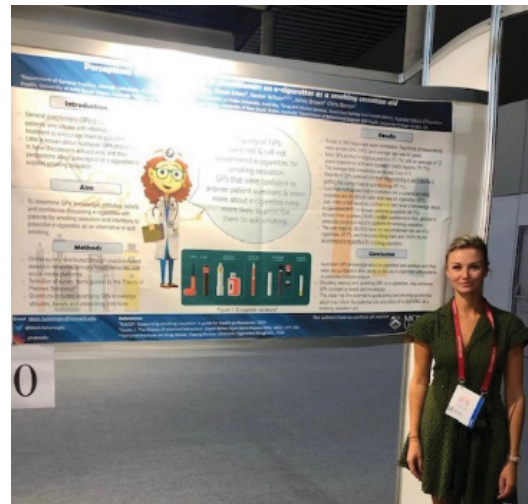
Melis travelled internationally to the UK in July to present the same results at the Society of Academic Primary Care Conference as an oral presentation and then travelled to Barcelona, Spain in September where she was given the opportunity to show case her results at one of the largest respiratory conferences in the world, the European Respiratory Society as a poster presentation. In between these two conferences she attended virtually to present her quantitative findings with Australian GP's at the Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care (AAAPC) Conference in August 2022.

In amongst her conference presentations, she was also collecting qualitative and quantitative data for her PhD with Turkish GP's and was hosted by Istanbul University at the Department of Public Health and attended the 2022 International and National Congress on Public Health in December at Antalya, Turkey. After completing her data collection, she moved to the UK and conducted the same research with GP's in the UK and was an exchange student with King's College London at the Department of Addiction Sciences.

During her stay in the UK, Melis was lucky enough to travel to Bristol and attend the 2022 Society for the Study of Addiction Annual Conference and the 2022 Lisbon Addictions Conference held bi-annually in Portugal.

Melis returned back to Melbourne although her travelling did not end as she attended the Australian and New Zealand Thoracic Society Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand in March 2023 and presented two posters from her research with Australian GP's.

Melis has been awarded the 2022 Travelling Research Fellowship from the AAAPC. While she is keen to settle down and hold off travelling for a few months, she will be using the fellowship to head over to Europe and attend the 2023 European Respiratory Society Conference in Milan, Italy in September where she has submitted multiple abstracts.



GRADUATE RESEARCH GROUP REPORT

Authors: Susan Saldhana

The year 2023 has been marked by dynamic and impactful activities within the Graduate Research Group (GRG) of the DGP. The GRG, established in 2018, continues to be a thriving hub for research students and academic registrars, fostering a collaborative environment for professional development and the exchange of research insights. While student-led, the GRG benefits from the mentorship of Associate Professor Chris Barton and operates under the oversight of the DGP Research Committee. This year, the GRG was chaired by PhD candidate Susan Saldhana, who took over leadership from 2022 co-chairs Jess Moulton, Areni Altun, and Melis Selamagolu. The core mission of the GRG is to provide a supportive space for students to engage and share their learning. The fortnightly meetings featured educational sessions from guest speakers covering diverse topics such as qualitative interviewing and analysis, research planning, thesis writing, publishing, and more. A highlight of the GRG's activities is the emphasis on student participation. The fortnightly gatherings included student practice presentations, offering a platform for individuals to receive valuable feedback on assessments, milestones, conference papers, and posters. This interactive approach not only refines students' research skills but also fosters a culture of continuous improvement. The GRG looks forward to continued growth and success in the years to come.



RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Author: Professor Grant Russell and Nishadi Withange

The Department of General Practice's research committee aims to facilitate the implementation of the Research Objectives in the DGP Strategic Plan, monitor university, faculty and school initiatives that affect research, oversee a range of research activities within the department (in particular the Graduate Research Group) and to report to the Department's Strategic Management Team on research issues.

Members are Professor Grant Russell (Chair), A/Prof Chris Barton, Dr Jennifer Neil, Dr Maria de Leon-Santiago, Dr Maryam Moradi, Dr Sharon James, Dr Vera Costa and Dr Noushin Arefadib. They are joined by the chair of the student group within the GRG (Susan Saldanha) and Nishadi, a PhD student, who provides secretariat support. We commence our meetings with a committee member sharing a research story which generally provides valuable insights for the committee to learn from such as experiences from attending conferences, programs like TUTOR-PHC, networking, working with co-authors and responding to feedback from multiple perspectives.

This year we have:

- Overseen the impressive and ongoing work within the Graduate Research Group and organised PhD celebration events
- Continued to support and identify staff to participate in TUTOR-PHC
- Commenced developing a plan to conduct a DGP and MonRen academic journal club with plans to commence early 2024
- Encouraged the Department's extensive participation in the AAAPC 2023 conference.

MEDIA AND MARKETING COMMITTEE

Author: A/Prof Chris Barton

The Media and Marketing committee was Chaired this year by A/Prof Chris Barton. He was joined by members from across the department including Dr Karen Nolidin, Claudia Morando-Stokoe, Melis Selamoglu, Zaynah Ali, Shilana Yip, Isabel Lee and Dr Sonia Srinivasan. The committee devised campaigns to promote the department's programs to potential Academic Post registrars and research students including a highly engaging 'Week in the Life' video created by Dr Sonia Srinivasan and Isabel Lee (view it on X <https://x.com/DGPMonash/status/1660782592109445122?s=20>). A/Prof Barton attended information evenings hosted by the Faculty of Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences, and the RACGP to promote our training programs to honours students and GP registrars. The department was also well represented at the Alfred Precinct honours information evening.

The department X (formerly Twitter) account was managed by Melis Selamoglu across the year providing information and promoting staff and student achievements across the year. In particular, she tweeted staff and student activity at major conferences including AAAPC.

The other major task of the committee is the production of this annual report. I'd like to especially thank Dr Karen Nolidin and Claudia Morando-Stokoe for their leadership and coordination of this process.



PROJECT MANAGERS GROUP

Author: Sharon Clifford

The project manager's group is facilitated by Sharon Clifford with a current membership of 13. The group meets six-weekly for approximately 45 minutes via Zoom and aims to connect project staff, break down barriers and share information about what is happening in other projects. The group was initiated by the DGP Research Committee in 2020 and welcomes any staff in the Department who are working in a project management role. The group can feed back issues and requests to the Committee when required. Members have also benefited from sharing resources, skills and information and offering help, advice and contacts. Discussion topics have included recruitment tips, employing new staff and associated HR issues, dealing with the Office of General Counsel regarding contracts, increasing recruitment success, interview transcription options, writing resources, the logistics of event management, use of evaluation frameworks and types of Participant Information and Consent forms. We also discuss project management training, software, resources and related professional development opportunities.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Authors: Dr Atish Manek

The Department of General Practice (DGP) Social Committee continued to meet frequently throughout 2023. This year's members included Dr Atish Manek, Dr Maria De Leon-Santiago, Areni Altun, Melis Selamoglu, Dr Jessie Zeng, Dr Yi Ling Low, Claire Hutton, and Jarrod Cross. Together, the committee has kept the DGP socially engaged during 2023.

2023 kicked off with the ever-popular International Lunch. Staff prepared and shared a meal with their colleagues originating from their home country or culture. Similar to previous years, it was an enjoyable event where there was no shortage of delicious flavours and smiles shared.

In quick succession we hosted the 'biggest morning tea', raising \$40 on behalf of the Cancer Council.

At the time of writing, the social committee is in the process of raising funds for Steptember, & preparing for a departmental lunch outing. We also have a keen eye on the end of year festivities. We look forward to celebrating with you soon!!



SUSTAINABILITY AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Authors: Dr Nadida Kachkouche, Sandra Zovko, Dr Anisa Assifi, Dr Joly Kwek, Sharon Clifford, Jade Guitera, Levina Rahardjo, Jessica Moulton and Dr Laxmi Iyengar.

In line with Monash University's commitments to driving sustainable change, the Department of General Practice (DGP) is dedicated to being a sustainable organisation and recognises the need to embed sustainable practices throughout its operations including teaching, research and other.

Given that Sustainability, Wellbeing and Safety share the same idea, the committee expanded and in February 2023, Sharon Clifford, the DGP Wellbeing Champion, joined the Sustainability Committee and the Committee was renamed the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee. The team also welcomed highly enthusiastic and engaged new members including Dr Joly Kwek, the DGP's Occupational Health and Safety Officer, Jade Guitera, Jessica Moulton and Levina Rahardjo.

The committee's two main goals this year included:

- Good health and wellbeing for the DGP staff
- Responsible Consumption and production

In March 2023, the committee created a short survey to find out the sustainability and wellbeing activities that the DGP staff members would like to see in 2023. Based on the responses the committee members incorporated the staffs' requests into their approach to meeting the committee's main goals.

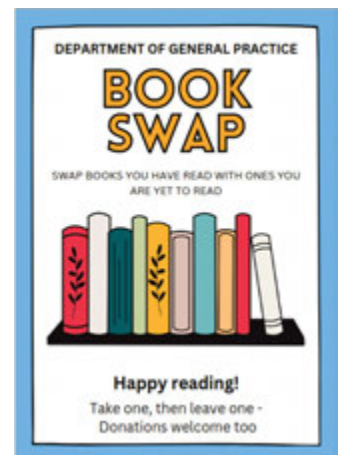
The Committee Members collaborate and meet up regularly to ensure broad engagement and commitments from the department's staff members to shared sustainability goals and use education as a key tool. These education tools include presentations, sharing tips on saving water and electricity as well as reducing paper waste.

The Committee's initiatives in 2023 included:

- The book swap initiative and the establishment of a small reading corner at the DGP's floor space.
- Providing information on the proper disposal of recyclable material.
- The collection and donation of good quality unwanted clothes for charity.
- The organisation of a twice weekly lunchtime walks for the DGPs staff members.

- Reducing food waste by keeping bread crusts on sandwiches at weekly staff lunch meeting.
- Reducing the use of disposable plates at the weekly staff lunch meetings.
- The Coffee Card Voucher weekly initiative which was introduced by Sharon Clifford with an aim at encouraging the acknowledgement and appreciation of fellow DGP staff and student colleagues. The initiative became the most popular and engaging activity among the department's staff members as it encouraged staff to show appreciation to their peers for their help or for making the workplace a better place to be at.

2023 Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee team: Dr Nadida Kachkouche, Sandra Zovko, Dr Anisa Assifi, Dr Joly Kwek, Sharon Clifford, Jade Guitera, Levina Rahardjo, Jessica Moulton and Dr Laxmi Iyengar.





DGP ACADEMIC SEMINARS

Authors: Dr Kimberley Yew, Dr Anisa Assifi, Tesfaye Mekonnen

The Department of General Practice hosts weekly academic seminars featuring leading experts in the areas of research, education and policy. The seminars cover a variety of topics pertaining to primary care, general practice, and links between healthcare and other fields. We aim to provide a range of presenters relevant to the education of students as well as current research interests.

During the year we hosted a range of speakers, including: Prof Sally Green, Prof Alastair Hay, Prof Lynette Clearihan, Prof Michelle Leech, Prof Tim Stokes, Prof Karen Price, A/Prof Ben Beck, A/Prof Joel Rhee, Dr Sarah Meiklejohn, Dr Chavy Arora, Dr Patty Thille, Dr Lisa Higgins, Dr Michael Di Donato, Dr Nadida Kachkouche, Dr Jennifer Neil, Natasha Bucker, Lewis Johnstone.

The Department would like to thank the 2023 Academic Seminar Coordinators, Dr Kimberley Yew, Dr Anisa Assifi and Tesfaye Mekonnen, for the organisation of this important program.

FAREWELLS



DR DAVID OBERKLAIID

This year we said farewell to Dr David Oberklaid who has been a senior lecturer in the Department since 2018. Dr Oberklaid brought with him a wealth of experience especially in the area of safe practice and standards. He has worked as a GP practice accreditor for many years. Dr Oberklaid deeply cared about the students he taught which was evidenced by the feedback received. He has been a much valued member of the teaching team and we are sorry to lose him. We wish him well in all his future plans.



MS SHILANA YIP

Shilana joined the Department of General Practice in early 2023 as the ALLIANCE trial Project Officer. During her time with the team, Shilana's role focused on participant recruitment, engagement, and retention in the trial. Shilana's dedication, thoughtfulness and the time she took to reach out and engage with others allowed her to develop great relationships with all study participants and trial stakeholders. Shilana has been an amazing part of the team and the department. Her positive attitude and great presence will be missed. We wish her all the best in her new endeavours.



DR MIN YAP

Dr Min Yap joined DGP in mid 2023 as the SPHERE policy and impact officer. During her time with SPHERE, she worked on the SPHERE Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Coalition which aims to secure and sustain high-quality sexual and reproductive health services for women in Australia. Min was a valued of the SPHERE and DGP team and we wish her all the best in her career.



DR SAMANTHA CHAKRABORTY

Samantha joined DGP back in 2011 as a Research Fellow and has made an enormous contribution to the department in the last 11 years. Her expertise in primary care research, implementation science, clinical trials and project management has been invaluable to fellow researchers and students in the Mazza Research Team and the rest of DGP. Samantha's first project in the department involved the development and implementation of the guideline Investigating symptoms of lung cancer: a guide for GPs, which was undertaken on behalf on Cancer Australia. Following on from this, Samantha managed another project that involved the development of a clinical guideline for the diagnosis and management of work-related mental health problems. This key piece of work led to a NHMRC Partnerships Project grant that funded a clinical trial aimed at implementing the work-related mental health guidelines in general practice. In addition to this, Samantha oversaw the establishment of clinical trials within the SPHERE NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence and guided and mentored early career researchers and PhD students. A wonderful colleague and friend to many in the DGP, we wish Samantha all the very best in her role at Cochrane Australia and look forward to seeing even more successes in her research career.

CONFERENCES



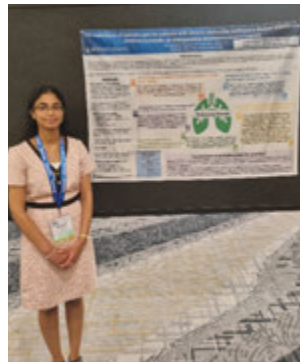
NAPCRG

November 2022

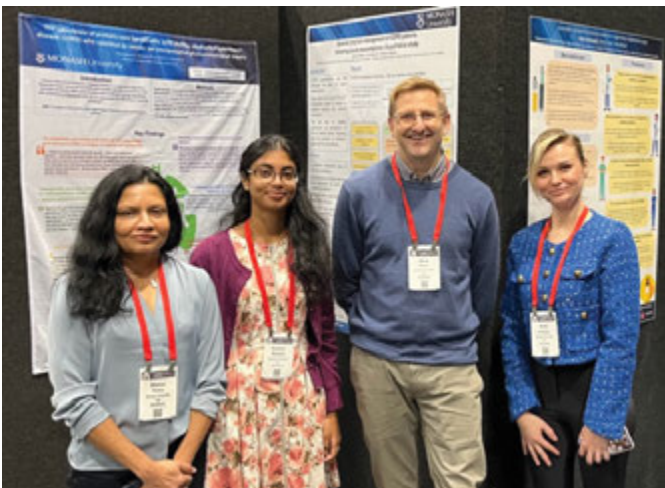
NAPCRG Conference held in Phoenix, Arizona.

Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting 2023

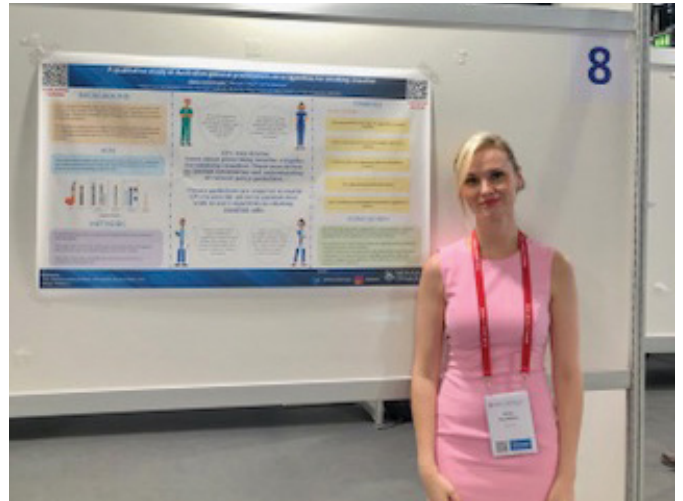
Several students from the Department along with A/Prof Chris Barton travelled to Christchurch New Zealand to attend the TSANZ annual scientific meeting. Congratulations to Dr Sanduni Madawala who was awarded a poster prize for best presentation to the Primary Care Special Interest Group



Sanduni Madawala presenting her poster



A/Prof Chris Barton with PhD students Bianca Perera, Sanduni Madawala, Melis Selamoglu



EUROPEAN RESPIRATORY SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS 2023

PhD student, Melis Selamoglu travelled to Milan, Italy to present findings at the prestigious European Respiratory Society International Congress. Melis presented two of her PhD research studies titled *“Perceptions of general practitioners in Istanbul on e-cigarettes as smoking cessation aids”* presented as an oral presentation and *“A qualitative study of Australian general practitioners on e-cigarettes for smoking cessation”* presented as a poster presentation.

Melis would like to thank the Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care (AAAPC) for awarding her with the 2023 Traveling Fellowship enabling her participation.



CONFERENCES

WONCA SYDNEY 2023

26 - 29 Oct 2023

Medical Abortion: A national survey of Australian general practitioner knowledge, attitudes and practice

Presented:

1. Research Presentation

Implementing work-related Mental-health guidelines in general PRACTICE (IMPROVE): Primary findings of a parallel cluster randomised controlled trial

2. Medical Abortion: A national survey of Australian general practitioner knowledge, attitudes and practice

3. Improving access to women's health in primary care: new models and approaches

4. Roundtable Interactive 60 minutes.

Implementing early medical abortion into primary care

5. Redbook presentation at WONCA: RACGP evidence-based clinical guidelines: what is new and popular?

6. How far is too far: considerations for safe medical abortion care for residents living 4+ hours from emergency services

7. Long-acting reversible contraception: A national survey of Australian general practitioner knowledge, attitudes and practice



AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ACADEMIC PRIMARY CARE (AAAPC) ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE REPORT



AAAPC 2023

Authors: Dr Yi Ling Low and Dr Karen Nolidin

The AAAPC Annual Research Conference, held on 17-18 August at Melbourne Connect, University of Melbourne, was finally held in-person again after 3 years! The theme this year was “Strengthening Primary Care: Networks, Collaborations and Infrastructure”. The DGP is a proud organisational member of the AAAPC.

Each time, universities from all around Australia and New Zealand gather to showcase their leading primary care research and promote multidisciplinary research networks and collaborations. This year, the conference was opened by Assistant Minister Ged Kearney, with many fantastic oral and poster presentations following that.

The DGP, like previous years, had a very strong presence at the conference, with staff and students from the department presenting on a broad range of topics on both days. Topics covered sexual and reproductive health, contemporary issues in primary care, access to primary care, communication in primary care, creating primary care networks, improving quality and safety, listening to patient voices, and designing new models of care. All oral and poster presentations were well received and received positive feedback from peers and fellow researchers. On the final day of the conference, Professor Grant Russell spoke as part of the AAAPC Past Presidents’ Panel, where the previous AAAPC presidents reflected on the changes and achievements of the group over the past 40 years.



There was also much to celebrate: Dr Karen Nolidin (Research Fellow on the IMPROVE NHMRC Partnership Trial) won the EPIC Research Unit Award for the Early Career Researcher Best Paper Award, with the paper titled “A user-centred approach for developing a measure for assessing adherence using clinical indicators” and Dr Anisa Assifi (SPHERE Research Fellow and ALLIANCE Trial Project Manager) was elected to be treasurer on the 2023/2024 AAAPC Executive Committee. Well done to both for achieving such a milestone!

Overall, the conference was a success, and we are excited to take part in it next year (held in Western Sydney University)!



PUBLICATIONS

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