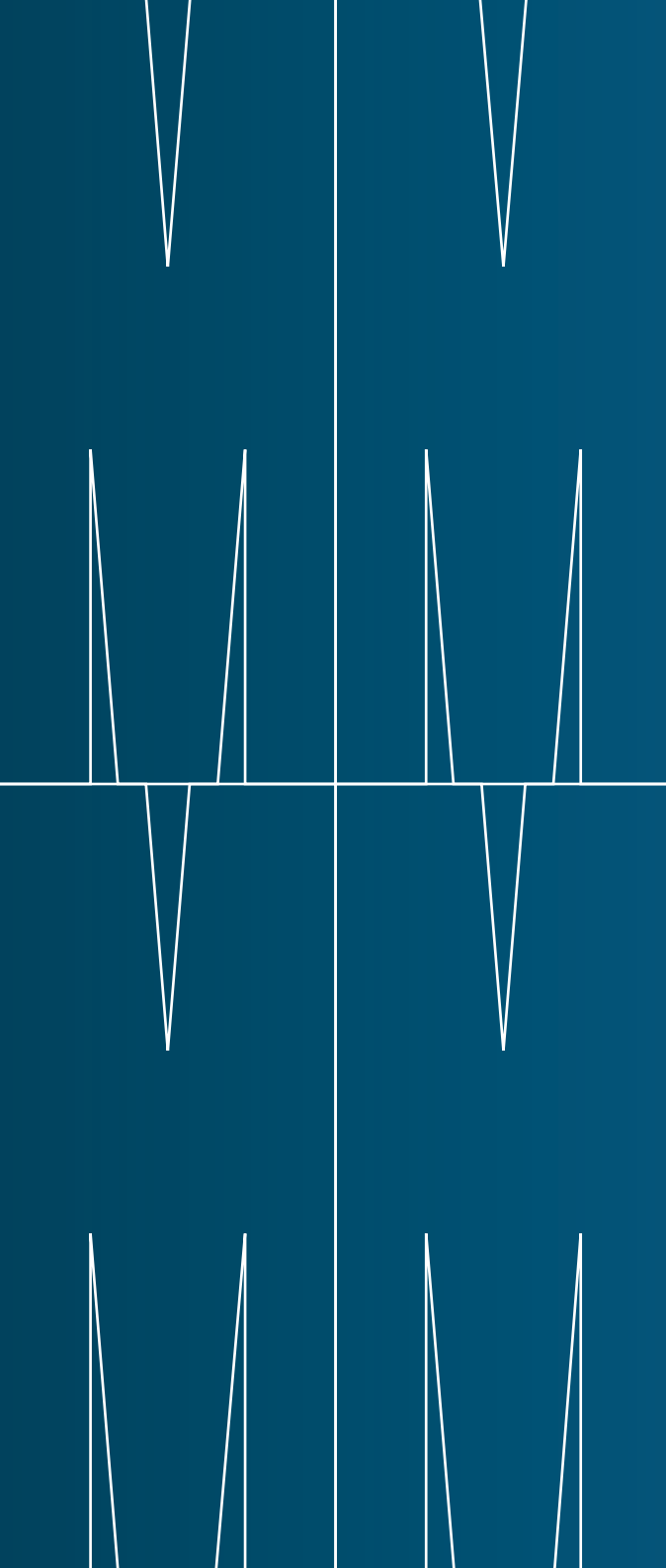




MONASH
University

MONASH PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

2024 HIGHLIGHTS REPORT



Acknowledgement of country

We Acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which we work, the people of the Kulin Nations. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

We recognise the ancient and diverse cultures of Australia's Indigenous peoples, and strive to consider them as we work towards our vision of better health and wellbeing for all.

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BETTER HEALTH AND WELLBEING FOR ALL

In 2024, our shared commitment to the vision of better health and wellbeing for all remained the guiding force behind every facet of our work. Central to this vision is the pursuit of better health outcomes, and health equity. It motivates us across all programs, partnerships, and initiatives throughout the year.

A major highlight was our global health leadership in hosting the 2024 World Health Summit Regional Meeting in Melbourne. This landmark event convened over 1,250 global participants for three days of dialogue and collaboration on pressing health challenges, including climate and health, shifting geopolitical landscapes, and building thriving communities. The scale of the meeting demonstrated the Asia-Pacific region's growing momentum and leadership in global health discourse.

Our education portfolio continues its strong trajectory, marked by the launch of two new postgraduate degrees in clinical trials, both timely offerings amid the continued expansion and importance of Australia's clinical trials sector.

In research, we pursued critical inquiry into the root causes and solutions for some of the most pressing health issues of our time: social isolation and loneliness, the economic burden of non-communicable diseases, and the health implications of climate-induced threats such as extreme weather and poor air quality among them. The new knowledge we generate guides clinical practice and policy.

We strengthened our commitment to consumer and community involvement in research, launching a new platform to connect researchers with individuals who bring lived experience to the table. Regionally, we extended our impact through the sharing of bespoke technologies to support neighbouring countries in combatting infectious diseases and strengthening policy development.

We pushed the boundaries of methodological innovation by spearheading the transition to 'living evidence' models in clinical guidelines, developing sophisticated platform trials to accelerate the evaluation of new therapies and health interventions, and authoring guidance for registry-based trials.

These highlights are just a glimpse of what we achieved during the year, in our efforts to build healthier and safer communities and societies; more effective prevention and clinical care; and to generate trusted evidence for policy, practice, and service delivery.

We extend our sincere thanks to the partners and collaborators who have worked with us throughout the year, and we look forward to deepening these partnerships and expanding our impact in 2025 and beyond.

Professor Sophia Zoungas
Head of School



A satellite image of the Earth, showing the continent of Australia in the center, surrounded by the Pacific Ocean. The image is partially obscured by a black rectangular area on the left side, which contains white text. The text is arranged in five lines, with the first line being the largest and the last line being the smallest. The text reads: "We are the largest School of Public Health in the Asia-Pacific region".

**We are
the largest
School of
Public Health
in the
Asia-Pacific
region**

2024

\$80.6M

Research Funding

1240

Journal Publications



33

Short Courses Delivered



859

Postgraduate students
enrolled

537

Undergraduate students
enrolled

210

Graduate students
enrolled

ALL TIME

1398

Undergraduate student completions

4879

Postgraduate student completions

450

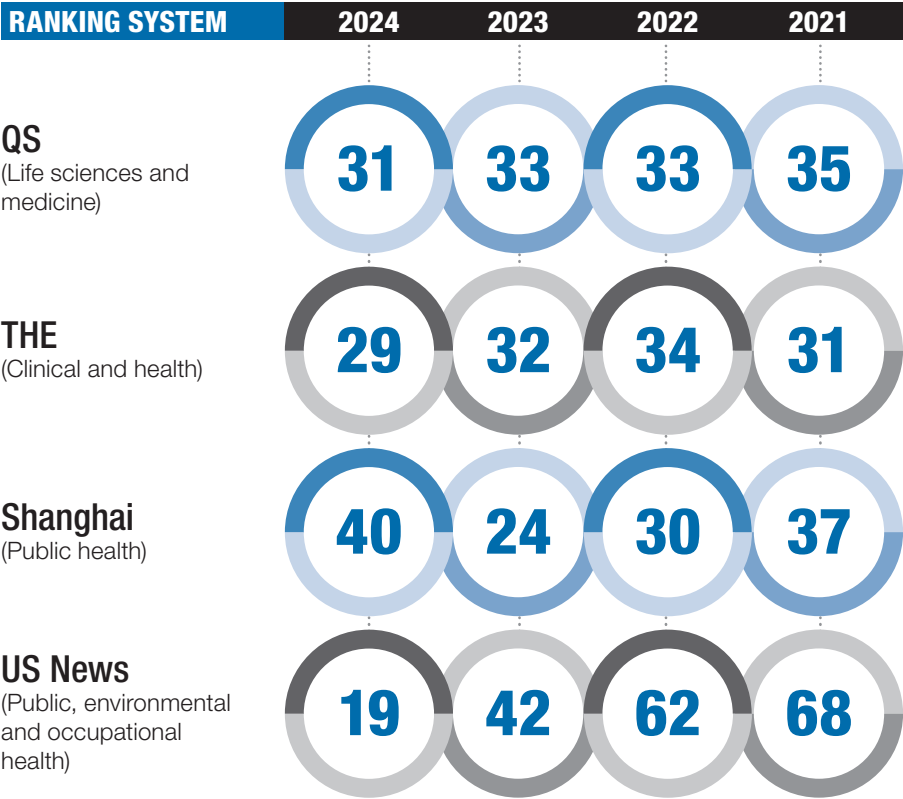
Graduate student completions

Our shared vision is a world with better health and wellbeing for all.

We are the largest School of Public Health in the Asia-Pacific region. We bring together talented and dedicated people with common values and a passion for making an impact in health, through research and education.

- We innovate.
- We focus on impact.
- We challenge inequity.
- We foster sustainability.
- We strive for excellence.
- We champion diversity and inclusion.

Global ranking by subject, by year



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HEALTH ACROSS ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Our School was proud to lead Monash University in convening the 2024 World Health Summit (WHS) Regional Meeting in April — a milestone event that brought health to the forefront of Asia-Pacific dialogue.

This record-breaking gathering welcomed over 1,250 delegates from more than 40 nations to Melbourne for three days of agenda-setting discussions and workshops. Across 40+ sessions and workshops, more than 200 distinguished speakers shared insights and forged strategies to advance global health and close the equity gap in our region.

The program centred on three powerful themes, all deeply aligned with the University's *Impact 2030* strategy and our School's commitment to prevention and health equity:

1. **Thriving Communities and Health:** Priorities for living well and living well together.
2. **Climate Change and Health:** Priorities for responding to the climate emergency.
3. **Geopolitics and Health:** Priorities for safety, equity and justice across borders.

Both the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Penny Wong, provided opening remarks, in which they underscored the crucial role of this Regional Meeting in tackling the most pressing health challenges of the Asia-Pacific.

Key issues that resonated throughout the event included improving the health of Indigenous peoples, addressing entrenched inequities within and between countries, and building regional capacity to respond to shared threats such as climate change, pandemics, and health workforce capacity issues.

The meeting also featured contributions from eminent leaders including Dr Saia Ma'u Piukala, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific; Dr Helen Clark, Former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Chair of the Global Commission on Drug Policy; Sir Michael Marmot, Director of UCL's Institute of Health Equity; and Professor Marcia Langton, Associate Provost at the University of Melbourne.

All information on speakers, program, and video recordings of all sessions are available at whsmelbourne2024.com.





"I'm most proud of this event having brought together people working in community engagement, clinical care, health policy and international development from across our region and beyond, with the shared commitment to breaking down silos."

Professor Sophia Zoungas
Co-President of the WHS Regional Meeting

EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

Throughout the year we continued to embrace emerging evidence and technologies to support our pursuit of continual improvement in medical and health professions education, and deliver rich and immersive experiences to help our students embed their learning.

An exemplar of that was the launch of our [Collaborative Online International Learning \(COIL\)](#) program. This month-long series of virtual classrooms brought together a range of health and medical students from around the world to build cultural competency in healthcare, and learn about adjacent health professions.

A [month-long simulation](#) that put our undergraduate students in charge of managing an infectious disease outbreak was also launched this year. The simulation leverages Monash's bespoke artificial intelligence (AI)-driven learning platform ATLAS (Authentic Teaching and Learning through Adaptive Simulations).

We welcomed 60 health and medical students from across Monash in April, as they volunteered at the 2024 World Health Summit Regional Meeting, giving them access to an inspirational opportunity to hear from and meet global health leaders from around the world. We also participated in program development for the Meeting, ensuring that regional public health workforce issues were firmly on the agenda.

Acknowledging the increased need for professionalisation of the booming clinical trials workforce, we launched our Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma of Clinical Trials, building on our successful suite of existing micro-credentialled professional education programs.

In a similar vein, we collaborated with our Alfred Health partner, Trialhub, providing educational design support to the development and review of a regional clinical trials workforce upskilling framework piloted across Victoria. This partnership also saw our educators successfully incorporate work-integrated learning modules within our existing suite of professional education programs to offer flexible upskilling options for clinical trialists.

Our [Medical Education Research Quality](#) Unit, whose work drives innovation and evidence-based practice in medical education, celebrated its ten-year anniversary in 2024. This milestone was made all the sweeter by that team receiving the 2024 Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australia Award for Teaching Excellence.

I was also thrilled to see Associate Professor Danijela Gasevic presented with the Monash Graduate Association Lecturer of the Year Award, a particularly gratifying accolade, as the recipient is selected based on student feedback alone. I'm incredibly proud to have such passionate and talented educators in our ranks.

I'd like to thank our educators, administrators and educational designers, all of whom are integral to the ongoing success of our educational program.

Professor Dragan Ilic Deputy Head of School (Education)

Find out about our educational offerings here:
monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/study



DIGITAL HEALTH



RICH EXPERIENCES TO SUPPORT DEEP LEARNING

Rich and immersive placements, simulations and other experiences offer an engaging way for students to think outside the box, to put theory into practice, and gain confidence and skills that prepare them for the workforce.

Learn more at monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/study/rich-experiences.



Outbreak simulation

Over four weeks, our students team up to curb a simulated infectious disease outbreak, in part created using a bespoke Monash AI platform. Based on daily updates, the students must develop prevention strategies, communicate them with a community, manage responses and analyse and report on results. They also have the chance to lead an investigative case interview with an AI simulated patient.

Global Immersion Guarantee

Our Bachelor of Public Health and Bachelor of Health Sciences students are eligible for Monash's Global Immersion Guarantee (GIG), a fully funded international fieldwork unit in a neighbouring country, focused on human impact on the environment. It's an extraordinary chance to learn about complex challenges impacting communities, and hear from local leaders about balancing environmental protection and sustainability with economic and social development.

Collaborative Online International Learning

This interactive learning opportunity allows our students to engage with foreign peers, build cultural competency and learn about adjacent health professions, all from the comfort of their home. Our students join peers from Italy, Malawi and Malaysia in a month-long series of virtual classrooms, where they work together to treat an AI-derived patient.

Research and industry placements

We provide a range of placement opportunities for our undergraduate and postgraduate students. For students interested in a community or industry-based placement, we work with partner organisations like EnLiven, Gender Equity Victoria and others where they work on small but meaningful real-world projects. We also offer research experiences that help students decide if research is a potential career path for them.



STUDENT VOICES



Derek Villaceran
Bachelor of Public Health

Derek enrolled with us after discovering that laboratory science didn't resonate with his broad interest in the interconnectedness of health, societies, and other professional fields.

"Some of the people I've learned from have done incredible things. All the teachers are really passionate, as are my peers, so it's a really inspiring environment in which to learn."

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/study/student-and-career-profiles/derek-villaceran



Gabrielle O'Sullivan
Bachelor of Health Sciences

Gabrielle has a plan — she's planning to create and manage her own allied health business. Our Health Sciences degree offers excellent flexibility in electives, which has allowed her to undertake a minor in business management, to support her career goals.

"I love the wide choice of electives offered in the Health Sciences degree, and I'm inspired by how I can make a difference to society."

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/study/student-and-career-profiles/gabrielle-osullivan



Dr Philippus Visser
Master of Health Management

This senior emergency department doctor felt a growing interest in quality improvement and driving systems change. He enrolled following a recommendation from a colleague, and enjoyed consolidating his learning by exploring real-world workplace issues.

"It's provided me with a step up of professional development that I didn't quite realise was possible, and has supported me in my ascent to senior management."

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/study/student-and-career-profiles/philippus-visser



Ayushi Daga

Master of Public Health

Ayushi is a dentist, who relocated from India to study at Monash in order to progress her dream to work for the World Health Organization. She's well on her way; Ayushi was a recent finalist in Study Melbourne's International Student of the Year awards.

"Monash has great rankings in public health which will help me, and I was so excited to come here and realise I was learning from so many people who have already done work with the WHO."

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/study/student-and-career-profiles/ayushi-daga



Holly Wild

PhD

After several years working as a nutritionist, Holly enrolled in Honours to hone her research skills and contribute to medical evidence. She enjoyed her project around meal skipping in older people so much, she's now in the midst of her PhD with us.

"I'm loving it! A PhD is in some ways a similar experience to Honours, but on a far grander scale, with more space and time to really dive into a topic."

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/study/student-and-career-profiles/holly-wild



Dr Nick Dempsey

PhD

Inspired by an autobiography of a forensic anthropologist he read as a teenager, Nick embarked on a career in the field. His PhD explored the possibilities of using AI in skeletal trauma analysis, and he's now working at the intersection of forensic medicine and human rights, investigating unlawful killings around the globe.

"The PhD was deeply challenging, but hugely rewarding, and I'm really excited by some of the opportunities I'm now starting to have."

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/study/student-and-career-profiles/nick-dempsey

**Want to know more about
careers in public health?**

Our podcast

– Public Health Insiders –

launched in 2024.

LISTEN TO IT HERE



METHODOLOGICAL INNOVATION, INTERSECTORAL COLLABORATION, AND PARTNERSHIPS DRIVING RESEARCH SUCCESS

The 2024 calendar year marked a period of exceptional momentum and impact for our School, driven by our outstanding research teams. Motivated by our commitment to improving health outcomes locally and globally, SPHPM's researchers addressed a range of complex health challenges through innovation, collaboration, and methodological rigour.

A defining feature of our research in 2024 was the diversity and sophistication of the methodologies employed, including large and complex platform trials, living evidence syntheses, advanced data analytics, qualitative inquiry and co-design. We pursued methodological advancements in biostatistical modelling, and generated new understanding around the safe and efficient integration of AI and emerging technologies, both of which will have profound impacts on healthcare practice, policy and research globally.

Our leadership in data infrastructure was again on display through our role as Australia's largest manager of clinical registries. We combined this with our methodological expertise to deliver a National Guide for Registry-based Trials.

Hosting the World Health Summit Regional Meeting was an exciting opportunity to harness our convening power and ability to bridge sectors, disciplines, and countries to foster dialogue that transcends traditional academic boundaries and brings greater understanding. Beyond the Regional Meeting, our researchers led and participated in numerous intersectoral collaborations, ranging from injury prevention and maternal health to planetary health and health economics.

SPHPM's commitment to translating our research into meaningful change remains a cornerstone of our work. Through sustained partnerships with government agencies and health services, and our growing commitment to community-led co-design, we ensured that our research addresses questions that matter, is reliable and methodologically excellent, and is translated into policy and practice to improve health and well-being outcomes in Australia, the Asia Pacific and beyond. Examples of high impact clinical practice change and policy reforms informed by our research and advocacy include trauma care, women's health, prevention, and helping children thrive in the first 1,000 days of life.

Underpinning all of this is our vibrant research environment, one that nurtures excellence, fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, ensures research integrity, and supports the next generation of public health research leaders. Our staff and students benefit from a culture that values curiosity, rigour, collaboration and inclusivity.

As we look ahead, we do so with confidence in our collective capacity to generate the evidence needed to shape a healthier, more equitable future. Thank you to all our researchers, partners, and supporters for making 2024 a year of innovation and impact.

Professor Sally Green
Deputy Head of School (Research)



HEALTHIER AND SAFER COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENTS





Behavioural and Social Epidemiology

Our ground-breaking research in behavioural and social epidemiology helps elucidate how social, cultural, behavioural and other non-medical factors influence health.

We develop evidence-based interventions that address health inequities and improve population health and wellbeing across Australia, and around the world.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Co-design and implementation of VicHealth's vape-free campus initiative at Monash University, leveraging the voices of our students.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/empowering-students-a-collaborative-approach-to-vaping-prevention

Creation of evidence to inform the continued rollout of the Our Place initiative, that seeks to aid families through the transition from early learning to School.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/health-and-social-care/research/supporting-social-and-emotional-health-in-early-childhood

Scale-up of HEALing Matters, a lifestyle intervention aimed at closing the health gap for young people living in out-of-home care.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/health-and-social-care/research/lifestyle-health-of-young-people-living-in-out-of-home-care



Forensic Medicine

We're home to Monash's Department of Forensic Medicine, working in close partnership with the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine to develop the next generation of leading forensic practitioners.

From examining premature deaths and preventable injuries to inappropriate prescribing of drugs, our research has been contributing to public health policies and evidence-based practices for more than two decades.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Publication of the first study to examine patients presenting to medical services at Victorian music festivals, ahead of the State's first summer of pill testing.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/first-reports-from-blood-testing-of-unwell-music-festival-goers-reveals-concerning-results

Using hair analysis to inform our knowledge around recent trends of exposure to methylamphetamine (aka ice or crystal meth) among children who have died in Victoria.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/deaths-of-victorian-children-with-exposure-to-methylamphetamine

Delivery of our DSS-funded training for health professionals responding to disclosures of adult sexual abuse in face-to-face format for the first time, reaching regional and remote areas including Mt Barker and Alice Springs, with 471 participants in total throughout the year.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/our-courses/professional-education/responding-to-sexual-violence



Global Health

We support a broad portfolio of research in global health, addressing critical issues such as infectious diseases, maternal and child health, health systems strengthening, and climate change impacts for some of the most vulnerable communities in our region.

Driven by a deep commitment to improving health equity across the Indo-Pacific, we're working to strengthen interdisciplinary collaborations and support community-driven solutions.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Input in a landmark series in The Lancet, exploring the crucial window of opportunity to help children aged two to five years thrive.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/what-happens-between-2-and-5-years-of-age-is-crucially-important-landmark-series-from-the-lancet

Co-development of COVID-19 epidemiological models and leading user training in three Western Pacific nations, driving better real-time policy.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/epidemiological-modelling/research-program

Leading the assessment component of the RISE randomised controlled trial, testing novel, affordable and ecologically sensitive strategies to improve sanitation and clean drinking water access in Fiji and Indonesian informal communities.

rise-program.org/

Upscaling of work improving child health and development in resource-constrained settings.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/global-and-womens-health/research/global-health



Mental Health and Wellbeing

We aim to protect and promote mental health and wellbeing through a range of innovative research programs to enhance prevention, early intervention, and support strategies across diverse populations.

Our work focuses on lived experience and understanding the biological, social, and environmental factors that influence mental health and wellbeing to inform evidence-based policies and programs.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

A project to evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of telehealth-delivered mental health support programs for rural and regional Australians, to aid in scale up of activities.

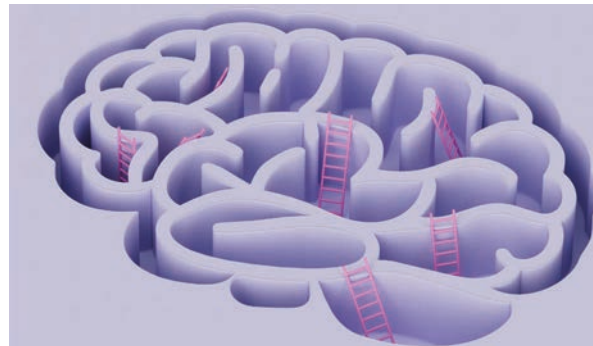
monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/mrff-success-supports-better-mental-health-for-rural-australians

Driving research activities, including hosting a summit, under the Connecting for Better Health program which aims to reduce social isolation and loneliness.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/connecting-for-better-health

Undertaking research for Design for Care, a project using real-world exemplar organisations to discover how best to create mentally safe and healthy workplaces.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/healthy-working-lives-research-group/our-research



Planetary Health

We're forging new ground in the emerging field of Planetary Health, addressing the health of humanity in the context of dynamic social and environmental systems, including climate change and geopolitical challenges.

By combining insights from many disciplines, we're advancing the 'eco-social' understanding of health, emphasising the critical importance of diverse perspectives in building resilience and creating solutions to problems that are impacting populations across the globe.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Creating evidence that supports women to engage in bike riding, helping them unlock the health, economic and environmental potentials that active transport modes offers.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/traumaepi/sustainable-mobility-and-safety-research-group/our-research/petal

Revealing the health impacts of extreme bushfires on the police, fire fighters and paramedics who respond to them.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/australias-increased-risk-of-severe-bushfires-and-their-impact-on-first-responders-health

Monitoring the emerging health threat of silicosis for the government, and advocating for occupational health strategies to protect workers.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/monash-study-finds-increased-risk-of-autoimmune-disease-in-stone-bench-top-industry,-raising-concerns-for-screening

Identifying how the health impacts of cyclones differ from those of other climate-related disasters, in the face of more intense and frequent storm systems.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/cyclones-are-increasing-as-the-climate-warms-and-they-remain-deadly-up-to-a-month-after-the-event-study-finds

Investigating the health impacts of short-term exposure to high-levels of air pollution, and discovering that 1 million lives are lost globally each year, and that those deaths in Australia rose by 40 per cent between 2000 and 2019.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/short-term-exposure-to-high-levels-of-air-pollution-kills-1m-globally-every-year



Public Health Genomics

We work at the critical intersection of medical genetics, clinical research, epidemiology and public health, leveraging genetic insights to inform disease prevention, precision medicine, and population health strategies.

Through innovation and large-scale research programs, we translate genomic discoveries into policies and interventions that can responsibly and sustainably improve health outcomes on a national scale.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Continuation of DNA Screen, exploring the acceptability, feasibility and cost-effectiveness of a national screening program to identify heritable gene changes known to raise risk of modifiable medical conditions.

dnascreen.monash.edu

Advocating for a legislative ban on genetic discrimination in the life insurance industry.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/australian-government-bans-genetic-discrimination-in-life-insurance-a-big-win-for-preventive-health



Social and Cultural Determinants of Health

Addressing disparities and building a more just and equitable society in which health can thrive is critical to realising our shared vision — better health and wellbeing for all.

We conduct pioneering research exploring non-medical factors that influence health, such as where people are born, grow, live, learn and work, together with the complex environmental, social, cultural, economic and political systems that impact people and communities.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Creating multi-lingual videos providing culturally-relevant, evidence-based information regarding contraceptive choices, and supporting mental and physical wellbeing at midlife.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/breaking-health-barriers-for-culturally-and-linguistically-diverse-australian-women

Exploring the relationship between socioeconomic status and the incidence, treatment and outcomes of cardiogenic shock treated in pre-hospital settings.

academic.oup.com/ehjqcco/article/10/1/89/7044772

Producing reports on the health of Australia's workforce, including one describing, for the first time, the burden of working time lost to compensable occupational injury and disease.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/healthy-working-lives-research-group/publications-and-resources

Progressing Worker's Voice, a project to design and model a kinder, more effective workers' compensation system that reflects the experiences of those who've engaged in existing systems.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/healthy-working-lives-research-group/our-research



EFFECTIVE AND HIGH VALUE PREVENTION AND CLINICAL CARE



Acute and Critical Care

We're home to a large, interdisciplinary team of internationally recognised research leaders collaborating across pre-hospital, emergency, acute and intensive care settings.

We conduct groundbreaking clinical trials and develop innovative practice and policy solutions to improve the management of acute illnesses, severe injuries, and life-threatening conditions.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Reaching recruitment milestones on two important critical care trials: CLIP-II, looking at the use of cryopreserved platelets to manage surgical bleeding, and LOGICAL, investigating conservative oxygen therapy in cardiac arrest patients.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/anzicrc/research

Identifying Australian regions with high rates of cardiac arrest and low rates of CPR, enabling targeted campaigns to improve community responses to out-of-hospital cardiac events.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/australian-regions-needing-cardiac-arrest-education-revealed

Re-funding of BLOOD Synergy, allowing them to pursue their goals of better blood product access, safer and more appropriate transfusion, stronger stewardship of national blood supplies, and reduced costs.

[monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/blood-synergy-research-program-receives-new-\\$5-million-nhmrc-synergy-grant](https://monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/blood-synergy-research-program-receives-new-$5-million-nhmrc-synergy-grant)

Initiating a collaboration between health system design experts and our CRE-OPTIMAL researchers to work towards effective and sustainable immunoglobulin usage in Australia.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/transfusionresearch/optimal-cre



Age-related Conditions

We're dedicated to advancing research and education in age-related conditions, focusing on improving health outcomes and ways to keep people living healthy and productive lives for longer.

Through innovative studies, public health initiatives, and collaborations, the school addresses critical challenges that affect healthy ageing, such as cardiometabolic diseases, inflammatory and autoimmune diseases, menopause, mental health and cognition.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

A systematic review appraising menopause guidance in Australia over the last 10 years, identifying areas of high consensus, and areas that should provoke caution among practitioners.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/menopause-treatment-review-provides-new-clarity-for-women-and-health-practitioners

Providing a report to Government projecting the future burden of arthritis, and publishing an accompanying academic paper in Lancet Rheumatology.

arthritisaustralia.com.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Arthritis-projection-2040-web-version.pdf

Completion of trial recruitment for multiple clinical trials exploring the management of chronic low back pain and knee among people with osteoarthritis or disc herniation.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/musculoskeletal-epidemiology

A study showing the longevity benefits of walking for transport purposes among older populations, underscoring the importance of safe suburbs.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/walking-for-transport-at-least-once-a-week-may-help-some-older-people-live-longer-study

The launch of a podcast – *Is This Dementia?* – that unravels the complexities of the dementia diagnosis pathway.

podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/is-this-dementia/id1767078746





Cancer

We take a distinctive approach to cancer research informed by real-world practice—combining our deep expertise in clinical outcomes reporting and health services research with population-based prevention strategies, large-scale clinical trials and data-driven technologies.

Our research is addressing the burden of cancer right from prevention, screening and early detection through to improved treatments, services and lived experience for patients, families and carers.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Winning the NHMRC's David Cooper Award for a grant to expand a project exploring clonal haematopoiesis of indeterminate potential (CHIP), an emerging risk factor for blood cancers.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/tuberculosis-and-blood-cancer-researchers-recognised-with-nhmrc-excellence-awards

Our Melanoma and Skin Cancer Research Centre launched recruitment for the Siro Skin trial, investigating the role of a topical Sirolimus cream in preventing facial skin cancers among solid organ transplant recipients receiving immunosuppressive therapy.

masc.org.au/siroskin/

Secured funding and launched a cervical cancer module of the National Gynae-Oncology Registry, and expanded operations of the Asia-Pacific Myeloma and Related Diseases Registry into China.



Cardiovascular and metabolic diseases

We conduct pioneering research in cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, focusing on primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, early detection, risk stratification and improving treatment and clinical care.

Deeply embedded in frontline healthcare services, our unique interdisciplinary capabilities span clinical registries, clinical trials, diagnostics, big data analytics, behavioural and implementation science and population health.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Indicating the potential value of anti-inflammatory agents to prevent type 2 diabetes or improve glucose control, and the need to comprehensively assess potential safety risks such as bleeding.

[sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2213858723003273](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2213858723003273)

Using the Melbourne Interventional Group PCI Registry data to identify a growing sub-group of acute coronary syndrome patients who are more likely to present with a devastating cardiac event than their peers.

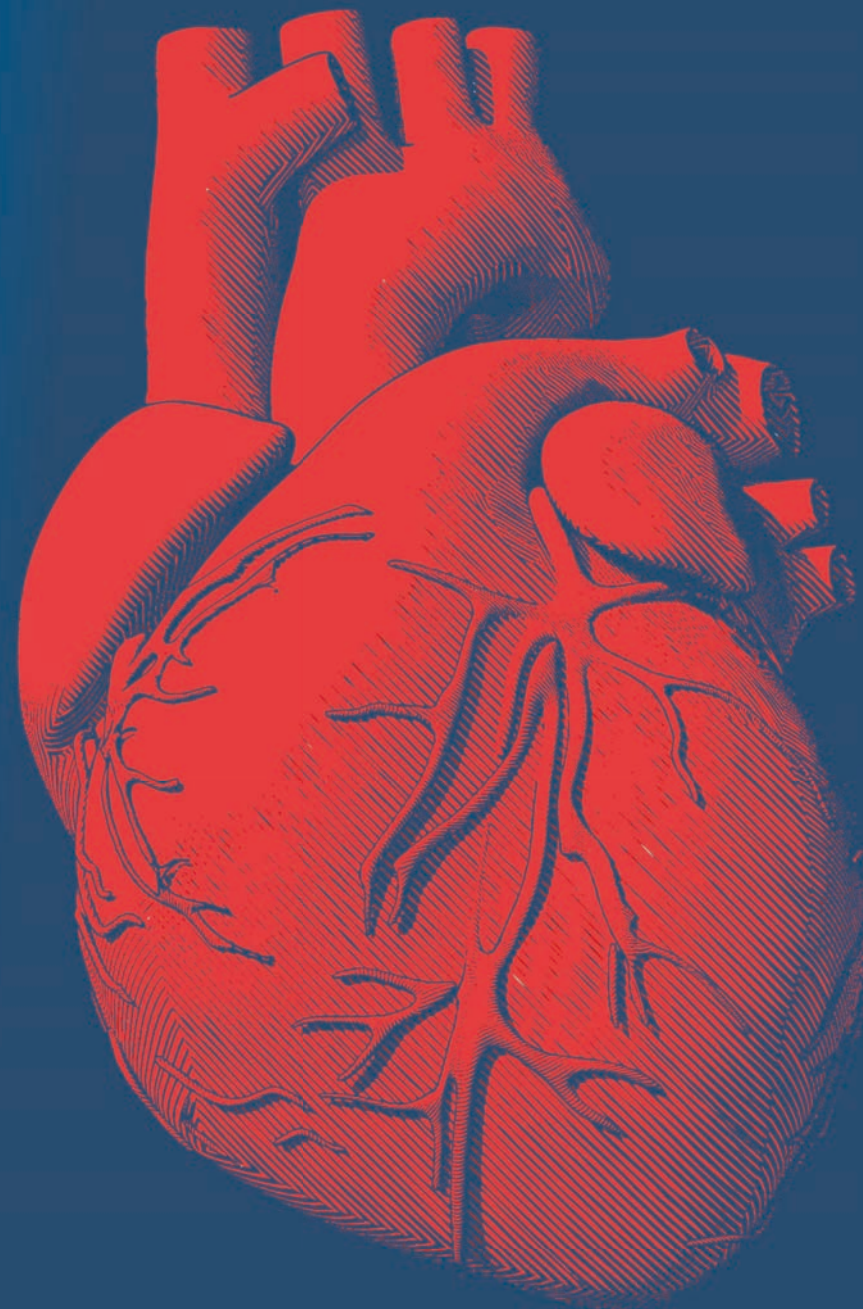
openheart.bmj.com/content/11/1/e002733

The Australian Diabetes Clinical Quality Registry expanded activities to include data from 3,000 adults with diabetes, and introduced new benchmarking in its reporting to contributing sites.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/adqcr

Helping quantify the productivity burden of cardiovascular disease in type 2 diabetes, and the potential benefits of improved risk factor control.

academic.oup.com/eurjpc/article/33/1/121/7750068





General Practice

Medicine is constantly evolving. We're home to the Monash Department of General Practice, a research-intensive department committed to building the evidence-base to improve health outcomes and improving the future of general practice.

We apply a whole-of-life approach to research that helps GPs prevent and manage high-burden, chronic and complex conditions.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Finding evidence that supports the role of GPs in actively discussing contraceptive choices with new mothers in the 6-week period after birth, to aid in family planning.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/new-study-to-improve-contraceptive-care-for-mothers-of-newborn-babies

Publishing an audit of GP medical records that shows a need to improve recording of pregnancy risk factors in order to provide best care for high-risk women.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/pre-pregnancy-risk-factors-are-common-amongst-women-of-reproductive-age

Completing research for the INTEGRATE project and providing novel, evidence-based recommendations to improve referral processes between primary care and hospital outpatient clinics in south-east Melbourne.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/general-practice/guidelines-and-systems-improvement



Musculoskeletal Conditions

Our mission is to reduce the substantial burden of musculoskeletal injury and illness, which continues to impact quality of life for millions of Australians. These conditions represent a major public health challenge, with long-term implications for individual wellbeing and healthcare system sustainability.

Through an emphasis on prevention, evidence-based treatment and reducing low-value care, we aim to improve mobility, reduce pain, and extend healthy life years. Our research program delivers high-quality clinical evidence and drives its translation into practice and policy—supporting more effective, equitable, and sustainable healthcare.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Providing input into updated ACSQHC Knee Osteoarthritis Clinical Care Standards and the accompanying translational resources for clinicians.

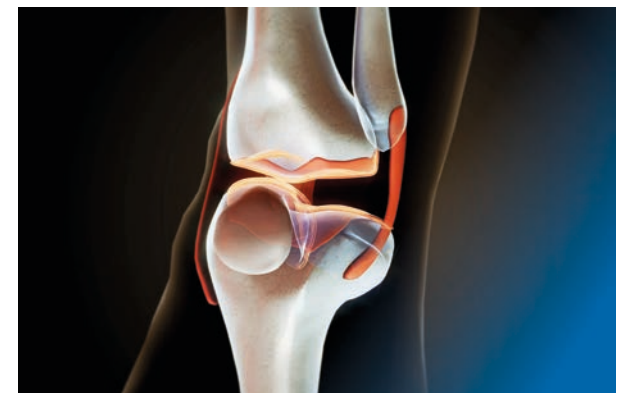
safetyandquality.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-08/osteoarthritis-knee-clinical-care-standard-2024.pdf

Continued the activity of the Australian and New Zealand Musculoskeletal Clinical Trials Network to optimise collaborative research in the field.

anzmusc.org/about-us/

A two-decade long study of 695 men that found that gaining just three kilograms of weight over five years is linked to back pain and high rates of disability ten years later.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/small-male-weight-gains-increase-risk-of-back-pain-and-disability,-local-study-finds



Women's Health

We lead groundbreaking research in women's health, driving innovative solutions to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for women across all stages of the life span.

With a strong focus on evidence-based care and services, our work empowers women to lead healthier lives, promotes gender equity and shapes policies for lasting societal impact.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Co-development of a model of care utilising nurses to boost access to contraceptive and medical abortion care in regional and rural Australia.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/helping-nurses-lift-much-needed-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health-care-in-rural-and-regional-areas

Recruited for studies exploring the role of testosterone supplementation to reduce bone and muscle loss, prevent heart failure, and restore libido in women around menopause.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/menopause-relief-in-the-spotlight-thanks-to-monash-university-led-studies

Secured government funding to continue the AusCAPPS Network, giving support and professional development to providers of LARC and medical abortion.

health.gov.au/resources/publications/government-response-to-inquiry-ending-the-postcode-lottery

Developing a blueprint for eliminating weight stigma for women in preconception, pregnancy or postpartum life stages.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/the-hidden-burden-of-weight-stigma-in-pregnant-women-and-new-mums







TRUSTED EVIDENCE FOR PRACTICE, POLICY AND SERVICE DELIVERY



Biostatistics and Modelling

We are a global leader in the use of advanced statistical techniques and computational tools to deliver innovative methods for tackling complex public health challenges.

Our expertise shapes health policy and practice—powering clinical care with robust science, enhancing disease prediction and prevention strategies, and driving evidence-based decision-making worldwide.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Dynamic modelling of interventions to reduce tuberculosis in Indonesia, such as active case finding, preventive therapy, and new diagnostics.

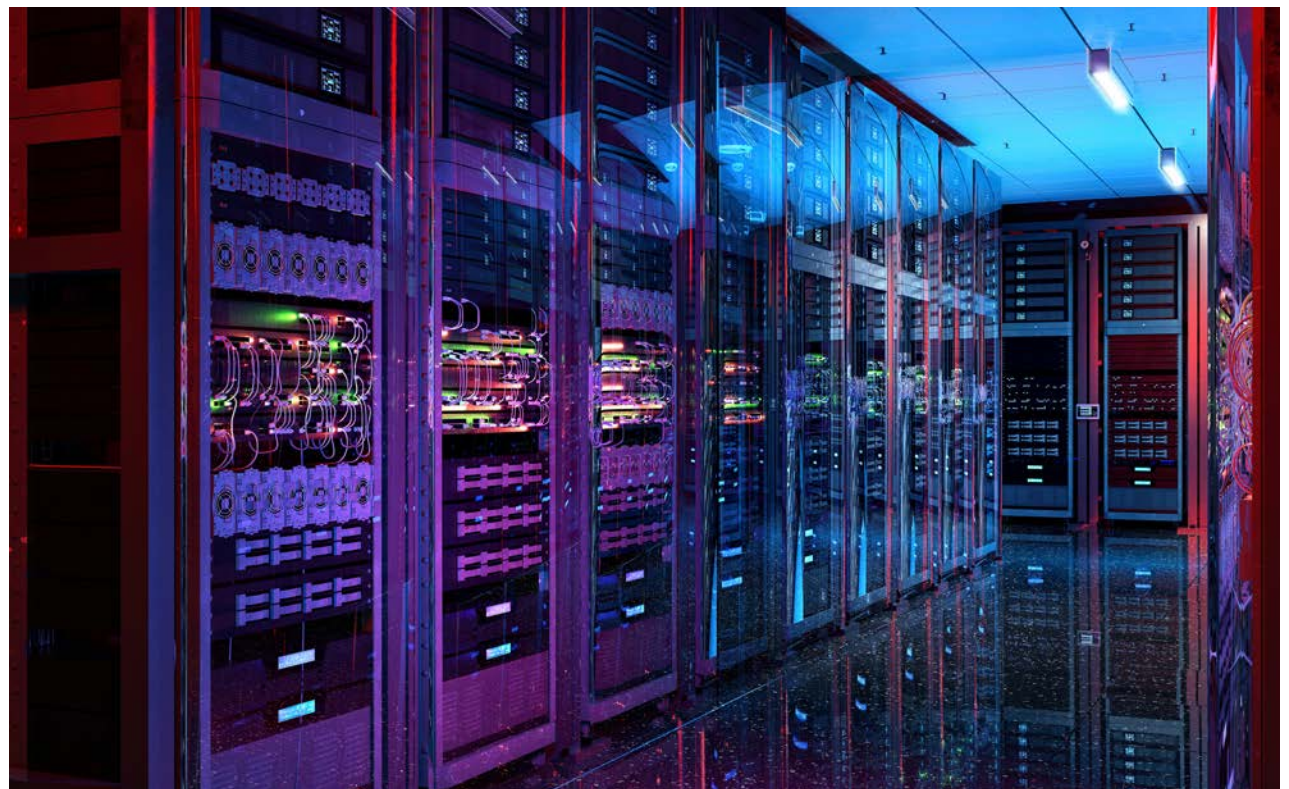
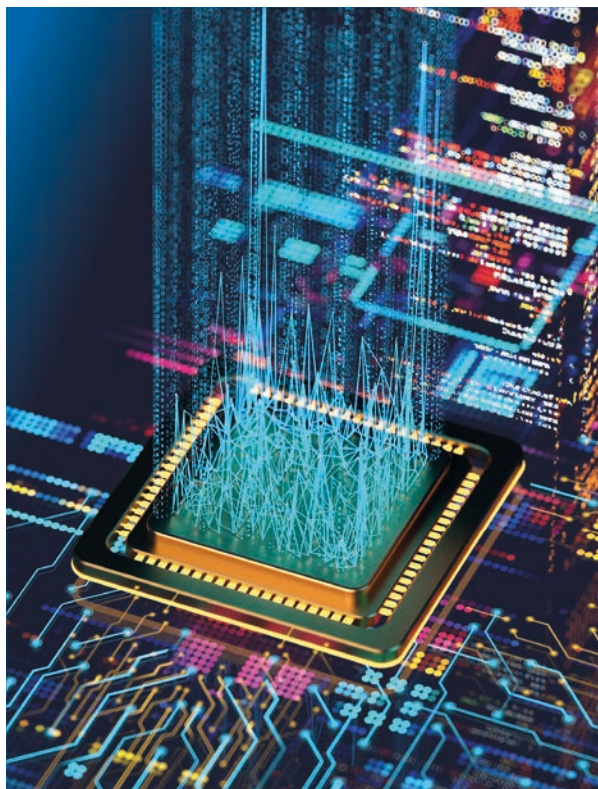
monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/epidemiological-modelling/research-program

Finalists in the Eureka Prize for Infectious Diseases Research for ongoing work to support COVID-19 policy among regional neighbours.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/viral-hepatitis-leader-and-epidemiological-modelling-program-selected-as-finalists-in-the-2024-australian-museum-eureka-prizes

Securing competitive grant funding to advance biostatistical methodology across stepped-wedge trials, cluster-randomised crossover studies, and multi-domain platform cluster trials involving machine learning, and authorship involvement in more than 50 methods papers.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/biostats



Clinical Registries and Real-World Data

We're Australia's leading centre for the development and management of Clinical Quality Registries and large population datasets. We power over 40 registries that ensure the delivery of safe, high-quality care through robust data collection and analysis.

Our expertise in capturing and interpreting complex clinical and real-world data enables rapid identification of unwarranted variation to safeguard patients, drives quality innovation and enables priority-driven research to be embedded into routine clinical practice.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Leading an update of a key cardiac arrest reporting tool, advancing registry science and research into treating out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/big-leap-forward-for-reporting-on-out-of-hospital-cardiac-arrests

ECMO-focused clinical registry EXCEL enrolled their 2,500th patient, and convened a consumer peer support group for survivors.

The National Transfusion Dataset took delivery of data from five health services encompassing nearly 50,000 transfusion episodes, and completed pilot linkages with a raft of existing registries to enable future expansion.

The Australian Pelvic Floor Procedure Registry recorded its 1,000th patient, and expanded its scope to include native tissue procedures used in the management of stress urinary incontinence.

Reports from the Australian Breast Device Registry were instrumental in the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) decision to continue to approve Tiloop's use in Australia, and to the development of the TGA's 2024 Breast Implant Risk Management Framework.

The Aus-ROC Epistry expanded into a mature registry after securing Centre of Research Excellence funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council.

In July 2024, Australia became the first country in the world to ban the use of crystalline silica containing artificial stone, citing data from our Silica- and Related Diseases Registry as a justification.

The Victorian Cardiac Outcomes Registry welcomed its 135,000th patient after 12 years, and partnered with Safer Care Victoria to report on rates of same day discharge for Percutaneous Coronary Intervention patients in Victorian public hospitals.



Clinical Trials

We're Australia's leading centre for the development and management of Clinical Quality Registries and large population datasets. We power over 40 registries and are among the most experienced and trusted clinical trial coordinating centres in the Southern Hemisphere, with over 100 investigator-led trials active on our portfolio at any time.

Our specialist expertise in multicentre, late-phase trials and innovative trial methodologies is driving real-world practice and policy change, saving and improving lives every day.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Continuation of the RATIONAL platform trial, addressing evidence gaps in immunoglobulin use and infection prevention in patients with blood cancer.

bloodsynergy.org/rational-rationalise

Opening the RATIONALISE trial to compare immunoglobulins with prophylactic oral antibiotics to prevent infections in adults with blood cancers, and driving its evolution into a platform trial with biological, qualitative and health economics sub-studies.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/transfusionresearch/our-research

Delivery of a report for Government outlining a national roadmap to support standardised, high quality registry-based clinical trials.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/registries/registry-based-research/developing-a-best-practice-guide-for-registry-based-trials

Continued expansion of the Faculty-led Monash University Clinical Trials Centre, offering a range of clinical trials services to solve real-world health problems.

monash.edu/medicine/clinical-trials-centre

The landmark REMAP-CAP platform trial to evaluate treatments for critically-ill patients with community acquired pneumonia presented findings on their corticosteroid and simvastatin domains at the Critical Cares Review meeting in Belfast, and undertook a major update to their protocol documents, CRF and database, incorporating learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic.

remapcap.org



50

CLINICAL TRIALS LED THROUGH
OUR SCHOOL IN 2024

\$10M
+

IN CLINICAL TRIALS FUNDING
ANNOUNCED IN 2024

Consumer and Community Involvement

Across our School, we lead a large body of work embedding consumer and community involvement in research, ensuring that studies are shaped by diverse perspectives, address real-world needs and enhance the quality and impact of our research.

We're advancing both knowledge and capacity for researchers to partner meaningfully and effectively with health consumers through innovative approaches such as community co-design and living laboratories.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Launch of the Monash University Clinical Trials Centre's new consumer engagement platform.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/monash-launches-game-changing-consumer-and-community-engagement-platform-for-research

Continued to formalise our consumer-driven approach in cardiac care by engaging consumers as co-investigators and partnering on grants.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/ccre/patient-education-and-secondary-prevention

Producing a range of policy and practice packs to empower researchers to engage with lived experience experts and champion co-design processes.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/health-and-social-care/policy-and-practice-packs

Developing the first programmatic, multi-sectoral and transcultural program of research focused on advancing equity-centred Implementation Science across health, social care, and education.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/health-and-social-care/research/sempré





Digital Health and AI

We're driving digital innovation to transform healthcare delivery, bringing together our substantial data assets and research expertise with cutting-edge artificial intelligence and automation technologies to develop tools that radically enhance decision-making, personalise care, and improve health system efficiency.

We're also helping to navigate the complexity of the digital health future, providing expert insights and thought leadership to shape best practice on key issues such as privacy and security, governance, ethical standards, safety, equity and trust.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Reaching recruitment milestones on the IMAGE and ACEMID Cohort Trials, both exploring the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of high-resolution 3D body scanning for early melanoma detection.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/cancer-research/acemid

Co-establishment of the Skin, Inflammation, Informatics and Neoplasia (SkIIN) Discovery Program, investigating the use of emerging technologies like AI, and genomics and immunotherapy to advance detection and treatment of skin diseases.

monash.edu/medicine/translational/research/skin-inflammation-informatics-and-neoplasia

Demonstration of the feasibility of using a neural network to use images from existing traffic cameras to measure and predict fine particulate PM2.5 air pollution levels, indicating an easy and affordable way to expand air quality monitoring.

sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969723078634

Laying the groundwork for MAVERIC, an advanced AI supercomputer representing a transformative change to Australia's sovereign Artificial Intelligence research capability.

monash.edu/news/articles/monash-university-to-invest-in-a-leading-ai-supercomputer-to-boost-nations-research-capability-a-first-for-australias-higher-education-sector2

Exploring the application of augmented reality and virtual reality in crime scene analysis and forensic medicine generally, as well as machine learning and imaging for anatomical reconstruction and facial recognition for deceased people.



Evidence Synthesis and Guidelines

Evidence synthesis plays a critical role in healthcare decision-making by bringing clarity to complex and often conflicting research. It enables researchers, clinicians, policymakers, and consumers to base decisions on the full body of available evidence rather than isolated findings.

We produce rigorous systematic reviews and meta-analyses that inform clinical guidelines, public health strategies, and policy development. We also lead innovation in evidence synthesis and guideline methodology, including living guidelines that are continuously updated to reflect new research—ensuring recommendations remain current, credible, and responsive to changing health needs. This critical work drives more effective, evidence-informed healthcare systems.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Working with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and the Australian College of Midwives, to update clinical guidelines around pregnancy and prenatal care and transition them to a living guideline model.

livingevidence.org.au/living-guidelines/leapp/

Leading the transition of Australian guidelines for inflammatory arthritis to a living guideline model.

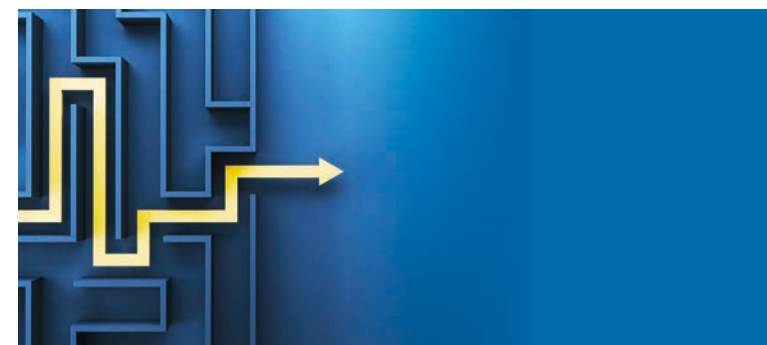
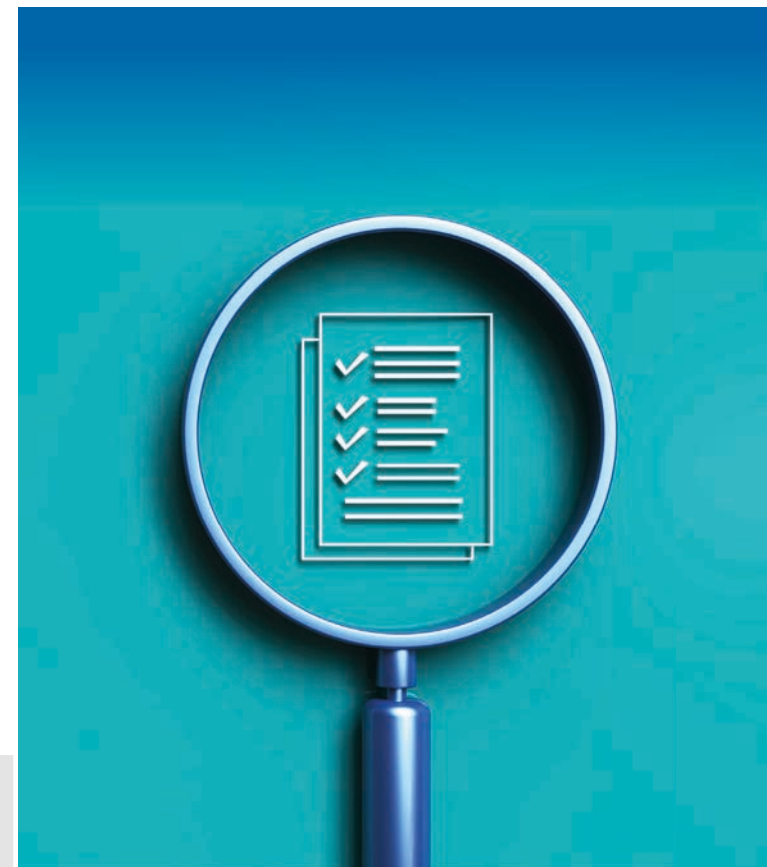
rheumatology.org.au/For-Healthcare-Professionals/Australian-Living-Guidelines/Adult-Living-Guidelines

Celebrating the entry of methodologist Dr Matthew Page into the Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Authors list, sparked by his work updating PRISMA guidelines to raise the quality of systematic review reporting.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/an-eye-for-quality-sees-methodologist-enter-the-highly-cited-list

Establishing the Cochrane Musculoskeletal Health and Pain Thematic Group.

cochrane.org/about-us/our-global-community/thematic-groups/musculoskeletal-health-and-pain



Health Economics

Health economics is a key strength across our School, with researchers delivering high-impact work that supports more efficient, equitable, and sustainable health and social care. Through rigorous economic evaluation and modelling, we guide the optimal use of limited resources across major health challenges — including mental health, ageing, chronic disease, cancer, and critical care.

Our research informs policy and practice through active collaborations with government, industry, and academia. With around 60 funded projects and a strong teaching program from undergraduate to PhD level, we're building the evidence and expertise needed to support smarter health investment.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Demonstrating that structured education and exercise therapy may be cost-effective measures that delay or avoid knee replacement surgery in people with lower pain levels, while improving healthcare sustainability.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/study-reveals-cost-saving-alternatives-to-knee-replacement-surgery

Development of a checklist to guide reporting of discrete choice experiments in healthcare, driving quality and standardisation of these tools that are invaluable to understanding patient decision-making and participation.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/health-economics-group/health-preference-research

Providing health economic analysis on a range of projects aimed at improving effective, cost-efficient care in the intensive care setting.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/anzicrc/research/anzic-rc-health-economics-program

Using data from the SELECT trial to analyse cost-effectiveness of semaglutide at current Australian-market pricing for people with cardiovascular disease, and overweight or obesity, but without diabetes.

academic.oup.com/ehjqcco/article/11/6/857/7726721



Health Services and Implementation

Health services and implementation research is central to improving how care is delivered and experienced. We work with multidisciplinary experts, health professionals, and consumers to understand real-world access to care and identify what works in practice.

Our research is vital to bridging the gap between evidence and action—driving system-level changes that improve outcomes, enhance user experience, and embed equity and efficiency into everyday healthcare. A strong focus on consumer involvement and co-design ensures our solutions are grounded in lived experience and tailored to real-world needs.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Finalised data collection of the VIC-COL study, that drives high-value healthcare by optimising the use of colonoscopy in Victorian public hospitals.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/musculoskeletal-health/vic-col

Publication of a Cochrane Review exploring factors influencing the implementation of hospital-at-home programs.

monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2024-articles/navigating-dementia-diagnosis-and-care

Expansion of our short course portfolio to build capacity in the personal injury sector.

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/our-courses/professional-education

Leading a collaboration within the ANZBACK-CRE, that aims to describe trends and policy impacts on the use of pain medicines in Australians with workers' compensation claims for low back pain.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Australia Day and King's Birthday Honours

- Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the General Division
– Adjunct Professor Brett Sutton AO

Teaching Awards

- Council of Public Health Institutions Australasia Teaching Excellence Award (Team)
– Medical Education Research and Quality Unit
- Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Award for Educational Leadership
– Professor Dragan Ilic
- Monash Graduate Association Lecturer of the Year
– Associate Professor Danijela Gasevic

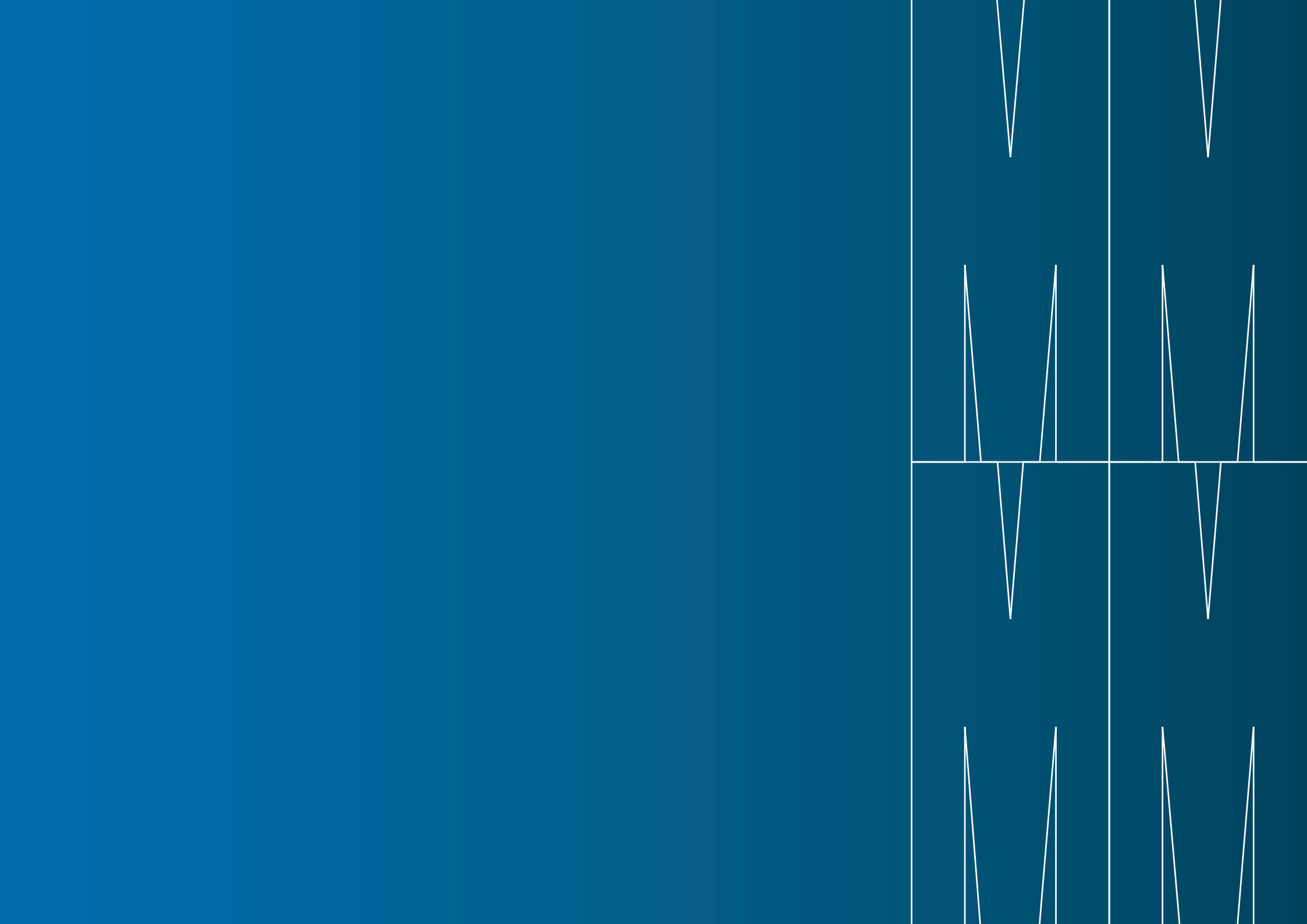
Research Awards

- Clarivate Highly Cited Researchers:
Professor Rachelle Buchbinder AO, Professor Rinaldo Bellomo AO, Dr Matthew Page
- Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science
– Professor Rachelle Buchbinder AO
- Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS)
– Professor Jane Fisher AO
- Young Tall Poppy Award
– Associate Professor Ben Beck
- Victorian Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research: Public Health Researcher Award
– Dr Rongbin Xu
- Victorian Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research: Health Services Researcher Award
– Dr Rob Mitchell
- National Health and Medical Research Council Excellence Awards (Frank Fenner Investigator Grant Award)
– Dr Romain Ragonnet
- National Health and Medical Research Council Excellence Awards (David Cooper Award)
– Professor Zoe McQuilten
- Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Award for Research Engagement and Impact
– Professor Danielle Mazza AM
- Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Award for Research Team of the Year
– Climate, Air Quality Research (CARE) Unit
- Dean's Award for Excellence in Research: Engagement and Impact (Individual)
– Professor Danielle Mazza AM
- Dean's Award for Excellence in Research: Engagement and Impact (Team)
– The Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre
- Dean's Award for Excellence in Research:
Team of the Year - Climate, Air Quality Research (CARE) Unit

OUR RESEARCH UNITS AND GROUPS

We apply our rich expertise across public health and clinical domains, and in contemporary research methods through the following research and educational Departments, Groups and Units:

- ASPREE (ASpirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly) Research
- Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre
- Behavioural and Social Epidemiology
- Biological Neuropsychiatry and Dementia
- Biostatistics
- Cancer Research Program
- Centre of Cardiovascular Research and Education in Therapeutics
- Climate, Air Quality Research
- Clinical Outcomes Data Reporting and Research Program
- Cochrane Australia
- Diabetes Research
- Department of Forensic Medicine
- Department of General Practice
- Epidemiological Modelling
- Global and Women's Health
- Hazelwood Health Study
- Health and Social Care
- Health Economics Group
- Healthy Working Lives Research Group
- Infectious Diseases Epidemiology
- Medical Education Research and Quality
- Melanoma and Skin Cancer Research
- Methods in Evidence Synthesis
- Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health
- Musculoskeletal Epidemiology
- Musculoskeletal Health
- Pre-Hospital, Emergency and Trauma Research
- Public Health Genomics
- Transfusion Research
- STAREE (STATins in Reducing Events in the Elderly) Research
- Sustainable Mobility and Safety Research
- Women's Health Research Program





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PUBLIC HEALTH
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MEDICINE

CONTACT US

Monash University
School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine
553 St Kilda Road,
Melbourne, VIC 3004, Australia

monash.edu/medicine/sphpm

E: sphpm@monash.edu
T: +61 3 9903 0444

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