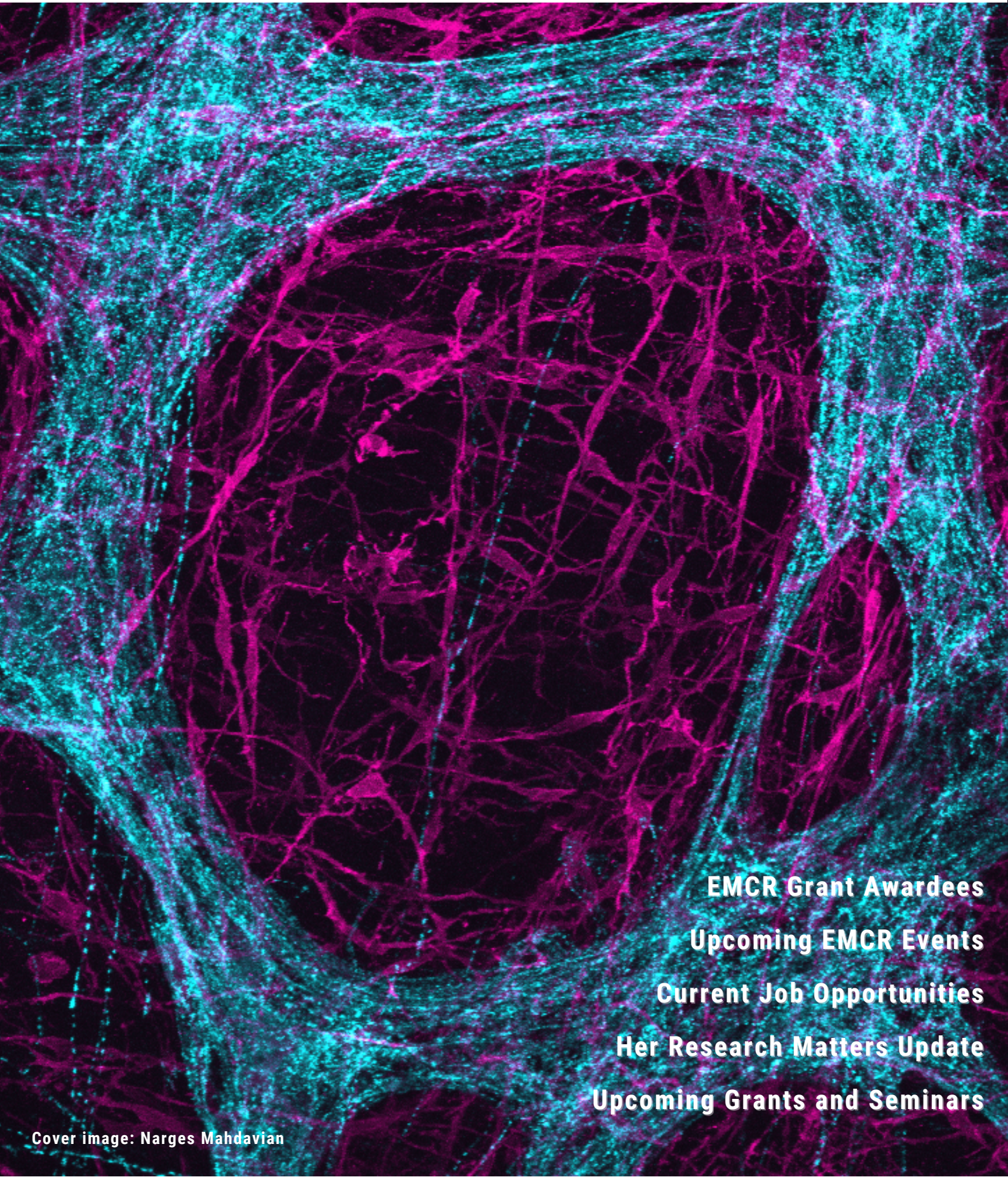


NEWSLETTER

Monash Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences



- EMCR Grant Awardees**
- Upcoming EMCR Events**
- Current Job Opportunities**
- Her Research Matters Update**
- Upcoming Grants and Seminars**

FPPS EMCR NEWSLETTER



A letter from the editors

Welcome to the first edition of the FPPS EMCR Newsletter for 2023!


The newsletter was a great success in 2022, and we appreciate all of the amazing contributions we received last year, as well as the great feedback from you all on what you wanted to see more of in future issues. We are excited to continue to bring you all the news and achievements from around the talented FPPS EMCR community.

The FPPS EMCR committee has changed over the past few months; we have said goodbye to old members and our previous president, and welcomed many new members and two new co-presidents. You can read more about them in the first few pages of this issue. We would like to wish Emma all the best and thank her for her service as president of the committee last year, and are excited to see what the committee achieves going forward.

As always, if you are interested in submitting a cover image, informing us of a grant or publication, are interested in an EMCR spotlight column or have any other contributions relevant to the EMCR community get in touch via:

 pharm-emcr-committee@monash.edu

 @EMCR_MIPS

 MIPS EMCR GROUP

**Liam Koehn and
Shane Hellyer**

*Co-editors in chief,
FPPS EMCR Newsletter*



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F P P S E M C R C O M M I T T E E

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am proud to have been given the opportunity to be the MIPS EMCR committee president in 2022, after being a part of the committee since 2021. Contributing to the EMCR committee has been a rewarding experience and expanded my network across the different themes. Our goal for 2022 was to reconnect the MIPS-EMCR community after 2 years of COVID-19 lockdowns. To achieve this goal we successfully hosted:

- 1x MIPS-EMCR symposium, featuring presentations from 14 EMCRs with >70 attendees.
- 4x FASTtrack career development sessions (~30 attendees each) covering themes of
 - "How to write a ROPE section for an ARC fellowship" featuring advice from Simona Carbone, Karen Gregory, Niko Voelker & Neil Owens.
 - "Research Impact & Industry Engagement" with advice from Chris Porter, Cameron McDonald and Tracy Josephs.
 - 2x "Grant Budgeting" with Rosemary Manning.
- 3x Networking events (~30-70 attendees) to "reconnect the EMCR network", including the coffee catch up, the joint social event with the PPA and the MIPS-themed Trivia Night.



I'd like to thank everyone who kindly donated their time and expertise to these sessions to help the EMCR community. I'd also like to thank all the EMCR committee members who kindly donated their time to organising and hosting these events, especially Enyuan Cao, Neil Owens, Sam McNeill, Stephen Wood, Jesse Mobbs and Benoit Smeuninx who all went above and beyond to ensure the success of these events.

Regretfully, I am stepping down from the committee as I need to focus my attention to finalising my research outputs for my current projects and to obtaining funding for future research, which leaves less time to donate to rebuilding the EMCR community and connecting you all with the wider Parkville EMCR network. However, I am leaving you in the good hands of Benoit Smeuninx, who will lead the committee for the remainder of 2023. Benoit will continue working on our 2023 goal of connecting the MIPS-EMCR community with the Parkville EMCR community. It has been an absolute pleasure working with Benoit, and I wish him and the EMCR committee well in the year ahead.

I'd also like to extend my utmost gratitude to Chris Porter, Arthur Christopoulos, Peter Scammells, Gaby Bright and Neil Owens, for their ongoing support for our ideas and events. I'd also like to especially thank Amy Chen for her support in media and communications. With that, I'll say my final farewell, and wish all the MIPS-EMCRs success in your future careers.

Emma van der Westhuizen – President 2022-2023.

FPPS EMCR COMMITTEE COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

Welcome to the first edition of the 2023 EMCR newsletter!

As a committee, our goal is to deliver social events, workshops and symposiums to support and connect EMCRs across the faculty. In 2023, we are grateful to have three new members contributing to our team: Gracia, Pouya and Parisa. You can read about them later in this newsletter.



This year we have two main objectives: firstly, we aim to connect our EMCR committee to other EMCR groups within the Parkville precinct to provide greater networking opportunities. Secondly, we aim to hold a three-part workshop focussing on consumer engagement. The goal of these workshops is to provide EMCRs with an opportunity to learn who consumer advocates are and why we should engage with them for project and grant success.

Keep your eyes peeled out for the first event of the year: a social coffee meet up. This event offers us all the opportunity to network with each other in small groups, but also gives you the chance to give feedback to the EMCR committee of any concerns or event ideas you may have. As always, if there are any workshops or events you believe would be valuable, do not hesitate to contact us at pharm-emcr-committee@monash.edu.

Sam and Ben



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW FPPS EMCR COMMITTEE MEMBERS**Parisa Badiie***Voelcker lab, D4*

I am a postdoctoral research fellow in Prof. Nicolas Voelcker's research group in the D4 theme. My current research is focused on the development of drug delivery systems based on porous silicon nanoparticles for targeted therapy of pancreatic ductal carcinoma. I studied pharmacy at the Tehran University of Medical Sciences and got my PharmD in 2017. Afterwards, I completed my PhD at the University of South Australia in 2022. My PhD project was focused on nanomedicine-based approaches such as the development of polymeric and lipid nanoparticles for the investigation of immune checkpoint inhibitors for cancer immunotherapy

**Gracia Gracia***Porter lab, D4*

I am a postdoctoral researcher in D4 Prof Chris Porter's lab. My current research investigates the use of extracellular matrix (ECM)-modifying strategies to improve cancer immunotherapy. I am also interested in understanding how ECM components can influence the generation and maintenance of anti-tumour immune response.

**Pouya Dehghankelishadi***Voelcker lab, D4*

I am a postdoctoral research fellow at Prof. Nicolas Voelcker's Lab in D4. My research is mainly focused on the development of multi-functional drug delivery systems based on porous silicon nanoparticles and gold nanoclusters with a focus on glioblastoma and breast cancer treatment. I completed my PhD degree at the University of South Australia with a research thesis on the development of high lipoprotein nanoformulations for the delivery of radiosensitisers to the tumour microenvironment, in 2022. Previously, I completed my Doctorate of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree at the Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran, in 2014.



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

HER RESEARCH MATTERS

We ended 2021 on a high note, winning the Vice Chancellor's Excellence Award for Diversity and Inclusion in the team division - a testament to the amazing engagement and enthusiasm of the HRM board, sub-committees and our whole collective. Thank you all for your involvement! During 2022, HRM;

- focused on diversifying the voices that guide the direction of our Collective.
- grew membership and welcomed new faces
- established three sub-committees to support our Pillar leads, with diverse membership from the Faculty including professional staff, research fellows, early career researchers and HDR students.
- sponsored four of our members to attend Science Meets Parliament to represent HRM. Feedback from attendees was extremely positive, with members commenting that "it was a great opportunity to understand the process behind policy making and how scientists can make a difference in that sphere" We will continue to run this program going forward, as it provides great opportunities for our collective to make political connections.
- ran a workshop for the University of Colorado (US), on how we established HRM and the impact of our collective to date, with senior leadership and faculty participating in a round-table discussion on current barriers to equal gender advancement at the University of Colorado, and how to overcome these.

We remain very aware of the gendered impacts of COVID-19, with the inequities of these impacts likely to become more evident in the next year. To this end, we want to be proactive in proposing ideas to advocate on behalf of women researchers and professional staff. Her Research Matters remain outcome-focused, seeking to leverage our collective networks, skills and voices to promote women research leaders at all levels and in all spheres. We look forward to 2023 with a continued commitment to building and reinforcing HRM collective networks.

Michelle Halls and Lauren May - HRM Chairs

HRM Board 2023

HRM Executive

Co-Chairs: Lauren May and Michelle Halls

Secretary: Natalie Trevaskis

Treasurer: Denise Wootten

Pillar Leads:

Communication and Outreach: Amy Chen

Networking and Sponsorship: Simona Carbone

Policy and Philanthropy: Rosemary Manning

Cluster Leads:

Emerging: Ghizal Siddiqui

Established: Karen Gregory

Education: Thao Vu

Allies and Sponsors: Angus Johnston

Faculty Diversity & Inclusion Representative:
Ghizal Siddiqui

Would you like know more?

CONGRATULATIONS! GRANTS & AWARDS



Jesse Mobbs
jesse.mobbs@monash.edu

What is the award?

CASS Foundation Medical/Science award

What is the research topic?

Discovery of a lead molecule for development into a non-hormonal male contraceptive

What is the scientific approach?

This project aims to identify new drug-like molecules that target the human P2X1 receptor, which holds promise as a target for a non-hormonal male contraceptive. Leveraging our recently obtained high-resolution cryo-EM structure of the receptor, we will conduct large-scale virtual ligand screening and pharmacological testing. The identified lead compounds will serve as a foundation for future structure-based drug design, opening avenues for the development of a novel non-hormonal male contraceptive.



Monica Langiu
monica.langiu@monash.edu

What is the award?

Weary Dunlop Foundation Research Grant

What is the research topic?

Investigation of sex-dependent signalling of novel cognition enhancers

What is the scientific approach?

Memory and cognitive impairments heavily affect veterans. New drugs are needed to treat cognitive deficits. This project aims to understand the sex-specific molecular properties of different cognition-enhancers modulating glutamate receptors. Embryonic mouse neurons from cortex and hippocampus will be used to test the pharmacology of glutamate receptor potentiators across different pathways associated with cognitive processes. This project is the first step to a better understanding of how best to target glutamate receptors for therapeutic effect.



The EMCR Committee wants you!

Are you a MedChem EMCR?

We are looking for MedChem representatives to join the FPPS EMCR Committee.

Please send expressions of interest to:
pharm-emcr-committee@monash.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS

EMCR MEET UP FOR FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL

Ever wanted to go to the MIPS Friday night social at the Princess Park Carlton Bowls club, but don't want to go alone?

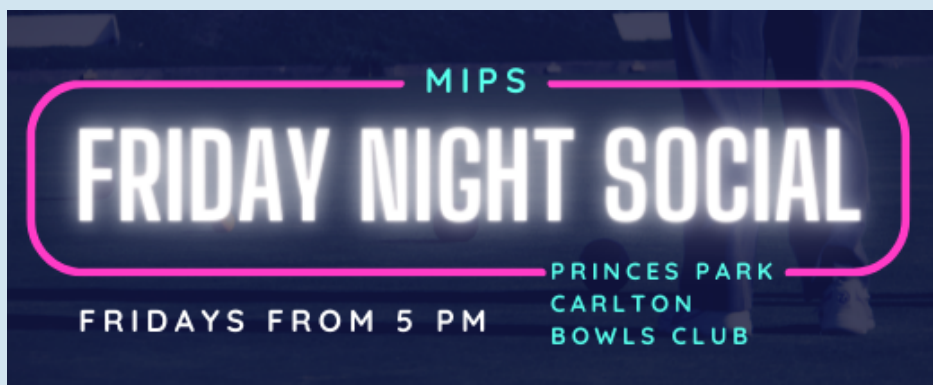
Over the next two weeks we are trialling an EMCR meet-up at MIPS to walk across the bowls club together, which can become a permanent meet-up point if there is enough interest!

We hope that this will be a great way to introduce yourself to your fellow EMCRs, have a chat and enjoy a beer or soft drink.

Just look out for the friendly faces of your EMCR committee members. If you are running late don't worry; meet us at the bowls club!

When? 5pm Friday June 2nd and 9th

Where? Meet at MIPS building 4, ground floor
at the tables inside the main door



The Princes Park Bowls Club have kindly offered to host us every Friday so we can get together at the end of our busy weeks. We are inviting all staff and HDR students from all themes to join us at the weekly MIPS

Friday Night Social. This is a great way to mingle and meet new people from across the faculty. **Happy Hour between 5-7pm (25% discount) if you present your staff card.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

SOCIAL AND FASTTRACK**Consumer Engagement Series**

In 2023 the FPPS EMCR Committee will be running a series of educational and professional development events that focus on the theme of consumer engagement. Learn who are consumer advocates, why you should engage with them for project and grant success, how to engage with them and when the best time to engage is. Keep an eye out for event dates and make sure you sign up for this fantastic series.

Social & Networking

The very successful "coffee catch up" series will be returning for 2023. Get to know your fellow EMCRs at FPPS in a relaxed setting. Keep an eye out in your email inbox for dates and further information.

Get in contact with members of your EMCR committee to let us know what type of social events you enjoyed from last year or if you have any ideas of events you would like to see in the future!

COVER IMAGE

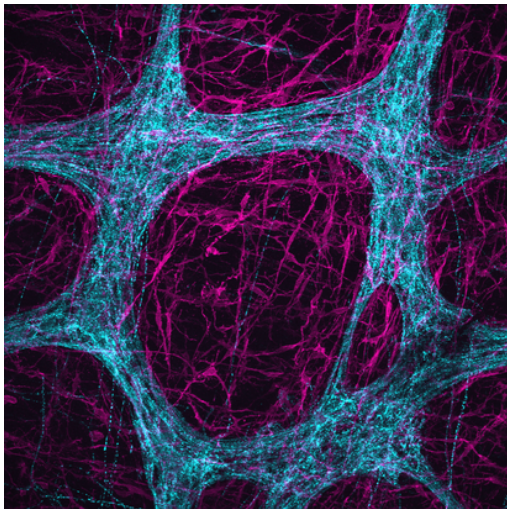
NARGES MAHDAVIAN

Who am I?

I am Narges Mahdavian, a PhD student in the Integrated Neurogenic Mechanisms Laboratory and a registered pharmacist. My PhD research uses imaging techniques and smooth muscle tension recordings to correlate changes in cellular distribution to neuromuscular function along the resected bowel of patients with Hirschsprung disease, a congenital disorder where the enteric nervous system does not fully develop in the gut.



[@NS_Mahdavian](#)



What is the image?

This image captures myenteric neuron and interstitial cell crosstalk in a colon specimen from a patient with Hirschsprung Disease. This wholemount preparation was labelled by indirect immunofluorescence using markers for excitatory innervation (Substance P, cyan) and Interstitial cells of Cajal (c-kit, pink). A Leica SP8 laser scanning confocal microscope was used to acquire this field of view as a 3D z-stack. This image depicts the maximum projection of the final z-stack.

Why do i love it?

I love this image as it beautifully illustrates the dense networks of nerve and interstitial cells in the human gut wall that mediate gut contractions. It is very special to have the privilege to work with donated human gut tissues.

EMCR HIGHLIGHT

JIBRIIL IBRAHIM

Who am I?

I completed my studies in 2018 at MIPS and have been working as a research scientist on industry and academic projects for the last 5 years.

What is my research area?

I've always been slightly envious of people who have one core research background, in stark contrast to my collage-esque history! My research background began with the Inhaled Oxytocin project at MIPS, where I investigated the role of Oxytocin Receptors in the lungs of sheep as part of my PhD journey. Following my conferment I worked and collaborated on a variety of unique projects across different labs. I've investigated cancer genomics at the Hudson Institute of Medical Research, inhalable cytotoxic formulations at Monash University, immunoparasitology at Federation University and nanotransporters for cancer therapeutics at the University of Queensland. After a long hiatus though, I'm finally back home at MIPS working in the Nicolazzo laboratory on a commercial partnership investigating the permeability of gel formulations containing a pharmaceutical compound of interest. Come talk to me if you're also trying to work out how 'Ussing' in Ussing chamber is pronounced.



[@jibraeioul](#)

What are my interests outside of work?

I'm very much an outdoors person and can be found either in the garden, climbing in Dyuritte (Arapiles), hiking somewhere (anywhere) or trying to convince my friends to try my latest cooking adventure. Also partial to good fiction and German opera.

UPCOMING FUNDING: JUN - AUG

FUNDING & AWARDS

Date	Funding opportunity	Amount	Website
21/06	Australia-Germany joint research cooperation scheme	\$12,500 per annum for up to two years	https://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/policy-submissions/international/australia-germany-joint-research-co-operation-scheme/
EOI due 21/06	Ian Potter Public Health Research Projects	\$100,000	https://www.ianpotter.org.au/what-we-support/program-areas/public-health-research/
Opens late June	Metcalf Prize for Stem Cell Research	\$60,000	https://www.stemcellfoundation.net.au/metcalf_prizes
30/06	Moderna Fellowships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mRNA platform innovation and delivery infectious disease and immunology, translational pharmacology & early clinical development 	\$110,000 salary plus \$140,000 research costs for 2-3 years	https://www.modernatx.com/en-AU/fellowship
Early July	Fulbright Future Scholarships	up to \$100,000	https://www.fulbright.org.au/scholarships/future/
Early July	Fulbright Postdoctoral Scholarships	up to \$100,000	https://www.fulbright.org.au/scholarships/fulbright-postdoctoral-scholarship-sponsored-by-rmit-vice-chancellors-postdoctoral-fellow/
Late July	VESKI: Victoria Fellowships	\$18,000	https://www.veski.org.au/vicfellow
Late July	VESKI: Inspiring Women Fellowships	up to \$150,000 over three years	http://www.veski.org.au/inspiring-women-criteria?q=inspiring-women-fellow
31/07	ARC Linkage Grants	\$50,000 to \$300,000 per year for two to five years	https://www.arc.gov.au/funding-research/funding-schemes/linkage-program/linkage-projects

JOBS AT MONASH

CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Closing Date	Role	Level/Salary	Website
26/06/23	Highly motivated Research Fellow required for the new Cardiometabolic Inflammation and Cell Death Laboratory located in The Department of Physiology.	Level A (\$75,115 - \$101,944)	https://careers.pageuppeople.com/513/ci/en/job/651455/research-fellow-physiology
12/06/23	Join the Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute and deliver high-quality bioinformatics to support the research of the Stem Cells & Cancer laboratory.	Level B (\$107,311 - \$127,432)	https://careers.pageuppeople.com/513/ci/en/job/651046/research-fellow-bioinformatician-level-ab
08/06/23	The Postdoctoral Research Fellow provides a variety of high-quality research services to support the operations of the Epidemiology of Dementia (Epi-D) Research Group	Level A (\$75,115 - \$101,944)	https://careers.pageuppeople.com/513/ci/en/job/651345/research-fellow-cognitive-health
09/12/22	Monash University has an exciting opportunity for a Research Fellow to join the School of Chemistry.	Level A (\$75,115 - \$101,944)	https://careers.pageuppeople.com/513/ci/en/job/651694/research-fellow-in-electrochemistry
TBD	Monash University seeks talented First Nations scholars to join the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Level B (Education Focused) to support the teaching of the Indigenous health curriculum and support of Indigenous students in any of the Faculty's disciplinary fields	Level B (\$107,311 - \$127,432)	https://careers.pageuppeople.com/513/ci/en/job/636959/expression-of-interest-indigenous-health-education-positions

MORE OPPORTUNITIES?

Head to www.monash.edu/jobs

Utilize the "refine search" toolbar to find jobs in your employment category, academic level and location of interest.

Refine Search

+ Categories

- Academic
- Academic - Education Focused 3
- Academic - Research Only 17
- Academic - Teaching And Research 19

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

LYMPHATICS IN HEALTH AND DISEASE



Satellite Conference : Lymphatics in health and disease
 Date: 31 August - 1 September 2023
 Location: Rydges Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand
 Presentations: Oral and Poster
 Abstract deadline: 1 July 2023
 Note: Must be registered to attend when submitting abstract

WWW.QUEENSTOWNRESEARCHWEEK.ORG

[ABSTRACT SUBMIT LINK](#)

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

[SPEAKER INFO LINK](#)

Travel bursary applications available

- \$500 in travel support
- Postgraduate student and ECR (<5 year of PhD confirmation)

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

FIP – BRISBANE



FIP Brisbane 2023

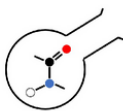
81ST FIP WORLD CONGRESS OF PHARMACY
 AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Brisbane, Australia, 24 to 28 September 2023

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

RACI PEPTIDE USERS GROUP

Peptide
Users
Group



Peptide Users Group 2023 Winter Symposium

Friday June 30, 12:00 pm - 4:30 pm (AEST)

Kenneth Myer Auditorium, Florey Neurosciences Institute, 30 Royal Parade, Parkville VIC 3052



Plenary Speaker

Professor Mark Hulett

La Trobe University

*Defensin-lipid interactions
in membrane targeting*

Invited Speakers

Dr Mohammad Haskali

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

Dr Amandeep Kaur

Monash University

Cost

RACI members: \$20

Non-RACI members: \$25

All students: \$15

Online attendance: FREE

Enquiries: jkaras@unimelb.edu.au

[TO REGISTER, PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)

Follow PUG on Twitter [@melbourne_pug](#) and [LinkedIn](#)



SHIMADZU



MIMOTOPES
The Peptide Company



Australian
Peptide
Association



hobsons instrument services



John Morris
GROUP



scientifix



PhaseSep
TRANSITIONING SOLUTIONS

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEUROSCIENCE AND MENTAL HEALTH TPA

The Neuroscience and Mental Health therapeutic program area aims to support multidisciplinary approaches within MIPS to address medical needs in psychiatry, neurodegeneration, pain, and other mental health disorders. EMCR play a vital role in these teams, and we want to encourage as many of you as possible to attend and present at the following events:

At Home PharmAlliance Networking Event

This year the Neuroscience and Mental Health TPA will co-host an event with PharmAlliance to increase engagement of colleagues remaining at home. The event is split into two parts; an in-person event at MIPS followed by an online session, where you have the chance to engage with colleagues from the PharmAlliance network at the meeting in Prato.

When & Where: Tuesday 11th July 2023/ in-person 10-12pm Cossar Hall (MIPS)/ online approx. 8-10 pm

Registration: opening soon

Registration cost: Free, all registered participants will receive a goody bag for the evening session

NeuroTPA tea & talk speaker nominees!

Every 3-4 weeks NeuroTPA members gather via zoom for 30min to learn about the experience, expertise and interests of internal and external researchers. We are seeking a final speaker for the series on Thursday September 21st 11am. Keen to share your science? Let Manuela and Karen know: mips.cns@monash.edu

UPCOMING SEMINARS

MIPS SEMINAR SERIES

Date	Presenter	Title	Host	Room/Time
June 14th	Dr Chris Horne, WEHI	Decoding unconventional mechanisms of calcium signalling	Dr John Scott	Lecture Theatre 3, midday
June 23rd	Professor Sharon Lewin	The Cumming Centre for Pandemic Therapeutics: Vision and progress to date	Professor Phil Thompson	Lecture Theatre 3, 12:30pm
July 5th	Dr Edna Choo, Genentech	A DMPK scientist journey in unraveling the mysteries of drug disposition	Professor Michelle McIntosh	Lecture Theatre 3, midday

The seminars will be held every third Wednesday at Monash University's Parkville campus, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria, at midday

If you wish to be added to the seminar mailing list email sandra.vargas@monash.edu

UPCOMING SEMINARS

CCEMP SEMINAR SERIES



Date	Presenter	Title	Location
June 13th	Professor Renae Ryan, The University of Sydney	The twisted link between a dual function glutamate transporter and episodic ataxia	Zoom
July 11th	Dr Marc Kschonsak, Genentech	TBD	Zoom

Seminars will be held online at 10:00-11:00 AM AEDT/AEST on the second Tuesday of each month.

If you would like to be invited to the seminars, please register for the events at:

<https://ccemmp.org/news/ccemmp-seminar-series/>