

NEWSLETTER

Monash Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences



EMCR award successes

Spotlight on new EMCRs

Recent & upcoming events

Seminars and grant opportunities

Welcome to FPPS EMCR Newsletter

A letter from the editors

We're excited to introduce ourselves in this issue of the EMCR Newsletter - **Grace Mennen (Research Fellow, DDB)**, **Kyung Min 'Kirsten' Lee** and **Yannee Liu (PhD candidates, CMUS)** - a team of three early career researchers passionate about our fields and about connecting our community through shared stories, opportunities, and achievements.

Our goal is to keep you in the loop with the incredible work happening across our campus and to spotlight the impact EMCRs are making every day.

We're also thrilled to announce the launch of our inaugural **LinkedIn page** (scan the QR code below to follow). It's a space to celebrate your wins, share collaboration or funding opportunities, post-training events, and stay connected with others across the Parkville precinct.

So if you're working late this week, layering up against the cold and still making it to your morning meetings, you're not alone in the after-hours effort in this EMCR community. Take care, make space to rest, and keep going - one word, one win at a time.

Best wishes,

Kirsten, Yannee and Grace

Co-editors
FPPS EMCR Newsletter



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FPPS EMCR COMMITTEE COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORT

From the Chairs

Welcome to the July edition of the FPPS EMCR newsletter! We would like to warmly welcome our new editors Kirsten, Grace and Yannee, who have done a fantastic job in putting together this newsletter issue. They have also established our brand-new LinkedIn page, where we hope to connect the MIPS EMCR community and keep you posted on news and events between newsletter editions - please join us there as it evolves.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Welcome Lunch in March, which was the perfect way to kick off our calendar. June was a very busy month, starting with our Careers Progression Workshop, which featured three MIPS academics with very different but equally inspiring career trajectories. Inspiration is nothing without perspiration, so we got into the nitty gritty of addressing research impact in NHMRC Investigator Grants with Empirical Careers in a workshop co-hosted with HRM. Finally, to unwind after all that grant writing, we brought back the very popular Trivia Night with the PPA and Quizmaster Aaron Day. Congratulations to Team Ibupro-Friends (CMUS), who emerged victorious after a truly intense battle of the minds!

In the coming months, we look forward to co-hosting the MELBR Inter-Institute Symposium, which promises to be an excellent day of science and networking for Parkville EMCRs. Stay tuned for more FASTtrack and social events, and as always, we would love to hear your feedback and suggestions to improve your EMCR experience.

Until next time,

Dorothy Wai and Jeff Luo



Dorothy Wai



Jeff Luo

FPPS EMCR COMMITTEE 2025 COMMITTEE MEMBERS



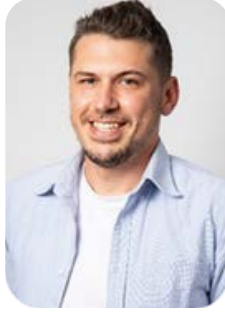
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Aaron Day
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INTRODUCING 2025 NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS



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Co-editor

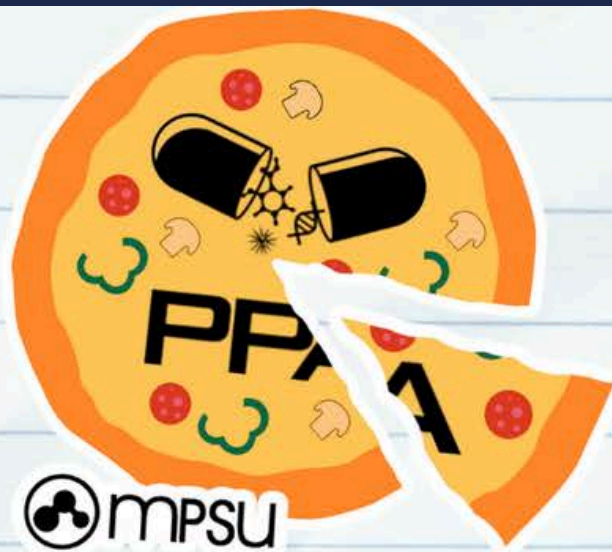


Yannee Liu
Co-editor

FPPS EMCR COMMITTEE
EMCR EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

PPA x EMCR x MPSU

TRIVIA NIGHT



TRIVIA NIGHT BRINGS EMCRS TOGETHER FOR A NIGHT OF FUN AND CONNECTION!

The recent EMCR Trivia Night was a fantastic success, bringing together over 80 EMCRs, HDRs, MPSUs and honours students for an evening of fun, friendly competition, and networking. Held in Cossar Hall on the 27th of June, teams enjoyed an evening of friendly competition, covering a wide range of topics from pop culture, sports and Australiana! More than just a quiz night, the event offered a valuable opportunity for EMCRs to connect outside the academic setting. Congratulations to the winning team (CMUS), and sincere thanks to all who attended and contributed to the evening's success.

RECENT EMCR SUCCESS AWARD RECIPIENTS



CHENGXUE HELENA QIN

Australian Research Council - Future Fellowship

“How Does Ageing Affect GPCR Signalling: Focusing on Pro-resolving Receptors”

G-protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) are evolutionarily conserved cell surface proteins crucial for regulating human and animal physiology by transmitting signals essential for growth and ageing. This project aims to unravel the molecular mechanisms underlying GPCR-mediated signalling in physiological ageing, utilizing state-of-the-art experimental

methods and multi-omics platforms. By exploring GPCR-driven cellular biology and dynamics in both 'young' and 'aged' systems, the project seeks to transform our understanding of mammalian ageing. The outcomes will advance biological knowledge, foster interdisciplinary collaborations, and promote cutting-edge research training, placing Australia at the forefront of global life sciences innovation.

Congratulations also to...

JASON CAO

Gordon Hammes Scholar Award

Young scientist award for the best papers published in Biochemistry. Dr. Cao was selected due to his exciting doctoral work, where he determined cryo-EM structures of the Amylin 1 receptor (AMY₁R) bound to calcitonin-gene related peptide (CGRP).



SARAH PIPER

JG Russell Award

Dr. Piper's project will investigate the molecular details of how the PAC1 receptor, an important G protein-coupled receptor, is activated and how different variants of this receptor change its shape and function. She is also a proud winner of the MIPS Image Competition 2025!

COVER IMAGE
ASNP Lab

COVER IMAGE FEATURE



ASNP Laboratory

 [website](#)

The Analytical & Structural Neuropharmacology (ASNP) Laboratory investigates the molecular mechanisms of drug action, with a focus on G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs). By combining structural biology and molecular pharmacology, the lab uncovers novel paradigms of receptor modulation to guide and accelerate drug discovery.

What is this image? Cryo-EM structure of the inactive A₃ Adenosine receptor bound a covalent antagonist. If you want to find out more, check out our preprint **Zhang Liudi, et al. (2025). Molecular basis of ligand binding and receptor activation at the human A3 adenosine receptor.** bioRxiv. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.01.12>.

*Image made with Blender and MolecularNodes

Do you want to see YOUR image on the newsletter front cover? We do!!

Send it to: pharm-emcr-committee@monash.edu

RECENT EVENTS

CAREER WORKSHOP

EMCR CAREER PROGRESSION WORKSHOP

The EMCR committee co-hosted a workshop highlighting traditional and alternative career pathways from within the academic environment. How following your interests carves out a unique path. The workshop was attended by 30 MIPS researchers and HDR students, and was run in conjunction with the faculty research office, HRM, PPA and MOSAIC.

SPEAKERS

**Kristian
Kempe**

TRADITIONAL ACADEMIC PATH

Traditional academic path but looks to other options, ensuring the best fit intellectually and for lifestyle.



**Simona
Carbone**

BIOTECH & ACADEMIA

Highlighting mentorship & following her interests. The right time for a shift is when you are ready for it.



**David
Rudd**

INDUSTRY PROJECTS WITHIN ACADEMIA

Genuine interest in issues outside academia has led to funding & collaborations with industry.



SPOTLIGHT: EMCR FEATURE



Research Fellow CMUS

Gopisankar Mohannair Geethadevi

“

I am a scientist who works in the Centre for Medicine Use and Safety department at Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

”

WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH AREA?

Once an effective treatment for a disease is identified, I step in to evaluate whether investing in that treatment delivers broader benefits to society.

Currently, I am assessing the potential impact of nationwide implementation of a multimodal decision support tool for doctors treating epilepsy. This involves examining the benefits of such tools, their effects on patients, and projecting these outcomes to the entire population of people with epilepsy in Australia. Broadly, my research area is health economics and policy evaluation.

WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF WORK?

I love reading about evolution, palaeontology, and ethology. I'm especially drawn to discussions around these themes and am continually amazed by how deeply connected we are to all living beings around us.

READ SOME OF GOPI'S RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Gopisankar Geethadevi, Kristoffer Jensen, Zanfina Ademi. *Epilepsia*: [Ten-year projection of adult epilepsy burden in Australia](#)

✉ Gopisankar.MohanannairGeethadevi1@monash.edu

Do you want to see YOUR story or achievements featured in the next newsletter?

We'd love to hear from you!



pharm-emcr-committee@monash.edu



HER RESEARCH MATTERS

SCIENCE MEETS PARLIAMENT 2025 REFLECTION



Her Research Matters (HRM) were pleased to sponsor a small group of members to attend the Science Meets Parliament (SMP) event organised by Science & Technology Australia. For several years, HRM has been sponsoring members to attend the two-day event filled with engaging panel discussions, workshops and networking opportunities. This year, Dr. **Garima Sharma**, Dr. **Gopisankar MG**, Dr. **Melanie Lloyd**, and Dr. **Bui San Thai**, were selected from a number of talented applicants to fly to Canberra to learn about the connection between science and the Australian government, and strategies for our research to reach the broader community. They shared some of their insights with us to increase our understanding of the intersection between science and policy.



Our Science Meets Parliament attendees at Parliament House in Canberra, from left to right: Dr. **Garima Sharma**, Dr. **Gopisankar MG**, Dr. **Melanie Lloyd**, and Dr. **Bui San Thai**

“Attending Science Meets Parliament 2025 was a transformative experience, providing invaluable insights into policy advocacy and science communication”, said Garima. “It brought together scientists from diverse fields and parliamentarians to break barriers and create a platform for effective engagement.” Gopisankar also shared his positive experiences; “It was an exciting gathering of real problem-solvers from across Australia. The main theme of the conference focused on science communication with parliamentarians.”

They also shared key learnings from the experience. Garima enjoyed learning about “the power of connecting research with community benefits, clearly communicating science to decision-makers, knowing your ask, and building trust for effective negotiation”. Gopisankar also found that “the majority of the general public is not fully aware of what scientists do, and it is our responsibility to improve this through communication. This can be achieved by finding common ground and establishing a two-way connection through the art of storytelling.” He also further emphasised that it is important not overcomplicate our findings, and that “it is not the methodology that usually drives change, but the connection created through storytelling. It is essential to work on something you are passionate about so that the flame of enthusiasm never dies out.”

Overall, our attendees found SMP 2025 extremely invaluable. Not only did our attendees benefit, but also our members who were able to learn from their experiences and learnings at the event. HRM collectively would like to thank those who generously supported our members to attend and engage in another SMP this year.

Would you like to know more or get involved?



pharmacy-HRM@monash.edu



@HRM_MIPS



[www.linkedin.com/company/
her-research-matters](https://www.linkedin.com/company/her-research-matters)



[https://www.monash.edu/
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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

GRANTS & AWARDS

Date	Funding opportunity
30-Jul-25	NHMRC Investigator Grants 2025
6-Aug-25	NHMRC Partnership Projects Peer Review Cycle 2 (PRC2)
11-Aug-25	HCF Research Foundation - Health Services Research Grant 2025
13-Aug-25	MRFF – 2025 Cardiovascular Health Grant - G07554
15-Aug-25	John Templeton Foundation - Large Grant
20-Aug-25	NHMRC - Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies
30-Aug-25	CSL Centenary Fellowships 2026
26-Nov-25	ARC - Industrial Transformation Research Hubs (ITRH26)
26-Nov-25	ARC - Industrial Transformation Training Centres (ITTC26)
26-Nov-25	NHMRC - Partnership Projects (PRC3)

UPCOMING SEMINARS

MIPS SEMINARS

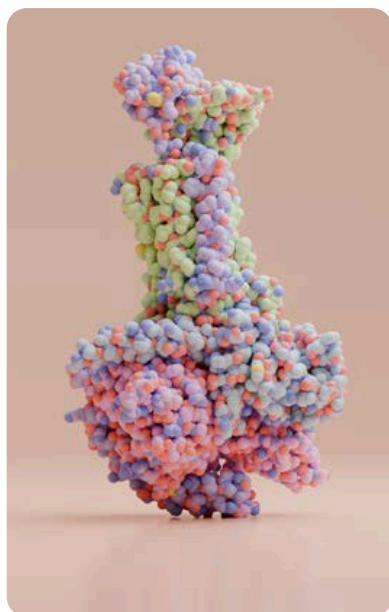
The following seminars will be held at 12pm in Lecture Theatre 3, Floor 2, Sissons Building, unless advised otherwise. If you wish to be added to the seminar mailing list, please email sandra.vargas@monash.edu

Date	Presenter	Chair
23/07/2025	Dr Tatiana Pinedo Rivera	Dr Lauren May
06/08/2025	Dr Vaishnavi Ananthanarayanan	Dr Amandeep Kaur
27/08/2025	Prof Thomas Preiss	Prof Colin Pouton
17/09/2025	Prof Rebecca Ritchie	Prof Chris Porter
29/10/2025	Dr Richeek Pradhan	Prof Simon Bell
19/11/2025	Meet the Fellows	Dr Ben Capuano

UPCOMING SEMINARS

CEMMP SEMINARS

Date	Presenter	Time
12/08/25	Prof. Lezanne Ooi	10:00 - 11:00 AM
19/08/25	***SPECIAL*** Prof Dimitrios Fotiadis	4:00 - 5:00 PM
09/09/25	Dr Seungil Han (Pfizer)	10:00 - 11:00 AM
14/10/25	Dr. Sarah Piper	10:00 - 11:00 AM
21/10/25	***SPECIAL*** Dr. Alexey Rak (Sanofi)	4:00 - 5:00 PM
11/11/25	Assistant Prof Rie Nygaard	10:00 - 11:00 AM
09/12/25	Dr Lisa Eshun-Wilson	TBC



ARC CCEMMP 2nd Annual Bench to Art Exhibition 2025

The Australian Research Council, Centre for Cryo-electron Microscopy of Membrane Proteins (CCEMMP) is holding their 2nd Annual 'Bench to Art' Exhibition to showcase the artistic flair of structural biologists. We encourage the broader scientific community (not just Centre members and affiliates) to put forth their creations to be displayed in a virtual gallery during National Science Week, 2025. Our goal is to share stories of exploration and discovery in structural biology with the broader community.

Closing date for submissions is 5:00 PM AEST, 7th August, 2025

Please direct all questions and queries to Dr. Sarah Piper (ccemmpoutreach@gmail.com)

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/>



Centre for Cryo-electron
Microscopy of Membrane Proteins