



FHMRI
FLINDERS HEALTH & MEDICAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

FHMRI Cancer Retreat 2022

Retreat purpose

The aim of the FHMRI Cancer Retreat is to bring together FHMRI Cancer research leaders, consumers and partners to build collaborations and develop a cancer research strategy for the Flinders Precinct.

Attendees will:

- Hear from the Director of FHMRI on the contribution of cancer research within FHMRI.
- Engage with consumers and hear what the priorities of their communities are.
- Listen to a selection of leaders speak on current strengths within the FHMRI Cancer Program.
- Connect with others to identify new partnerships.
- Contribute to the development of the agenda and research strategy for the FHMRI Cancer Program and Flinders Precinct.

Contents

FHMRI Cancer Retreat 2022	1
Program	2
FHMRI Cancer Research Leads and Executive Committee Members	5
Cancer Research Partners	15
FHMRI Leadership Team.....	18
Strategic Partnership Team	19
FHMRI Research Development and Support.....	20
International Priorities in Cancer Research.....	22

Program

9.30am – 10.00am Level 1 breakout area	Registration Coffee/Tea/Light refreshments on arrival
10.00am – 10.15am Room 1, Level 1	Welcome and FHMRI Overview (15 mins) Professor Peter Eastwood Matthew Flinders Fellow; Director of the Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute (FHMRI) and Dean (Research), College of Medicine and Public Health (CMPH)
10.15am – 10.30am Room 1, Level 1	Shona Edwards, Consumer (15 mins) Shona is a strong advocate for chronic illness and disability and has roles in the Youth Advisory Group for South Australia’s Youth Cancer Service, Canteen Youth Leadership, and Cancer Voices South Australia. She will give a brief overview of her cancer journey including the challenges for patients to access and coordinate their treatment and recovery, being traumatised by treatment and why she doesn’t identify as a ‘survivor’.
10.30am – 11.50am Room 1, Level 1	Session 1 (10 mins each followed by a 20 min Q&A) FHMRI Cancer Session Chair: Michael Michael, FHMRI Cancer Program Lead Session Outline: Speakers have been invited to present on one of the following strengths within the FHMRI Cancer Program: Survivorship, Clinical Trials, Cancer Prevention, Big Data, Public Health and Cancer Biology. The purpose of this session is to identify where FHMRI Cancer fits within the research landscape, highlight areas of strength, identify opportunities and share what FHMRI Cancer needs to build additional capacity in the area. FHMRI Cancer Program Associate Professor Michael Michael FHMRI Cancer Program Lead Presentation 1: Survivorship Professor Bogda Koczwara Senior Staff Specialist, Medical Oncologist Presentation 2: Clinical Trials Professor Chris Karapetis Network Director for Cancer Services, Head of the Department of Medical Oncology Presentation 3: Public Health Professor Billie Bonevski Professor in Public Health

	<p>Presentation 4: Big Data Professor Michael Sorich Professor in Clinical Pharmacology</p> <p>Presentation 5: Cancer Biology Associate Professor Luke Selth Head of the Prostate Cancer Research Group</p> <p>Q&A</p>
11.50am – 12.10pm Room 1, Level 1	<p>Session 2 (20 mins)</p> <p>Team Capacity Building</p> <p>Professor Geraint Rogers Matthew Flinders Fellow/Director SAHMRI Microbiome Research</p> <p>Session Outline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of a successful multidisciplinary application. • What steps to take to bring the team together and give your application the best chance of success. • Tips for aspiring applicants.
12.10pm – 1.15pm Level 1 breakout area	<p>Lunch (60 mins)</p>
1.15pm – 2.15pm Room 2, Level 1	<p>Workshop 1 – Emerging Research Opportunities (60 mins)</p> <p>Facilitator: Rebecca Keough, Institute Manager (FHMRI)</p> <p>Workshop Outline:</p> <p>During this workshop we will work to identify the major questions in cancer research, what opportunities we have to address them and start thinking about the teams we can pull together.</p>
2.15pm – 2.45pm Level 1 breakout area	<p>Afternoon Tea (30 mins)</p>
2.45pm – 3.15pm Room 2, Level 1	<p>Consumer Engagement Panel (30 mins)</p> <p>Chair: Rebecca Keough, Institute Manager (FHMRI)</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <p>Chris Trethewey, Co-Chair FHMRI Consumer Advisory Board Shona Edwards, Consumer Dr Jean Winter, Research Associate</p> <p>Panel Overview:</p>

	An opportunity to discuss how we can best engage with consumers and build strong relationships to work together more efficiently.
3.15pm – 3.45pm Room 2, Level 1	<p>Workshop 2 – Infrastructure and Resourcing (30 mins)</p> <p>Facilitator: Rebecca Keough, Institute Manager (FHMRI)</p> <p>Workshop Overview:</p> <p>This workshop is an opportunity for you to highlight your priorities and the infrastructure and resourcing needed to address the opportunities identified in Workshop 1.</p>
3.45pm – 4.00pm Room 2, Level 1	<p>Summary and close (15 mins)</p> <p>Associate Professor Michael Michael</p> <p>FHMRI Cancer Program Lead</p> <p>Actions and priorities for 2022</p>
4.00pm onwards	<p>Social gathering (self funded)</p> <p>Treasury 1860, 144 King William Street</p>

FHMRI Cancer Research Leads and Executive Committee Members

Associate Professor Savio George Barreto

Consultant Surgeon (HPB Unit, FMC), Dy. Director Flinders MD, Coordinator MD Advanced Studies
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A/Prof. Barreto is a Gastrointestinal and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (GI & HPB) surgeon and researcher. He has a PhD degree from Flinders University. For more than a decade, he has actively conducted research on the pathophysiology, surgery and outcomes of GI and HPB cancers. He has published the carcinogenesis model in gallbladder cancer to aid the understanding of its development and to advance therapy-directed research. He has also proposed the first evidence-based definition of early gastric cancer. A/Prof. Barreto has authored more than 250 clinical and basic science papers and book chapters. He has edited two books on pancreato-biliary, and abdominal surgery.

Current research interests

- Acute Pancreatitis
- Pancreatic Cancer
- Young-onset cancers

Vikki Bedford

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Dr Giles Best

Research Fellow
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Associate Professor Niranjana Bidargaddi

Associate Professor in Digital Health
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My research centres around understanding all the ways health interactions go wrong and finding ways to fix these problems in contexts where the fabric of every day life is digitally mediated. We have implemented innovative technologies that together are providing the building blocks of health care delivery in the future. Developed using co-design and participatory approaches with consumers and tested with different populations the solutions address three needs: (a) specific guidance from trusted gateways when people seek health related information online (b) navigators which audit digital footprints with different parts of the health system particularly in people with chronic and ongoing conditions and use nudges to ensure subsequent appointments, medications, referrals happen appropriately in the community (c) support people enact health behaviours by pushing advice in smaller chunks at opportune moments in daily life. In parallel we also aim to understand and identify solutions to protect against harms caused by digital mediations in every day life.

Current research interests

- Digitally enabled early/proactive care models (mental health, endometriosis, chronic disease)
- m-Health resources

Emerging areas of interest

- Tackling health related harms in digital arena

Dr Tim Bright

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[Dr Norma Bulamu](#)

Research Fellow

FHMRI Cancer Executive Committee member

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[Dr Charles Cock](#)

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[Professor Simon Conn](#)

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[Professor Briony Forbes](#)

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[Professor Robert Fraser](#)

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[Professor Jonathan Gleadle](#)

Professor of Medicine

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[Dr Stephen Gregory](#)

Senior Lecturer in Molecular Medical Science

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My work uses model organisms to study cell division, exploring ways to kill cancer cells by targeting their unstable mode of cell division: chromosomal instability (CIN). CIN is not seen in normal dividing cells, so it is a good cancer-specific chemotherapy target.

Using the advantages of Drosophila genetics, we screened for gene knockouts that kill unstably dividing cells, but not normal ones. We can specifically kill cells with chromosomal instability by targeting the JNK pathway, centrosomes or cell metabolism. We are now investigating why CIN cells are sensitive to these processes, and how we can best target them.

Current research interests • Effect of S-adenosyl methionine and methylation on CIN tolerance

Emerging areas of interest

- Aneuploidy tolerance in neurodegenerative disease
 - Blocking aneuploidy sensing to slow neurodegeneration
 - Raman spectroscopy to measure ROS in aneuploid CLL
-

[Dr Paul Hollington](#)

Academic Status

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[Dr Matthew Hong](#)

Urology Consultant

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- Current research interests**
- Prostate cancer
 - Bladder cancer
-

[Dr Ash Hopkins](#)

Senior Research Fellow

FHMRI Cancer Executive Committee member

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I am a NHMRC Investigator and leader of the Clinical Cancer Epidemiology Lab at Flinders University. The Lab aims to deliver actionable prediction strategies and breakthroughs that improve the lives of patients with cancer treated with anti-cancer medicines. We will achieve this through epidemiological research which honours the contributions of patients who have enrolled their clinical data and experiences to science.

- Current research interests**
- Clinical Cancer Epidemiology
 - Immunotherapies
 - Drug-Drug Interactions
- Emerging areas of interest**
- Machine learning
 - Gut Microbiota
 - Patient reported outcomes
-

[Associate Professor Damien Hussey](#)

Senior Medical Scientist

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27 years in cancer research, 19 of those at Flinders!

- Current research interests**
- Developing biomarker panels
- Emerging areas of interest**
- Translating biomarker panels into clinically useful assays
-

[Professor Harald Janovjak](#)

Matthew Flinders Professor

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Cells are the fundamental building blocks of life. Their unique and diverse functions rely on a plethora of chemical and physical processes that are fine-tuned in space and in time. My research lies at the interface of engineering and physiology with a focus on reconstructing these inner cellular workings in health and disease.

- Current research interests**
- Receptor signaling
 - Optogenetics

- Emerging areas of interest**
- Protein engineering
 - Systems biology
 - Genomics
 - Kinases
-

[Dr Claire Jessup](#)

Senior Lecturer and Head, Immunomodulation Laboratory

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Our research investigates the immunology underlying human diseases including Type 1 diabetes, transplantation and cancer. In particular, we're interested in how immune checkpoint molecules regulate T cell responses. Our goal is to harness the power of the immune system to modulate disease.

- Current research interests**
- molecular T cell immunology
 - transplantation immunology
 - type 1 diabetes

- Emerging areas of interest**
- cancer immunology
 - immune checkpoint inhibitors
 - ovarian cancer
-

[Professor Chris Karapetis](#)

Director, Clinical Research in Medical Oncology, SALHN

FHMRI Cancer Executive Committee member

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Professor Karapetis has been the principal investigator on over 180 clinical trials, with research interests in gastro-intestinal malignancy, lung cancer, molecular targeted therapies, predictive biomarkers and epidemiology. He has published over 240 papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals. The K-ras biomarker research from the CO.17 trial was led by Prof Karapetis, with findings that impacted on global clinical practice. He served on NHMRC Grant Review Panels (2015 to 2017). Successful grant applications total more than \$14 million. He is the chair of ACORD, an initiative that promotes clinical research skill development in the Asia Pacific region.

- Current research interests**
- Biomarker discovery and evaluation in GI cancer
 - RENO, national clinical trial of non-operative management of rectal cancer
 - Cancer of Unknown Primary, mutation profiling and improving outcomes

- Emerging areas of interest**
- Continue/expand research in the above mentioned areas
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[Dr Ganessan Kichenadasse](#)

Oncologist and Pharmacologist

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[Associate Professor Sonja Klebe](#)

Associate Professor in Pathology

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Research into asbestos-related disorders, especially lung cancer and mesothelioma, working on (early) diagnosis, factors affecting prognosis and, personalised therapy characterisation of molecular alterations in mesothelioma. Using fresh and fixed patient samples, expertise in organoids. As a pathologist, also supports

research into other tumours and general aspects of carcinogenesis, with a collection of TMAS of other tumour types available, including colon, prostate, renal.

Current research interests

- Mesothelioma
- Lung cancer
- Personalised therapy

Emerging areas of interest

- Organoids
- Biobanks
- Genetic predisposition to mesothelioma

[Professor Bogda Koczwara](#)

Senior Staff Specialist, Medical Oncology/Professor

FHMRI Cancer Executive Committee member

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Professor Bogda Koczwara is a senior staff specialist in medical oncology at the Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide, Australia and she leads the Survivorship Research Program at the Flinders University Health and Medical Research Institute. She chairs the Psychosocial Group of the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer and leads the Global Partnership on Self-management in Cancer. She is the initiator and the past Chair the Australia Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development, a collaborative of international cancer organisations aimed at improving cancer research capacity in Australia and Asia Pacific.

Current research interests

- Cancer survivorship
- Cardio-oncology
- Digital health and cancer

Emerging areas of interest

- Survivorship epidemiology
- Self-management and cancer
- PROs

[Professor Bryone Kuss](#)

Discipline Lead - Genetics and Molecular Medicine

FHMRI Cancer Executive Committee member

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The foundation of my research has been both establishing a biobank which has led to source material for 5 PhD candidatures and numerous Honours student and establishing a clinical trials group in haematology. My keen interest in molecular genetics has driven much of this research. Collaboration with Associate Professor Karen Lower with keen knowledge of epigenetics and RNA regulation, Dr Giles Best with significant cell biology background in CLL and Dr Lauren Thurgood with outstanding proteomics and metabolomics skills has driven our research. With these skill sets and my clinical knowledge, we set about exploring various aspects of high risk CLL.

Current research interests

- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia - complex karyotype and high risk disease
- CLL and lipid metabolism (L Thurgood)
- CLL - clinical trials exploring new therapeutic options

Emerging areas of interest

- Origins of dual blood cancers - epigenetics and CHIP

[Professor Ross McKinnon](#)

Strategic Professor in Cancer Research & Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor

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[Associate Professor Robyn Meech](#)

Pharmacology Discipline Lead

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Dr. Meech is a cell and molecular biologist with focus on cancer, stem cell biology, gene regulation, and cell signalling. She trained at Flinders University and the Scripps Research Institute. Current work is on cancer and cancer stem cells, with particular focus on small molecule regulation of cancer initiation and progression through nuclear receptor signalling and its intersection with developmental/stem cell signalling pathways. Her other major area of expertise is in pharmacology, specifically drug/toxin metabolizing enzymes and their roles in metabolic homeostasis (e.g. regulation of nuclear receptor ligands) and drug disposition and response.

- Current research interests**
- Cancer biology
 - Cell signalling
 - Anticancer drugs
- Emerging areas of interest**
- Cancer stem cells
 - Nuclear receptor function
 - Colon cancer and Wnt signalling
-

[Associate Professor Michael Michael](#)

Head, Gene Expression Laboratory

FHMRI Cancer Program Lead

FHMRI Cancer Executive Committee Chair

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We study the epigenetic and transcriptional changes associated with progression of gastrointestinal cancers, particularly colorectal cancer. We develop diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers for bowel cancer, to identify early-stage cancers and predict therapeutic responses but also for use in molecular epidemiology to monitor cancer risk. More recently, we have been collaborating to understand cancer cell metabolism, with a view to identifying new molecular targets and developing novel therapies. Our research employs multi-“omics” approaches, combined with high throughput functional genomics and drug screens to pinpoint vulnerable signalling pathways.

- Current research interests**
- Roles of non-coding RNAs and epigenetics in cancer progression
 - Cancer cell metabolism
 - Epigenetic influences of cancer risk
- Emerging areas of interest**
- RNA therapeutics
 - Epigenetic determinants of therapeutic response in secondary tumours
 - Novel drug targets (including immunotherapies)
-

[Dr David Moffat](#)

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[Dr Huah Shin Ng](#)

Practitioner Fellow

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My research at Flinders University focuses on cancer survivorship and cancer pharmacoepidemiology. Outcomes from my research were achieved using health administrative data, pharmacy and clinical registry information. Specifically, I have combined my clinical skills in pharmacy with my ability to access complex health data, including prescription-related information generated in the real-world setting to further our

understanding of chronic diseases (cancer and multiple sclerosis) and optimize their management and long-term outcomes.

- Current research interests**
- Pharmacoepidemiology
 - Cancer epidemiology
 - Chronic diseases
- Emerging areas of interest**
- Cancer survivorship
 - Research methodology in cancer medicine
 - Supportive cancer care
-

[Associate Professor Michael O'Callaghan](#)

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[Associate Professor Eng Ooi](#)

Head of the Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Unit

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[Professor Janni Petersen](#)

Professor in Cancer Cell Biology

FHMRI Cancer Executive Committee member

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[Professor Neil Piller](#)

Director Lymphoedema Clinical Research Unit

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Neil is a board member of the Australasian College of Phlebology, Member of the Advisory committee of ENCORE, Research Committee member of The Australasian Lymphology Association and a member of Vasculab International scientific committee as well as chief editor of the Journal of Lymphology and a member of the editorial boards of Phlebology, Lymphology and Lymphatic Research and Biology.

- Current research interests**
- The Lymphoedema research group is currently conducting research trials into the impact of a medication on lymphoedema and of massage pad use on lymphatic and vascular flow in limbs. All research uses a range of techniques such as Bio-Impedance Spectroscopy, Tissue Dielectric Constants, Tonometry, Indurometry etc to objectify changes
- Emerging areas of interest**
- Delivering targeted and sequenced treatment based on objective information from the individual patient
 - Developing simple tools patients and practitioners can use to provide the above.
-

[Dr Santosh Poonnoose](#)

Neurosurgeon (Brain and Spine) and Senior Lecturer of Neurosurgery

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[Dr Darling Rojas-Canales](#)

Academic Status

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[Associate Professor Andrew Rowland](#)

Beat Cancer Mid-Career Research Fellow

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My research focuses on the development and translation of precision medicine strategies to account for variability in exposure and response to anti-cancer medicines. The team that I lead integrate world leading organ specific extracellular vesicle isolation technology with high sensitivity liquid chromatography mass spectrometry-based proteomics and computational modelling to characterise the impact of physiology, disease and the environment on pathways that determine drug exposure.

- Current research interests**
- Isolation of organ specific extracellular vesicles from blood
 - Quantitative assessment of extracellular vesicle protein cargo
 - Physiologically based pharmacokinetic modelling

- Emerging areas of interest**
- Proteomic mapping
-

[Dr Amitesh Roy](#)

Senior Medical Oncologist

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[Associate Professor Luke Selth](#)

Head of the Prostate Cancer Research Group

FHMRI Cancer Executive Committee member

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The Prostate Cancer Research Group at Flinders University undertakes basic research to characterise the mechanisms by which prostate tumours metastasise and become resistant to targeted therapies. We feed this new knowledge into translational research projects aimed at developing new drugs and biomarkers to improve the treatment and management of patients. Our group collaborates widely with other scientists, clinicians, computational biologists and engineers – in Australia and around the world – to ensure that our findings have maximal impact.

- Current research interests**
- Understanding and targeting aberrant androgen receptor signaling in prostate cancer
 - Transcriptional and epigenetic regulation of cancer cell plasticity
 - Pre-clinical drug and biomarker development in prostate cancer

- Emerging areas of interest**
- Deciphering prostate cancer heterogeneity at a single-cell level
 - Understanding the interplay between androgen signalling and cellular metabolism in prostate cancer
 - Identifying strategies to sensitise cancers to immunotherapy
-

[Professor Michael Sorich](#)

Professor in Clinical Pharmacology

FHMRI Cancer Executive Committee member

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My research focuses on the use of machine learning and advanced biostatistical methods to predict treatment efficacy and toxicity (i.e. precision medicine) with a particular focus on anti-cancer medicines. This research involves analysis of data from clinical trials or electronic health records of routine care. Additionally, I research novel biomarkers to predict drug exposure.

- Current research interests**
- Heterogeneity of cancer treatment efficacy
 - Machine learning
 - Predictive biomarkers

- Emerging areas of interest**
- Machine learning using SA health data
-

[Dr Brett Stringer](#)

Brain Cancer Research Fellow

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I am a cell and molecular biologist with 20 years hands-on laboratory experience. I also graduated in medicine but practised for only two years before becoming a full-time medical researcher. The past 12 years I've studied brain cancer. I've established many cell line models of this disease to better understand its biology and to identify and test candidate therapies. I joined FHMRI in July 2021, supported by the Flinders Foundation, and work on brain cancer projects in the laboratory of Prof Simon Conn at Flinders & Assoc Prof Cedric Bardy at SAHMRI.

- Current research interests**
- the effect of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) on brain cancer cells
 - the role of circular RNAs in brain cancer
 - the transcriptomic changes in brain cells accompanying brain cancer mutations

- Emerging areas of interest**
- therapeutic vulnerabilities created when brain cells become brain cancers
 - creating bespoke models of brain cancer for genome-wide screens
-

[Dr Erin Symonds](#)

Medical Scientist

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Assoc Prof Erin Symonds has over 20 years of experience in gastroenterology research. She completed her PhD (physiology) through the University of Adelaide, then received a NHMRC Post-doctoral fellowship to research the prevention of gastrointestinal diseases, which included working in the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre in University College Cork, Ireland, followed by the Nutrigenomics and Nutrigenetics laboratory at CSIRO, Adelaide. Since 2013 she has led the Bowel Health Services team (Flinders Medical Centre). Through funding from Cancer Australia, NHMRC and the Medical Research Future Fund, the team are developing biomarkers and optimising non-invasive techniques for detection and prevention of gastrointestinal cancers.

- Current research interests**
- colorectal cancer prevention
 - biomarkers
 - optimising clinical care

- Emerging areas of interest**
- patient reported measures
 - shared decision making
-

[Associate Professor Sarah Thompson](#)

Staff specialist upper gastrointestinal surgeon / Senior Lecturer

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[Dr Madele Van Dyk](#)

Early Career Research Fellow
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[Associate Professor Craig Wallington-Gates](#)

Head, Multiple Myeloma Translational Research Laboratory
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A/Prof Wallington-Gates is a Consultant Haematologist and Multiple Myeloma Lead at Flinders Medical Centre and Head of the Multiple Myeloma Translational Research Laboratory at Flinders University. He is the Principal Investigator for numerous phase 1 to phase 3 clinical trials for multiple myeloma. A/Prof Wallington-Gates seeks to translate research findings to the clinic, focusing on developing novel prognostic and predictive biomarkers and therapeutics for multiple myeloma and other aggressive blood cancers.

Current research interests

- Biomarker discovery and validation for blood cancers such as Desmoglein-2.
- Exploring the biology of ferroptosis in blood cancers.
- Developing therapeutics that induce ferroptosis in blood cancers.

Emerging areas of interest

- Precision medicine for blood cancers – prognostic and predictive biomarker-driven approaches.
- Development of targeted therapies for multiple myeloma and other blood cancers.

[Professor David Watson](#)

Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor of Surgery
FHMRI Cancer Executive Committee member
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Professor Watson leads research addressing benign and malignant esophageal disease, integrating laboratory, clinical and population research streams. He has published more than 450 papers and book chapters. Professor Watson collaborates nationally and internationally. He led the establishment of the Australia and New Zealand Gastric and Oesophageal Surgery Association as its foundation President, has served on Council for the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, and is the immediate Past-President for the International Society for Diseases of the Esophagus (ISDE). In 2018 he was appointed Clinical Director for the Clinical Trials Network Australia and New Zealand (CTANZ), an initiative of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons to develop and oversee surgical trainee led research collaboratives across Australia and New Zealand.

Current research interests

- Clinical outcomes
- Biomarkers
- Health economic modelling

Focussing on -

- Oesophageal cancer
- Barrett's oesophagus
- Gastroesophageal reflux

[Professor Alan Wigg](#)

Professorial Fellow
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[Dr Jean Winter](#)

Research Associate

FHMRI Cancer Executive Committee member

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Dr Jean M. Winter completed her PhD (2015) at Flinders University of South Australia in colorectal cancer prevention, and then obtained a competitive traineeship position in 2015 at The National Institutes of Health USA and, in collaboration with The Mayo Clinic and National Cancer Institute, established a new conceptual framework that identified genetic variants affecting a patient's risk of developing aggressive prostate cancer. Dr Winter was awarded a 3-year Early Career Fellowship through the Beat Cancer Project, Cancer Council SA, and developed a novel, high-content imaging and bioinformatics pipeline for discovery of anti-cancer drugs to treat breast and prostate cancer. She currently coordinates three clinical trials funded by NHMRC and MRFF in bowel cancer screening, liquid biopsy tests and novel faecal biomarkers to diagnose and monitor gastrointestinal cancers.

- Current research interests**
- Colorectal and Gastroesophageal Cancer (diagnosis and surveillance)
 - Non-invasive biomarkers
- Emerging areas of interest**
- Pancreatic Cancer
 - Metabolomics and metagenomics
-

[Dr Jianling Xie](#)

Research Fellow

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From the beginning of my PhD, my research interests have been focused on delineating the cellular signalling pathways that regulate protein synthesis, which plays a central role in controlling cell growth, a key player in human diseases such as cancer and diabetes.

In 2012 I joined Prof. Chris Proud's lab at the University of Southampton (UK) as a postdoc to continue my study in protein synthesis and cancer biology. I relocated to SAHMRI (Adelaide) with Prof. Proud in 2014.

In August 2020 I was recruited to A/Prof. Luke Selth's Prostate Cancer Research Group at Flinders University.

- Current research interests**
- Prostate cancer
 - Protein folding
 - Protein synthesis
- Emerging areas of interest**
- Epigenomics
 - scRNAseq
 - Cancer immunology
-

[Dr Roger Yazbek](#)

Catherine Marie Enright Kelly Cancer Research Fellowship

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[Cancer Research Partners](#)

[Associate Professor Lisa Beatty](#)

Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology

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Lisa Beatty is an Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology at Flinders University and a visiting Consulting Clinical Psychologist in Medical Oncology at Flinders Medical Centre. She has over 17 years of research and clinical expertise in the field of psycho-oncology, and has attracted over \$2M in competitive project grant and salary funding. Lisa has published over 50 journal articles / book chapters, and has received 5 awards

in recognition of her work, including a 2017 South Australian Young Tall Poppy Science Award. Key career achievements to date have included leading two large multi-centre NHMRC and Cancer Australia funded grants, to establish the efficacy of online interventions Finding My Way and Finding My Way-Advanced. *Finding My Way* is now a freely available online resource for the Australian cancer community, and is currently being adapted and trialled by researchers internationally.

- Current research interests**
- Psycho-oncology
 - Digital health
 - Survivorship
- Emerging areas of interest**
- Symptom clusters
 - Metastatic survivorship
 - Psychologist training / shared care
-

[Professor Billie Bonevski](#)

Professor of Public Health
FHMRI Cancer Executive Committee member
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[Dr Liz Buckley](#)

Senior Clinical Data Scientist, Health Data and Clinical Trials
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Liz is a cancer epidemiologist with a background in public health, health technology assessment and medical laboratory science. Her core research interests are identifying inequalities in cancer diagnosis, management and survival with a focus on disparities occurring within socio-demographically disadvantaged and priority groups. Liz has worked primarily with linked health data of hospital admissions, clinical cancer registries, medical and pharmaceutical claims, cancer screening, and radiotherapy to achieve these aims. She also uses linked health data to understand the health economic disparities experienced by socio-demographically disadvantaged groups in cancer treatment and survival.

- Current research interests**
- Identifying variation in healthcare utilisation; diagnosis, treatment and survival of people with cancer.
- Emerging areas of interest**
- Health data platforms for people with cancer used to improve variation in cancer outcomes
 - Digital health
-

[Professor Raymond Chan](#)

Director [Caring Futures Institute](#) / Professor of Cancer Nursing
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Prof Raymond Chan (RN, BNurs, MAppSc, PhD, FACN, GAICD) is Director Caring Futures Institute and Professor of Cancer Nursing, Flinders University. He holds prestigious titles as NHMRC Investigator Fellow and Matthew Flinders Fellow. Ray is currently leading a number of implementation-effectiveness trials in optimising shared-care to address the needs of cancer survivors. Prof Chan has published over 170 peer-reviewed articles and 2 book chapters. He currently also holds leadership roles in the MASCC Survivorship Group and COSA Survivorship Group.

- Current research interests**
- Cancer survivorship and supportive cancer care
 - Health services and policy research
 - Implementation research and knowledge translation
- Emerging areas of interest**
- Biologic mechanisms of distressing cancer symptoms/toxicities
 - Policy research
-

Shona Edwards

Consumer

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As a cancer patient I travelled to Prague, Czech Republic, in 2018 for proton therapy treatment. Since returning from treatment I joined the Youth Advisory Group for South Australia's Youth Cancer Service, Canteen Youth Leadership, and Cancer Voices South Australia. I have presented on my post-treatment physical rehabilitation and have advocated for disability and chronic pain awareness at the University of Adelaide. At the University of Adelaide I founded the Disability Illness and Divergence Association which fights for disability equity in higher education.

Current research interests

- Disability in cancer survivorship; the benefits of peer support alongside cancer treatment and rehabilitation; consumer co-design

Dr Erin Morton

Operations Director, Health Data Science and Clinical Trials

erin.morton@flinders.edu.au

Erin is a multi-centre clinical trial specialist and implements research translation locally, nationally, and internationally. She has a PhD(Med) specialising in pharmacology, Biotech(Hons), and international Clinical Research Associate certification. Her two decades of clinical trial expertise span all trials personnel roles and across the full gamut of cross-discipline clinical trials from Phase I-IV in both sponsored -local biotech & international big pharma- and academic arenas. She currently leads premier clinical research consultant team Health Data & Clinical Trials (HDCT), working closely with clinicians, community, colleagues and collaborators on quality research conduct to support translation into improved health.

Current research interests

- Clinical trials
- Cardio-oncology
- Health data & digital health platforms

Emerging areas of interest

- Neonates
- Mental Health
- Peri-menopause/menopause

Professor Geraint Rogers

Matthew Flinders Fellow/Director SAHMRI Microbiome Research

geraint.rogers@flinders.edu.au

Professor Jennifer Tieman

Director, Knowledge and Implementation Hub & Professor, Palliative and Supportive Services

Director of the [Research Centre in Palliative Care, Death and Dying](#)

jennifer.tieman@flinders.edu.au

Chris Trethewey

Co-Chair FHMRI Consumer Advisory Board

Lay Member SAHLN Human Research Ethics Committee

ctreth@gmail.com

13 year prostate cancer survivor, 9 month throat cancer survivor, Consumer contributor to several health research projects

Current research interests

- Improved blood markers for early diagnosis of cancer

- Better identification of aggressive vs non-aggressive cancers
 - Facilitation of consumer/researcher interaction
-

Amy Underdown

Project Manager Cancer Wellness Centre

amy.underdown@sa.gov.au

Amy is an experienced Project Manager with experience in health, local government and higher education in Australia and New Zealand. In July 2021 she managed the re-opening of the Cancer Wellness Centre at Flinders Medical Centre and is focused on providing holistic support to cancer patients, their families and carers.

- Current research interests**
- Translation of research into products and services that can help cancer patients.
 - Survivorship
-

Professor Krisimir Vasilev

Matthew Flinders Professor

krasimir.vasilev@flinders.edu.au

FHMRI Leadership Team

Professor Peter Eastwood

FHMRI Director

peter.eastwood@flinders.edu.au

Professor Jon Karnon

Health Economist

Deputy Director (FHMRI Healthy Communities)

FHMRI Cancer Executive Committee member

jonathan.karnon@flinders.edu.au

Experienced in the application of economic evaluation to cancer therapies and services, including screening programs (recently led the commissioned model-based economic evaluation of the proposed national lung cancer screening program). Member of the economic sub-committee of the PBAC since 2009, involving review of many submissions for cancer therapies.

- Current research interests**
- Modelled evaluation of primary care based models of care for cancer survivors
 - Analysis of large dataset linking SA Cancer Registry with MBS/PBS and public hospital data (and local oesophageal cancer database)
 - Extrapolation of cancer survival data

- Emerging areas of interest**
- Consumer, stakeholder and researcher engagement / collaboration around:
 - models of care for cancer survivors
 - analysis of linked dataset
-

Professor Damien Keating

Deputy Director (FHMRI Molecular Biosciences)

damien.keating@flinders.edu.au

[Professor Justine Smith](#)

Strategic Prof in Eye & Vision Health/Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor
Deputy Director (FHMRI Clinical Translation)

Justine.smith@flinders.edu.au

I am an ophthalmologist-scientist subspecialised in inflammatory eye disease, including vitreoretinal lymphoma which masquerades as inflammation. My team launched an international registry for vitreoretinal lymphoma in 2021, and we conduct basic research studies of the mechanisms of this rare cancer using human retinal cells that we isolate in-house.

Current research interests • Vitreoretinal lymphoma: mechanisms & outcomes

Emerging areas of interest • Ocular imaging in vitreoretinal lymphoma

[Dr Rebecca Keough](#)

Institute Manager (FHMRI)

FHMRI Cancer Executive Committee member

rebecca.keough@flinders.edu.au

I can assist you with:

- Implementation of research strategies
 - Networking with potential research collaborators
 - Funding opportunities, both external and FHMRI Uplift programs
 - Engagement with FHMRI
-

[Strategic Partnership Team](#)

[Sally Wheldrake](#)

Research Partner, Engagement Director

Sally.wheldrake@flinders.edu.au

As the Research Partner, Engagement Director my remit it to develop and manage engagement with the University's key external research partners and related stakeholders, working closely with members of the research community to strengthen external partnerships.

From June 2020 until late November 2021, I was the interim Director of Research Development and Support (RDS) working closely with key members of the research community and RDS staff to deliver quality research support services that align to the strategic goals of the University described in the Towards 2025 strategic plan.

I am an accredited organisational coach, a graduate of the Governor's leadership foundation program, a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) and an experienced world traveller.

[Dr Rui Hoo](#)

Research Support Lead

rui.hoo@flinders.edu.au

Rui is the Research Support Lead for Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). She has expertise in research development and grants strategy. She will work with University researchers to identify opportunities for MRFF funding, engage with external stakeholders and support the strategic planning and development of competitive funding applications.

FHMRI Research Development and Support

CMRH.Research@flinders.edu.au

Suzanne Atkins

Senior Research Support Officer

suzanne.atkins@flinders.edu.au

I can assist you with:

- provide feedback for strategic fit against external funding guidelines, selection criteria and internal policies and strategic directions
- MRFF funding
- review and evaluate grant applications for scientific quality
- any funding scheme you are interested in applying to

Dr Rebecca Cook

Senior Research Support Officer

rebecca.cook@flinders.edu.au

I can assist you with:

- ongoing internal / external funding opportunities
- funding guideline overviews
- high-level support for the development and preparation of grant/fellowship applications, in particular NHMRC and ARC schemes
- in-depth review and editing of funding applications prior to submission

Brooke Williamson

Research Support Officer

Molecular Biosciences Theme Coordinator

brooke.williamson@flinders.edu.au

Dr Charlotte Scobie

Research Support Officer

Research Education and Development (RED) Hub

charlotte.scobie@flinders.edu.au

Dr Jacqueline Morey

Research Support Officer

Clinical Translation Theme

jacqueline.morey@flinders.edu.au

Craig Prebble

Research Support Officer

Healthy Communities Theme

craig.prebble@flinders.edu.au

We can assist with:

- Coordination of Theme and RED initiatives
- Executive support to Theme and Program committees
- Support to the FHMRI leadership team
- Research related review and compliance matters
- Contribute to policy and procedure development and implementation
- Grant support
- A point of contact for all research-related enquiries

Evelyn Bennett

Research Support Assistant

evelyn.bennett@flinders.edu.au

I can assist you with:

- ResearchNow 'Applications' (supporting Lee-Ann Thomas)
 - Executive support to Consumer Advisory Board (CAB)
 - Interim contact for consumer engagement queries.
-

[Dr Leah Couzner](#)

Research Support Assistant

leah.couzner@flinders.edu.au

I can assist you with:

- ResearchNow publication management
 - University website profile management
-

[Michelle Cox](#)

Research Support Assistant

michelle.cox@flinders.edu.au

I can assist you with:

- RED Hub activity support
 - Internal research communications
-

[Lee-Ann Thomas](#)

Research Support Assistant

leeann.thomas@flinders.edu.au

I can assist you with:

- ResearchNow 'Applications'
- Postgraduate Research Student Maintenance (RSM)
- Student Conference Travel Fund
- Visiting Speaker Program
- Co-Investment Applications
- Pre-Award and Post Award - administration support and advice
- point of contact for all research-related enquiries
- navigate queries as appropriate to staff within the RDS portfolio
- liaise with CMPH Dean (Research)/ FHMRI Director
- Act as a conduit for information and research related queries between the College and other portfolios.

International Priorities in Cancer Research

American Association for Cancer Research www.aacr.org

[Experts Forecast Cancer Research and Treatment Advances in 2022](#)

Cancer Grand Challenges <https://cancergrandchallenges.org/challenges>

Cancer Research UK www.cancerresearchuk.org

[Our priorities for brain tumour research](#)

[Clinical Research Statement of Intent](#)

[Our priorities for discovery research](#)

Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COCA) www.cosa.org.au

[Cancer survivorship research priorities in Australia | COSA](#)

Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/medical-research-future-fund>

[Current MRFF initiatives](#)

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