



Life as a Clinician-Scientist

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Symposium



Australian Academy
of Health and
Medical Sciences

Fiona Stanley Hospital **Saturday 24 June 2023**

Thank you to our sponsors

This event is part of the *Life as a Clinician-Scientist* program run by the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences. This program is unique in Australia – inspiring, encouraging and supporting individuals across the country to pursue research careers in the health and medical sciences.

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The Academy also receives funding from the Australian Government, which supports the delivery of this program. The views expressed at this event do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government.

Welcome to Life as a Clinician-Scientist

We are delighted to welcome you to our *Life as a Clinician-Scientist* symposium.

Our speakers will share their unique journeys that have led to a rich and rewarding career, filled with challenges and discovery.

Why consider life as a clinician-scientist?

Clinician-scientists are uniquely placed to solve the most challenging health problems facing our modern society. They work at the cutting edge of health, combining clinical skills with trailblazing research. They lead the discovery and development of new treatments, reveal insights into health and disease, and their work significantly impacts patient care.

The diverse and exciting careers that you will hear about today involve collaboration with multidisciplinary teams including clinicians, scientists, consumers and policy makers. While the challenges in medical research appear to be increasing, clinician-scientist careers remain rewarding and offer you the opportunity to create your own niche and pursue your passions.

The Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences was established in 2014 to provide an impartial and authoritative voice for health, informed by the highest quality evidence and expert advice from the best and brightest in health and medical research. One of the Academy's missions is to grow and mentor Australia's future generations of clinician-scientists and leaders in health and medical science.

Today's symposium aims to do just that. We are honoured that such a group of exemplary clinician-scientists, at different stages of their careers, have generously agreed to share their wisdom and expertise. We are also very grateful to our event sponsors for helping to facilitate this symposium highlighting these fascinating careers.

We encourage you to join the Twitter conversation by tagging the @AAHMS_Health handle. We hope the AAHMS Western Australia symposium, *Life as a Clinician-Scientist*, inspires you to consider becoming a clinician-scientist in the years ahead.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors who make *Life as a Clinician-Scientist* program possible, in particular for this event – gold sponsor The University of Western Australia.

 @AAHMS_Health



Australian Academy
of Health and
Medical Sciences


About the Academy

The Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences is the independent expert voice for health and medical sciences in Australia. We advance research and innovation in Australia to improve everyone's health.

We are the nation's Learned Academy for the health and medical sciences: an interdisciplinary body of Fellows, who are Australia's most influential researchers in health and medicine. Each Fellow is elected by their peers for their outstanding contributions to the health and medical sciences in their respective fields.

The broad experience of our Fellows ensures that our advice is independent, expert and evidence-based. We use our knowledge and networks to drive change and provide leadership to ensure the most pressing health issues facing society can be addressed for the benefit of all.

We actively engage with the community to raise awareness and ensure that everyone can participate in, and benefit from, health and medical research. Through our work, we seek to reduce health inequities in Australia.

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9.00am	REGISTRATION
SESSION 1	WHERE MEDICINE MEETS SCIENCE - WHAT IS A CLINICIAN-SCIENTIST <i>Chaired by Professor Tim Davis FAHMS</i>
10am	Welcome Professor Tim Davis FAHMS Professor of Medicine, University of Western Australia; Endocrinologist and General Physician, Fremantle Hospital
10.10am	Professor Stephen Stick FAHMS Head, Department of Respiratory Medicine, Telethon Kids Institute
10.40am	Emeritus Professor Karen Simmer AO FAHMS Professor of Newborn Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Western Australia
SESSION 2	THE CAREER OF A CLINICIAN-SCIENTIST - THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS <i>Chaired by Professor David Mackey AO FAHMS</i>
11.10am	Associate Professor Asha Bowen Head of the Department of Infectious Diseases at Perth Children's Hospital and Program Head, End Rheumatic Heart Disease (END RHD) and Team Lead, Healthy Skin and ARF Prevention at Telethon Kids Institute Associate Professor Gina Ravenscroft Principal Research Fellow, Harry Perkins Institute for Medical Research Associate Professor Fred Chen Ophthalmologist; Director Clinical Research, Lions Eye Institute Associate Professor Roslyn Francis Associate Professor of Molecular Imaging, University of Western Australia
12.00pm	LUNCH <i>Spot mentoring sessions</i>
1.00pm	EVENT CLOSE

Speakers



Professor Tim Davis FAHMS

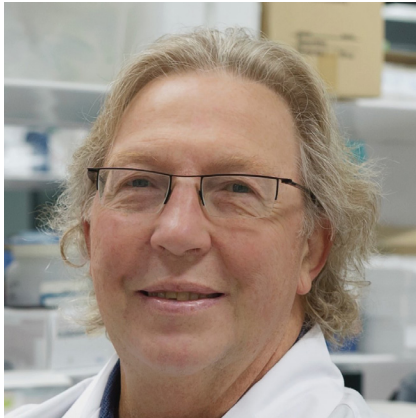
Professor of Medicine, University of Western Australia; Endocrinologist and General Physician, Fremantle Hospital

Professor Tim Davis FAHMS is an endocrinologist and general physician based at Fremantle Hospital, and Professor of Medicine at the University of Western Australia. He has had research interests in diabetes since 1978 and in tropical medicine since 1987, and is still active in both areas.

He is principal investigator of the Fremantle Diabetes Study, a large-scale prospective study of diabetes in a community-based cohort. He is also a Busselton Health Study investigator and an associate investigator on the United Kingdom Prospective Diabetes Study. He founded a tropical/infectious diseases research group that is involved in collaborative studies of malaria and bacterial infections in children and pregnant women in Papua New Guinea and other tropical countries.

Professor Davis is author or co-author of 500 original research papers and 48 review articles, the majority on diabetes, endocrinology, malaria and other tropical diseases.

Professor Davis is a member and past Vice President of the Australian Diabetes Society, was the Society's 2014 Kellion Lecturer in recognition of his outstanding contribution to diabetes research and clinical care in Australia, and received a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021. He was recently a member of the Australian Government's Commonwealth Science Council, and is currently Co-Deputy Chair of the Australian Government Medical Services Advisory Committee.



Professor Stephen Stick FAHMS

*Head, Department of Respiratory
Medicine, Telethon Kids Institute*

Professor Stephen Stick FAHMS is a career clinical researcher, National Health and Medical Research Council Leadership Fellow and Director of the Wal-yan Respiratory Research Centre at the Telethon Kids Institute, Perth, Western Australia.

He has developed unique approaches to study paediatric lung disease e.g., tissue sampling techniques, creation of biobanks, longitudinal data and image archives, 1° airway epithelial cell functional models. His work is focused on translating discoveries into clinical practice.



Professor Karen Simmer AO FAHMS

*Professor of Newborn Medicine, School of
Medicine, University of Western Australia*

Professor Karen Simmer AO FAHMS was the inaugural Professor of Newborn Medicine at the University of Western Australia (UWA) and the Director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Units at King Edward and Perth Children's Hospitals (2001-2020). In 2006, she established the first Human Milk Bank in Australia in 2006. Prof Simmer was elected Chairman of the Academic Board at UWA (2009-2012).

Professor Simmer has qualifications from Sydney, London and Harvard Universities. She has more than 200 research publications. Prof Simmer was appointed as an Officer in the Order of Australia for her commitment to paediatrics as an academic, researcher and clinician, in 2015. Professor Simmer was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science in 2017.

Professor Simmer was the Co-Director of the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence for preterm infants based at UWA. She is an Honorary Professor, University of Sydney and an Honorary Research Fellow, Telethon Kids Institute, WA.

She led an international randomised clinical trial that is funded by NHMRC and aims to improve brain development of very preterm children.

She is currently an Emeritus Professor in the School of Medicine, UWA and continues to supervise PhD students and to serve on selection Committees for international Fellowships and Scholars.



Professor David Mackey AO FAHMS

Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Western Australia

Professor David Mackey AO FAHMS is an NHMRC Practitioner Fellow. He is the former Managing Director of the Lions Eye Institute (2009-19), a councillor of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) and current RANZCO representative on the Council and Vice President of the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology.

He is past president of the International Society for Genetic Eye Disease and Retinoblastoma. David is a renowned international researcher in the genetics of eye disease and has published over 400 peer reviewed papers since 1989. He is the world's most published author in glaucoma genetics and is a lead investigator in the International Glaucoma Genetics Consortium and the Consortium for Refractive Error and Myopia.

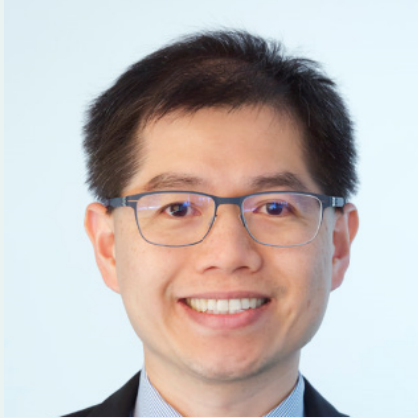
In 1993, Professor Mackey initiated the Glaucoma Inheritance Study in Tasmania, thereby creating one of the largest glaucoma biobanks in the world, with over 5,000 DNA samples and clinical material from familial and sporadic cases of glaucoma. He is now working with the Raine Study, Busselton Healthy Aging Study and Origins Project in Western Australia.



Associate Professor Asha Bowen

Head of Skin Health, Wesfarmers Centre of Vaccines and Infectious Diseases, Telethon Kids Institute

Associate Professor Asha Bowen is a clinician-scientist working across the Perth Children's Hospital as a paediatric infectious disease specialist and the Telethon Kids Institute as Head of the Healthy Skin and ARF Prevention Team and leads the END RHD Program. Associate Professor Bowen and her team launched the inaugural National Healthy Skin Guidelines to guide clinicians in the recognition and evidence-based treatment of skin infections, and are updating this resource in 2023. Associate Professor Bowen has more than 10 years' experience leading infectious diseases research and investigator-initiated clinical trials focused on issues significant to Aboriginal child health.



Associate Professor Fred Chen

Ophthalmologist; Director Clinical Research, Lions Eye Institute

Associate Professor Fred Chen is a vitreoretinal surgeon and clinician-researcher. In 2010, after completing both a PhD at the University College London in retinal cell transplantation and medical and surgical retina Fellowships at Moorfields Eye Hospital, Dr Chen returned to Perth to establish the Ocular Tissue Engineering Laboratory at the Lions Eye Institute to further the investigation of stem cell therapy and inherited retinal diseases.

Dr Chen is also an active principal investigator in ophthalmic clinical trials of novel retinal therapies and systemic drug toxicity, his clinical interest being the natural history of genetic eye diseases and validation of clinical trial endpoints. His laboratory examines variants of uncertain significance, using patient-derived cell models, and also develops gene replacement and patient-customised antisense therapies that alter gene splicing to treat inherited retinal diseases. He is a co-inventor of a retinitis pigmentosa type 11 treatment currently undergoing phase 1 trial.

Dr Chen has been awarded fellowships and research grants from the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists and has previously served on the Board of the Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia. He is a Principal Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia and a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne. His clinical practice is at Royal Perth Hospital, Lions Eye Institute and Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital in Melbourne.



Associate Professor Roslyn Francis

Associate Professor of Molecular Imaging, University of Western Australia

Associate Professor Roslyn Francis is an academic nuclear medicine physician. She is Associate Professor of Molecular Imaging at University of Western Australia and has a clinical position at Department of Nuclear Medicine/ WA PET Service, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (HOD 2013-2023).

Associate Professor Francis obtained her medical degree at UWA before travelling to the UK to undertake a Cancer Research UK Clinical Research Fellowship and PhD at the Royal Free Hospital London on antibody therapies. Associate Professor Francis has continued to pursue a combined clinical and research career, and has a particular interest in clinical trials, molecular imaging and therapy and imaging analytics.

Associate Professor Francis is the inaugural scientific chair of Australasian Radiopharmaceutical Trials Network, co-founder of Australian Centre for Quantitative Imaging and is Co-Director of Western Australian node of the National Imaging Facility. She served as President of Australian and New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine from 2018-2020.



Associate Professor Gina Ravenscroft

Principal Research Fellow, Harry Perkins Institute for Medical Research

Associate Professor Gina Ravenscroft heads the Rare Disease Genetics and Functional Genomics Group at the Harry Perkins Institute and is a Senior Research Fellow at UWA. Associate Professor Ravenscroft is funded by an NHMRC EL2 Investigator Grant and has previously held NHMRC Early Career Fellowship and Career Development Fellowship. Her group is funded by the NHMRC and MRFF, as well as international charitable organisations (including The French Muscular Dystrophy Association and FSHD Global) and the WA Department of Health. Associate Professor Ravenscroft is a member of the NHMRC Women in Health Sciences Committee and is President of the National Association of Research Fellows. Internationally, Associate Professor Ravenscroft is on The Executive Board and also the Scientific Program Committee of the World Muscle Society. While working as a fundamental/basic scientist, Associate Professor Ravenscroft works very closely with clinical and diagnostic colleagues including The Neurogenetic Unit within PathWest and her research has an immediate impact on patients and families living with neurogenetic and other rare diseases.

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The University of Western Australia of Western Australia is pioneering research that improves well-being in our local and global communities. UWA is a global leader in research, noted for its excellence in clinical medicine and for its expertise in allied health, data science, mental health and biomedical and biological sciences.

Our varied and impactful research strives to provide new insights that will advance health and wellbeing. UWA's skills and capabilities help to deliver research that can inform the best care and the well-trained staff required to deliver it, offering real health outcome benefits to our community and worldwide.

We are tightly integrated with the Western Australian health system, public and private health providers, consumer advocacy groups and community health organisations. This close interaction ensures our students are equipped with the skills and knowledge to become the health leaders of the future.

In addition, UWA offers many formal learning opportunities for healthcare providers including micro credentialing, coursework and research Master's programs, and development of the next generation of clinician scientists and researchers through PhD programs.



THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA





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411 Vulture Street
Woolloongabba, QLD 4102
Australia

PO Box 6114
Woolloongabba QLD 4102

e info@ahms.org p +61 7 3102 7220

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