



# Life as a Clinician-Scientist

QUEENSLAND  
Symposium



Australian Academy  
of Health and  
Medical Sciences

Brisbane, QLD **Saturday 27 July 2024**

# 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 Queensland symposium.

Let us take you on a journey of possibilities, where clinical practice meets groundbreaking research.

## Exploring pathways to a fulfilling career

Our Life as a Clinician-Scientist symposia are designed to inspire junior doctors, health and medical sciences students, and early career researchers to pursue a career as a clinician-scientist. Today, we showcase the many pathways to this exciting career.

Our esteemed clinician-scientist speakers are here to share their insights, experiences, and expertise with you. They represent a diverse range of disciplines and backgrounds, but they are united by a common passion for bridging the gap between clinical practice and health research. Their stories are testament to the impact the career of a clinician-scientist can have, both on a personal level and on a broader scale. We are honoured that these outstanding role models have generously agreed to join us and share their wisdom.

I encourage you to approach today with an open mind and a sense of curiosity. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn from those who have walked this path before you, and allow their stories to inspire and guide you on your own journey to becoming a clinician-scientist.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our event sponsors for helping to facilitate these symposia, that are held around the country.

Please join the conversation on X (formerly Twitter) by tagging @AAHMS\_Health and sharing your thoughts. We hope the symposium inspires you to consider becoming a clinician-scientist in the future.

Professor David Whiteman AM FAHMS

Chair of the Life as a Clinician-Scientist Queensland symposium



@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 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	MY JOURNEY TO BECOMING A CLINICIAN-SCIENTIST
9.30am	<p><i>Welcome to the symposium</i></p> <p><b>Professor David Whiteman AM FAHMS</b> NHMRC Leadership Fellow (L3) and Distinguished Scientist, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute</p>
9.40am	<p><i>Lessons from a zig-zag career</i></p> <p><b>Professor Paul Glasziou AO FAHMS</b> Director, Institute for Evidence-Based Healthcare, Bond University</p>
10.10am	<p><i>Life as a clinician scientist</i></p> <p><b>Professor Victoria Atkinson</b> Senior Medical Oncologist, Princess Alexandra and Greenslopes Private Hospital</p>
10.45am	MORNING TEA
SESSION 2	PRACTICAL TIPS FOR CREATING YOUR LIFE AS A CLINICIAN-SCIENTIST
11.15am	<p><i>How to get into clinical research</i></p> <p><b>Professor Peter Sly AO FAHMS</b> Director, Children's Health and Environment Program, Child Health Research Centre, The University of Queensland</p>
SESSION 3	PANEL DISCUSSION
11.50am	<p><i>If I knew then what I know now: Starting out as a clinician-scientist</i></p> <p><b>Associate Professor Andrea Henden</b> Senior Staff Specialist, Haematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and Immunology Research Officer at QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute</p> <p><b>Associate Professor Aideen McInerney-Leo</b> Research Leader, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland</p> <p><b>Professor Jason Roberts FAHMS</b> Director, The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research and Interim Director, Herston Infectious Diseases Institute, Metro North Health</p>
12.45pm	LUNCH
1.10pm	<p><b>SPOT MENTORING SESSIONS</b></p> <p><i>Please register for a one-on-one session at the registration desk</i></p>
2.00pm	SYMPOSIUM CLOSE

# Speakers



**Professor David Whiteman** is a medical epidemiologist with a special interest in the causes, control and prevention of cancer. He received his medical degree from The University of Queensland in 1991, and his PhD in cancer epidemiology in 1997. Professor Whiteman has an international reputation for research into the public health aspects of cancer control. He is former Deputy Director of QIMR Berghofer and Chair of the Queensland Chapter of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences. In 2019, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his services to cancer epidemiology.

## **Professor David Whiteman AM FAHMS**

***NHMRC Leadership Fellow (L3) and  
Distinguished Scientist, QIMR Berghofer  
Medical Research Institute***



**Professor Paul Glasziou AO  
FAHMS**

*Director, Institute for Evidence-Based  
Healthcare, Bond University*

**Professor Paul Glasziou** is Director of the Institute for Evidence-Based Healthcare at Bond University and was the Director of the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine in Oxford from 2003-2010. His key interests include identifying and removing barriers to using high quality research in everyday clinical practice and improving the clinical impact of research by reducing the more than \$85 billion annual loss from unpublished and unusable research (Chalmers, Glasziou, Lancet 2009). Professor Glasziou co-founded the International Society for Evidence-based Health Care and the RACGP's Handbook of Non-Drug Interventions. He has authored over 600 peer-reviewed journal articles and 7 books related to evidence-based practice.



**Professor Victoria Atkinson**

*Senior Medical Oncologist, Princess  
Alexandra and Greenslopes Private  
Hospital*

**Professor Victoria Atkinson** works as a medical oncologist at Princess Alexandra Hospital (2007-ongoing) and Greenslopes Private Hospital (2011-ongoing) and her academic affiliation is with The University of Queensland's Faculty of Medicine Clinical School. She is affiliated with the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation at Greenslopes and is co-chair of the Queensland Melanoma Project at Princess Alexandra Hospital. She is on the board of Melanoma Patients Australia and is a Faculty Member of the European Society for Medical Oncology Tumor Immunology and Investigational Immunology.





### **Professor Peter Sly AO FAHMS**

**Director, Children's Health and Environment Program, Child Health Research Centre, The University of Queensland**

**Professor Peter Sly** is a former Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Pacific Basin Consortium for the Environment and Health, Director, Children's Health and Environment Program and Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Children's Health and Environment. Professor Sly is a NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow and a paediatric respiratory physician with extensive research experience in respiratory physiology, developmental immunology and children's environmental health. Professor Sly's research aims to understand the mechanisms underlying chronic childhood lung diseases in order to improve clinical management and to delay or prevent their onset, with consequent reductions in adult lung diseases. A combination of basic science, longitudinal cohort studies and translation of research findings into clinical practice, including clinical trials, are included in three main areas: children's environmental health, asthma, and cystic fibrosis.



### **Associate Professor Andrea Henden**

**Senior Staff Specialist, Haematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and Immunology Research Officer at QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute**

**Associate Professor Andrea Henden** is a clinical Haematologist and Bone Marrow Transplant physician at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital in Brisbane, Australia and a holder of a Metro North Clinician Research Fellowship. She has a clinical interest in transplantation and cellular therapies, and the infectious complications of these treatments. Associate Professor Henden is also a research officer in the Translational Cancer Immunotherapy Laboratory at QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute. Her research focusses on transplant immunology and current active projects include cellular therapies for COVID-19 and other infections, and the role of the microbiome on T cell function in the context of transplantation. She is the Principal Investigator on a number of Investigator Initiated Clinical Trials bringing novel immunotherapies to the clinic, with a focus toward treating complications of bone marrow transplantation.





### **Associate Professor Aideen McInerney-Leo**

***Research Leader, Frazer Institute,  
The University of Queensland***

**Associate Professor Aideen McInerney-Leo** trained as a genetic counsellor in the UK before moving to the US to conduct clinical research at the National Institutes of Health and lecture at Johns Hopkins University. She now leads her group, Integrating Genomics into Medicine at The University of Queensland (UQ), which develops educational interventions for clinicians and patients, to facilitate access to genomic testing. Aideen chairs the UQ Frazer Institute Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and is a vocal advocate for EMCRs generally and women in STEMM, in particular.



### **Professor Jason Roberts FAHMS**

***Director, The University of Queensland  
Centre for Clinical Research and Interim  
Director, Herston Infectious Diseases  
Institute, Metro North Health***

**Professor Jason Roberts** is Director of The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR) and an Australian National Health and Medical Research Council Leadership Fellow at The University of Queensland. He is a Clinical Pharmacist at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital where he is also the Interim Director of the Herston Infectious Diseases Institute (HeIDI). He leads the Centre of Research Excellence RESPOND which aims to develop optimised antibiotic dosing regimens to improve patient outcomes and minimise the emergence of antibiotic-resistant superbugs.





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