

Australian
Academy of
Health & Medical
Sciences

Shaping tomorrow's health: Embracing innovation and transformation

2024 AAHMS Annual Meeting

National Wine Centre of Australia, Adelaide | 24–25 October 2024

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We are most grateful to our generous sponsors for helping to facilitate this event, and to our steering committee for their support:

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Australian Academy of Health & Medical Sciences

Welcome

The Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences is the impartial, authoritative, cross-sector voice of health and medical sciences in Australia. We advance research and innovation in Australia to improve everyone's health. This year marks a decade since the Academy's formation — an exciting time of rapid growth. From establishing the Academy from scratch, to marking such significant milestones as releasing our first major policy project, launching a national series of events for future clinician-scientists, and recognising outstanding researchers with our own honorific awards — we have many reasons to be proud. And of course, there is much more to achieve. We look forward to leading these conversations with you at this year's Annual Meeting.

We are an independent, interdisciplinary body of Fellows — elected by their peers for their outstanding achievements and exceptional contributions to health and medical science in Australia. The Academy is uniquely positioned to convene cross-sector stakeholders from across Australia to address the most pressing health challenges facing society. We focus on the development of future generations of health and medical researchers, on providing independent advice to government, and on providing a forum for discussion on progress in health and medical research with an emphasis on translation of research into practice.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Academy acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which our offices stand and on which we hold our meetings and events across the country. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were the nation's first scientists, and they remain the spiritual and cultural custodians of their land. We pay our respects to elders past and present.



Conference program

8:30am	Registration
9:00am	Welcome to Country Cliffy Wilson, a proud Kurna, Narungga, Ngarrindjeri, Ngadjuri and Arrente man
9:10am	Meeting opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Helen Marshall AM FAHMS, Chair, SA/NT State Branch Professor Louise Baur AM FAHMS, President
9:20am	Induction of new Fellows to the Academy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Louise Baur AM FAHMS, President Professor John Prins FAHMS, Vice-President elect
Keynote	AI — Are we ready?
9:40am	<i>Chaired by Professor Helen Marshall AM FAHMS, Clinical Research Director, Women's and Children's Health Network and Professor in Vaccinology, The University of Adelaide</i> <p>Do we, the humans researching, delivering or receiving healthcare, truly understand the impact of artificial intelligence? And is AI really ready for safety-critical applications such as patient-facing care?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Alastair Denniston, Director of the Centre for Regulatory Science and Innovation, University of Birmingham
Session 1	How can we bring responsible AI integration to Australia?
10:25am	<i>Chaired by Professor Alastair Denniston</i> <p>Our experts will discuss strategies for promoting transparency, accountability, and fairness in AI systems, and ways to address concerns such as data privacy, bias mitigation, and regulatory frameworks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr David Hansen, CEO, Australian e-Health Research Centre, CSIRO Associate Professor Xiaoxuan Liu, Senior Clinician-Scientist in AI and Digital Health, University of Birmingham Professor Melissa McCradden, Artificial Intelligence Director, Women's and Children's Health Network, and The Hospital Research Foundation Clinical Research Fellow in AI Ethics, Australian Institute for Machine Learning, The University of Adelaide Professor Rajvinder Singh, Professor of Medicine, The University of Adelaide, and Director of Gastroenterology, Lyell McEwin Hospital
11:20am	Morning tea
Session 2	Enabling data driven research excellence, in partnership with the Australian Council of Senior Academic Leaders in Digital Health
11:50am	<i>Chaired by Professor Russell Gruen FAHMS, The Australian National University, and Executive Committee member of the Australian Council of Senior Academic Leaders in Digital Health</i> <p>Learn how we can collectively harness digital health resources to deliver value, enhance safety and quality of care, and empower the health workforce, researchers, and policymakers for the benefit of all Australians.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Professor Ben Hachey, Beamtree Associate Professor of Clinical Informatics and Data Science, The University of Sydney Professor Steven McPhail, Director, Australian Centre for Health Services Innovation and Centre for Healthcare Transformation, Queensland University of Technology Associate Professor Natalie Smith, Associate Professor in Practice, John Grill Institute for Project Leadership, The University of Sydney Professor Clair Sullivan, Director, Queensland Digital Health Centre, The University of Queensland

Session 3 One year on from the Voice referendum	
12:45pm	<p><i>Chaired by Professor James Ward FAHMS, Director, Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, The University of Queensland</i></p> <p>Join our expert panel members as they discuss the key priorities for our sector in the wake of the unsuccessful Voice referendum of 2023. What, if anything, have we learnt as a nation in the last year? And how can the health and medical research sector work to keep the momentum going?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Dawn Bessarab FAHMS, Director, Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health, The University of Western Australia • Dr Chris Bourke, Director, Indigenous Science and Engagement, CSIRO • Professor Alex Brown FAHMS FTSE, Professor and Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Genomics, The Australian National University and Professor of Indigenous Genomics, The Kids Research Institute Australia
1:30pm	Lunch
Driving a more environmentally conscious future for health and medical research	
2:30pm	<p><i>Chaired by Professor Fran Baum AO FASSA FAHMS, Professor of Health Equity, The Stretton Institute, The University of Adelaide</i></p> <p>Healthy Planet = Healthy People: Embracing eco-social approaches to health</p> <p>Professor Capon will examine the health toll from environmental change, and the urgent need to reduce environmental impacts of health care and health research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Tony Capon, Director, Monash Sustainable Development Institute and Professor of Planetary Health, Monash University
2:50pm	<p>At what cost? The environmental impact of health care</p> <p>Professor Buchbinder will discuss strategies and approaches the sector must use to reduce environmental consequences now, in order to cultivate a more resilient future for Australia's scientific endeavours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Rachelle Buchbinder AO FAHMS FAA, Head, Musculoskeletal Health and Wiser Health Care Units, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
3:05pm	<p>Building a climate-resilient health system: policy action to protect our most vulnerable communities</p> <p>Professor Martin will discuss opportunities such as the newly formed Australian Government's Climate and Health Expert Advisory Group (of which Professor Martin is a member), and the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, with a focus on how, as a health community, we must always act in the interests of the current and future population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Jennifer Martin FAHMS, President, Royal Australasian College of Physicians
Session 4 Looking to the horizon: Australia's R&D review and the national strategy for health and medical research	
3:40pm	<p><i>Chaired by Professor Ian Frazer AC FRS FAHMS FAA FTSE</i></p> <p>Against the backdrop of the government's 'strategic examination into the R&D system', our panel of leading experts will explore the potential pathways for transformative research, discuss the challenges of integrating cutting-edge technologies into the healthcare system, and envision a future where Australia leads globally in health innovation and equity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Elizabeth Hartland AM FAHMS, Director and CEO, Hudson Institute of Medical Research, and President, Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI) • Professor Anna Nowak FAHMS, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), The University of Western Australia • Professor John Prins FAHMS, Executive Director, Health Translation Queensland, and Chair, Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA)
4:30pm	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Helen Marshall AM FAHMS, Chair, SA/NT State Branch • Professor Louise Baur AM FAHMS, President
6:00pm Gala Dinner	
	<p>Rose Garden Pavilion, Adelaide Botanic Garden</p> <p>Join us from 6:00pm for drinks on the lawn, before dinner commences at 7:00pm sharp</p>

Friday 25 October

8:30am	President's Breakfast
	Vines Room, National Wine Centre of Australia All guests are invited to join our President, Professor Louise Baur AM FAHMS, for a light networking breakfast. Come along to hear from some of our incredible new Fellows as they're challenged to introduce themselves and their research in under three minutes.
Session 5	Navigating the next decade: what does the future hold for health and medical research?
10:40am	Professor John Prins FAHMS, <i>Chair, Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA)</i> This session will reflect on discussions from day 1 and will consider the broader landscape for health and medical research and the Academy over the next decade. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professor Jon Karnon, Professor in Health Economics, College of Medicine and Public Health, Flinders University• Professor Michael Kidd AO FAHMS, Director, Centre for Future Health Systems, UNSW Sydney• Gillian Mason, Consumer Representative and Head of Research Program, National Disability Research Partnership• Professor Steve Wesselingh FAHMS, CEO, NHMRC
11:30am	AAHMS General Meetings (including AGM)
	For AAHMS Fellows and Associate Members only Streaming available for remote participants
12:30pm	Closing remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professor Helen Marshall AM FAHMS, Chair, SA/NT State Branch• Professor Louise Baur AM FAHMS, President
12:40pm	Lunch
1:00pm	Bus leaves for the airport (20-minute trip)
1:30pm	Meeting close

Our media partner

Cosmosmagazine.com is covering the AAHMS conference. Cosmos Magazine is Australia's only independent science news magazine and its team also produce free daily science news content and newsletters. Health science news is one of its core pillars alongside palaeontology, physics, chemistry, materials, engineering, space, agricultural science and regional science news. Contact: ian.mannix@csiro.au

Cosmos Magazine was taken over by the CSIRO Publishing in June, as part of the national science agency's commitment to support Australia's science news and communication industry. CSIRO Publishing produces 28 peer review journals including six specialist health journals and is about to launch two more health publications.

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Our speakers



Professor Alastair Denniston

Professor Alastair Denniston is an expert in the evaluation and regulation of AI health technologies, and Director of the Centre for Regulatory Science and Innovation (Birmingham, UK).

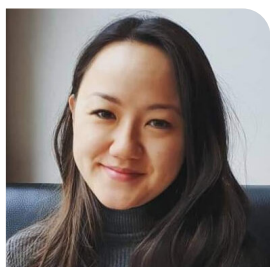
With Associate Professor Xiao Liu, he leads a Research and Policy Group exploring how we can ensure that AI health technologies are effective, safe and equitable, and improve patient care in the 'real world'. Their work includes the landmark STANDING Together initiative to tackle AI bias, and CONSORT-AI to improve the quality of AI studies. Professor Denniston is a Member of the UK Government's Regulatory Horizons Council.



Dr David Hansen

Dr David Hansen is CEO and Research Director of the Australian e-Health Research Centre at CSIRO — Australia's national science agency. The AEHRC is CSIRO's digital health research program. With more than 150 scientists and engineers across health informatics, biomedical informatics and health services research, the AEHRC is Australia's largest digital health research centre.

Dr Hansen is passionate about the role of information and communication technologies in health care and the role of digital health professionals in developing a safe, high quality efficient and sustainable healthcare system.



Associate Professor Xiao Liu

Associate Professor Xiao Liu is an Associate Professor in AI and Digital Health at the University of Birmingham, where she jointly leads a research and policy group focused on responsible innovation and regulatory science in AI health technologies. She is AI theme lead of the Birmingham Health Partners Centre for Regulatory Science and Innovation, co-lead for the UK NIHR Incubator for AI and Digital Health, and advisor to the MHRA on AI as Software as a Medical Device.

She has led international efforts for responsible innovation in medical AI, including SPIRIT-AI and CONSORT-AI and STANDING Together. Associate Professor Liu also serves as a Deputy Editor at NEJM-AI and was previously an ophthalmology doctor in the UK NHS and a Health Scientist at Apple.

Our speakers



Professor Melissa McCradden

Professor Melissa McCradden is the Women's and Children's Health Network Artificial Intelligence Director and The Hospital Research Foundation Group Clinical Research Fellow in Ethics of AI at the Australian Institute for Machine Learning at the University of Adelaide. She is an Adjunct Scientist with the SickKids Research Institute and an Associate Editor for the journal Research Ethics.

As a bioethicist, Professor McCradden's expertise is in the development of ethical frameworks derived from clinical and technical knowledge grounded in policy, law and moral theory. She has published on fairness and algorithmic bias, responsible clinical evaluation of healthcare machine learning, and clinical integration of AI.

Professor McCradden participates in many international reporting guideline initiatives and working groups, such as the World Health Organization's Clinical Evaluation of AI Task Force. She holds a PhD in Neuroscience from McMaster University, a Master of Health Sciences in Bioethics from the University of Toronto, and was the inaugural Postdoctoral Fellow in AI Ethics at SickKids and Vector Institute.



Professor Rajvinder Singh

Professor Rajvinder Singh is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Adelaide and Director of Gastroenterology at the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network, South Australia. To date, he has published more than 150 peer reviewed papers and 11 book chapters. He has been a Chief Editor of four textbooks, including two volumes of the state-of-the-art Atlas of Advanced Endoscopy published this year.

As a full-time clinician, Professor Singh has a h-index of 43. He has been successful in obtaining more than \$3 million in grants. In 2019, his work on AI in the diagnosis of colorectal polyps was selected as one of three nominees for the Minister's Innovation Award. Professor Singh is an internationally renowned endoscopist, and has been invited to lecture at more than 200 endoscopy workshops worldwide.



Associate Professor Ben Hachey

Associate Professor Ben Hachey is the Beamtree Associate Professor of Clinical Informatics and Data Science at The University of Sydney. His mission is to use data and AI to transform health outcomes and experience. With more than 60 research outputs, his focus is on the design and validation of digital health solutions, incorporating new and proven techniques in AI.

Associate Professor Hachey is also a commercial AI advisor, drawing on his startup and translation experience. Most recently, he led a 15-person team at Harrison AI, delivering the machine learning at the core of the Annalise radiology assist tools. Dr Hachey is passionate about developing the next generation of health data scientists and innovators, having both recruited several data science teams and launched the Master of Data Science at The University of Sydney.



Our speakers



Professor Steven McPhail

Professor Steve McPhail is a health services researcher, health economist and clinician with a special interest in digital health and AI implementation and sustainment. He is Director of the Australian Centre for Health Services Innovation and Centre for Healthcare Transformation at the Queensland University of Technology. He is passionate about empowering health services to deliver high-value patient-centred care, particularly for vulnerable members of our community.

He has published more than 300 peer-reviewed journal articles, been awarded more than \$120 million in competitive research funding, and his work has impacted healthcare services and policy locally and internationally, including the World Bank, EU, OECD and WHO.



Associate Professor Natalie Smith

Associate Professor Natalie Smith is an Associate Professor in Practice with The University of Sydney and non-Executive Director.

Her passion is in helping boards, executives and clinical leaders obtain value from investments in digital and data-empowered transformation. Her focus is on the governance of digital and data transformation, and she gets to test this in practice with a number of board roles. This includes Deputy Chair for UnitingCare Queensland, member of Queensland Treasury Corporation Board and St John of God Digital Transformation Committee, and member of a national AI thinktank.



Professor Clair Sullivan

Professor Clair Sullivan is an internationally recognised leading practising and academic clinical informatician helping to drive digital health transformation in Queensland. Professor Sullivan is Director of The University of Queensland's (UQ) Queensland Digital Health Centre, a collaboration across UQ and major Australian and international partners. She is also a Consultant Endocrinologist at Metro North Hospital and Health Service.

She serves on several national advisory boards for digital health and chairs the Australian Council of Senior Academic Leaders in Digital Health. Professor Sullivan is ranked in the top 1% of medical informatics researchers globally and named on \$66 million in grants.

Our speakers



Professor Dawn Bessarab FAHMS

Professor Dawn Bessarab, Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health at The University of Western Australia, is a senior social worker and Indigenous health researcher with expertise in qualitative research. Professor Bessarab specialises in the application of Indigenous research methodologies, critical and cultural approaches to health research and founded research and clinical yarning which is now universally applied in research and clinical practice.

Descended from the Bard (West Kimberley) and Yindjibarndi (Pilbara) language groups, Professor Bessarab has extensive experience in Indigenous health and ageing, family and domestic violence, gender, and capacity building of Indigenous communities. Her work acknowledges the impact of colonisation on Aboriginal health outcomes.



Dr Chris Bourke

Dr Chris Bourke leads Indigenous Science and Engagement at CSIRO, Australia's national science agency. Dr Bourke is a Gamillaroi man and Australia's first Indigenous dentist. In an extensive career, he has held clinical positions in the private and public sector including his own private dental practice, Aboriginal Medical Services, public hospitals and state/territory health departments. From 2011 to 2016, Dr Bourke was a Member of the ACT Legislative Assembly, with various ministerial portfolios.

Dr Bourke has postgraduate diplomas in Public Health and Clinical Dentistry (Oral Implants) and an MBA. He is an Honorary Professor at Macquarie University, Honorary Clinical Associate Professor at Melbourne University and a Fellow of the International College of Dentistry. Dr Bourke is also the Board Chair of the Australian Dental Council.



Professor Alex Brown FAHMS FTSE

Professor Alex Brown is an internationally leading Aboriginal clinician/researcher who has worked his entire career in Aboriginal health in the provision of public health services, chronic disease care, health care policy and research. Much of his work has been at the difficult interface of geographical isolation, complex cultural context, severe socioeconomic disadvantage, and profound health disparities.

His transdisciplinary program of research focuses on documenting the burden and contributors to health inequality in Indigenous Australians, with a primary focus on cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer, spanning time at Menzies School of Health Research, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (2012–2021). During his most recent appointment at SAHMRI, he oversaw the establishment of an integrated centre of excellence in Indigenous chronic disease and public health research. In 2022 he took up a new position as Professor of Indigenous Genomics for The Kids Research Institute and ANU, leading a national approach to ensure the benefits of genomics and precision medicine are realised for Indigenous Australians.



Our speakers



Professor Tony Capon

Professor Tony Capon is a man of Ngāi Tahu and Pākehā descent, and the world's first professor of planetary health. He directs the Monash Sustainable Development Institute and holds a chair in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash University. His research focuses on urbanisation, sustainable development, and population health.

Professor Capon was a commissioner with the Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission on Planetary Health and now chairs the WHO Technical Advisory Group on Climate Change, Environment and Health in the Western Pacific Region, co-chairs the Future Earth Health Knowledge-Action Network, and is a member of NHMRC Research Committee.



Professor Rachelle Buchbinder FAHMS FAA

Professor Rachelle Buchbinder combines rheumatology practice with clinical research. She is an NHMRC Investigator Fellow and Professor (Distinguished Academic)/Head, Musculoskeletal Health and Wiser Health Care Units in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University.

She is known internationally as a vocal proponent of evidence-based medicine and for her landmark studies, particularly those examining treatments accepted into practice before their proper evaluation. Her 2021 book, *'Hippocracy, how doctors are betraying their oath'*, written with orthopaedic surgeon Ian Harris, aims to highlight society's overreliance on medicine for a general audience.



Professor Jennifer Martin FAHMS

Professor Jennifer Martin is a practicing physician and clinical pharmacologist in the Hunter and Chair of Clinical Pharmacology at the University of Newcastle. She holds an MA in politics and economics from Oxford University, a science PhD from Monash University and a postdoctoral fellowship at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute. She has been involved in a broad range of activities including State, Commonwealth and international medicines and health policy committees/advisory roles, specifically around drug development and translation into optimised medicines usage.

She is also President of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and Chair of the Board of Directors, an elected Councillor on the NSW Council of Australian Institute of Company Directors, and a member of the Australian Government's Climate and Health Expert Advisory Group.

Our speakers



Professor Elizabeth Hartland AM FAHMS

Professor Elizabeth Hartland is the Director and CEO of Hudson Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne and Head of the Department of Molecular and Translational Science at Monash University.

She is a leading Australian microbiologist with a research interest in defining how pathogenic bacteria evade immune detection. She is an honorary Distinguished Professor of Hokkaido University, Japan, President of the Australian Association of Medical Research Institutes and recent past member of NHMRC Council (2021–2024). In 2024, Professor Hartland was a recipient of the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the King's Birthday Honours list.



Professor Anna Nowak FAHMS

Professor Anna Nowak is Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at The University of Western Australia, with responsibility for research policy development and leadership of the university's research activities, postgraduate education, industry liaison, intellectual property and commercialisation at UWA. She is a medical oncologist and clinician-scientist who completed her undergraduate medical degree and PhD in tumour immunology at UWA.

She is a member of the Cancer Council WA Board and Cancer Australia Advisory Council. She is passionate about mentoring, collaboration, building a positive culture for research staff and students, and women in science.



Professor John Prins FAHMS

Professor John Prins is an active clinician-scientist, a respected thought leader in diabetes and endocrinology in Australia, and has wide experience on grant review and advisory committees for NHMRC, non-government organisations and industry. He has received more than \$35 million in research and commercialisation funding, has published over 160 research publications with over 14,700 citations, and holds four international patents.

In July 2023, he was appointed Chair of the Australian Health Research Alliance — the national voice of 14 Research Translation Centres, which are either fully accredited or recognised as emerging by the NHMRC.



Professor Jon Karnon

Professor Jon Karnon is a Professor in Health Economics, College of Medicine and Public Health, at Flinders University. He has more than 25 years' experience and a broad area of expertise in the economic evaluation of health care services and technologies, with a focus on the use of mathematical and simulation modelling methods to synthesise data. He has worked with governments, health services and pharmaceutical companies to inform decisions regarding the value of new health technologies and models of care.



Our speakers



Professor Michael Kidd AO FAHMS

Professor Michael Kidd is Director of the Centre for Future Health Systems at UNSW and Professor of Global Primary Care and Future Health Systems at the University of Oxford. He served as Australia's Deputy Chief Medical Officer during the COVID-19 pandemic. He is a past president of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and a past president of the World Organization of Family Doctors.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Professor Kidd was Professor and Chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto and Foundation Director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Family Medicine and Primary Care. He is a member of the Australian Government Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, and a Director with Telstra Health, Therapeutic Guidelines, and The George Institute for Global Health.



Gillian Mason

Gillian Mason is the Head of Research Programs at the National Disability Research Partnership. She has two decades' experience in the healthcare and health and medical research sectors. Having served in roles as a physiotherapist, a researcher and a consumer representative, she offers a unique, multifaceted perspective.

Passionate about improving access, inclusion and equity in healthcare, Ms Mason was one of the inaugural 25 Brilliant Women in Digital Health Award winners (2021). She is a member of Australia's Medical Services Advisory Committee, Deputy Chair of the Health Technology Assessment Consumer Consultative Committee, and a board member of the Australasian Institute of Digital Health.



Professor Steve Wesselingh FAHMS

Professor Steve Wesselingh took up the position of the Chief Executive Officer at the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) in August 2023.

Professor Wesselingh is an infectious diseases physician and researcher. He undertook his undergraduate and doctoral training at Flinders University and his post-doctoral training at Johns Hopkins in the United States.

Until July 2023, Professor Wesselingh was the inaugural Executive Director of the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute. He was also a member of NHMRC Council, Chair of Research Committee, and the President of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.

Between 2007–2011, he was Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash University.

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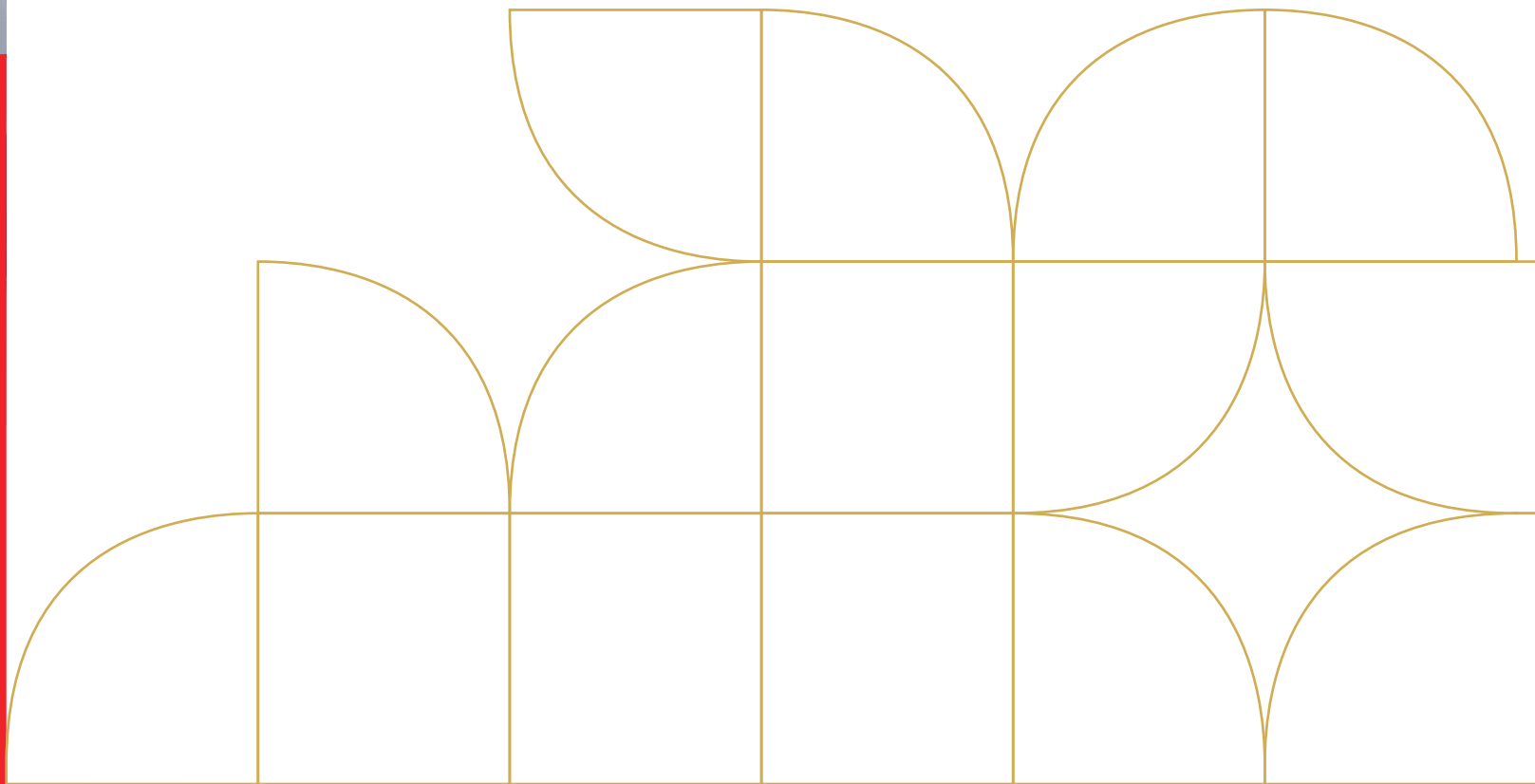
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