



Life as a Clinician-Scientist

QUEENSLAND
Symposium



Australian
Academy of
Health & Medical
Sciences

Brisbane, QLD Saturday 24 May 2025

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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Welcome to Life as a Clinician-Scientist

I am 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

Clinician-scientists are critical in advancing healthcare in our country, using their insights from working with patients to answer fundamental scientific questions and ultimately improve patient care. Today, you'll hear firsthand experiences showcasing the many pathways to this exciting career.

Our esteemed speakers come from diverse specialties and backgrounds, yet they share a common commitment to 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. This year, we will also be hearing the scientist's perspective, providing an insight into how to forge successful bench-to bedside collaborations to achieve better patient outcomes. We are honoured to have these outstanding role models share their wisdom with us.

I encourage you to approach today with curiosity and an open mind. Engage with our speakers, ask questions, and reflect on how their experiences might shape your own aspirations. This rare opportunity lets you connect with experienced individuals – take full advantage and let their stories guide your journey to becoming a clinician-scientist.

I'd also like to use this opportunity to thank our national event partners, whose generous support make these symposia possible.

I hope today inspires you – we can't wait to see what you do next.

Professor David Whiteman AM FAHMS

Chair of the Life as a Clinician-Scientist QLD symposium



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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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8.30am	REGISTRATION
9.00am	<p><i>Welcome to the symposium</i></p> <p>Professor David Whiteman AM FAHMS NHMRC Leadership Fellow (L3) and Distinguished Scientist, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute</p>
SESSION 1	PATHWAYS TO BECOMING A CLINICIAN-SCIENTIST
9.10am	<p><i>Riding the wave of transformation: whilst juggling life between the clinic and the lab</i></p> <p>Professor Scott Bell FAHMS Chair of Research, Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service and Griffith University</p>
9.40am	<p><i>Clinician scientist partnerships – making a difference together</i></p> <p>Professor Vicki Whitehall Honorary Group Leader, Conjoint Gastroenterology Laboratory, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute</p>
10.15am	<p><i>Overview of UQ's Clinician Scientist Track</i></p> <p>Professor Di Eley Director of MD Student Research, The University of Queensland</p>
10.20am	MORNING TEA
SESSION 2	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION <i>Chaired by Professor David Whiteman AM FAHMS</i></p>
10.50am	<p><i>Benches to bedsides: Stories and strategies from clinician-scientists</i></p> <p>Associate Professor Helen Benham Executive Director of Translation at the Translational Research Institute, Senior Staff Specialist Rheumatologist, Princess Alexandra Hospital and Associate Professor, The University of Queensland</p> <p>Professor Kiarash Khosrotehrani Director of the Frazer Institute and St Baker-Soyer Chair in Dermatology at The University of Queensland, and Director of the Department of Dermatology, Princess Alexandra Hospital</p> <p>Dr Philip Mosley Neuropsychiatrist at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Neuromodulation, Neurosciences Queensland and Mater Hospital, Honorary Senior Fellow at Queensland Brain Institute, and Clinical Research Fellow, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute</p> <p>Associate Professor Lata Vadlamudi Senior Staff Specialist Neurology, Comprehensive Epilepsy Program at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Brain, Neurology and Mental Health Theme Lead at The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research, and Vice President, Epilepsy Society of Australia</p>
11.45am	<p>SPOT MENTORING SESSIONS <i>Please register for a one-on-one session at the registration desk</i></p>
12.30pm	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 **FAHMS**

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



Professor Scott Bell FAHMS
**Chair of Research, Gold Coast Hospital
 and Health Service and Griffith
 University**

Professor Scott Bell is the Chair of Research, Gold Coast Health and Griffith University. He is a Senior Respiratory Physician with an interest in adult cystic fibrosis and was the Executive Director of Research, MetroNorth Health (2015-2000) and Chief Executive, Translational Research Institute (2000-2025).

Professor Bell has >300 publications and has received grant support >\$25 million. His research interests include acquisition and transmission pathways for human infection. He has been principal investigator on pivotal CFTR modulator trials. Professor Bell was the Editor of the Journal of Cystic Fibrosis (2013-2020) and co-led the Lancet Commission on the future of CF care (published 2020).



Professor Vicki Whitehall
**Group Leader, Conjoint
 Gastroenterology, QIMR Berghofer
 Medical Research Institute**

Professor Vicki Whitehall has researched the molecular basis of colorectal cancer for the past 25 years. She is a Group Leader and Deputy Cancer Program Director at QIMR Berghofer, chairs the Translational Research Committee of the Australian Gastrointestinal Cancer Trials Group, and co-chairs the Gastroenterological Society of Australia Research Committee.

She works closely with clinical collaborators in gastroenterology, oncology and pathology to support a vibrant, translational research program. Career highlights have been contributions to discoveries impacting clinical practice, including establishing the malignant potential of a subtype of colorectal polyp that precedes >20% of all colorectal cancers, and facilitating clinical introduction of RAS mutation testing as the first biomarker for determining choice of therapy for advanced colorectal cancer.

Professor Whitehall's current research focus is on discovering new approaches for sensitising cancers to immunotherapy, and implementing predictive drug testing using patient derived organoids. Her overarching goal is to progress personalised medicine strategies to inform therapeutic decisions and improve patient outcomes.



Associate Professor Helen Benham

Executive Director of Translation at the Translational Research Institute, Senior Staff Specialist Rheumatologist, Princess Alexandra Hospital and Associate Professor, The University of Queensland

Associate Professor Helen Benham is the Executive Director of Translation at the Translational Research Institute and a Senior Staff Specialist Rheumatologist at Princess Alexandra Hospital. She is an Associate Professor with The University of Queensland and has experience across the research spectrum including discovery and translational science, clinical research including trials and applying the principles of implementation science as an NHMRC Translating Research into Practice Fellow.



Professor Kiarash Khosrotehrani

Director of the Frazer Institute and St Baker-Soyer Chair in Dermatology at The University of Queensland, and Director of the Department of Dermatology, Princess Alexandra Hospital

Professor Kiarash Khosrotehrani is a clinician-scientist and practicing dermatologist with a focus on delivering state of the art concept and technologies to real-world clinical problems.

He is the director of the Frazer Institute, a major translational research hub at The University of Queensland (UQ) and the inaugural St Baker-Soyer chair of Dermatology at UQ where he leads the Dermatology Research Centre and the Experimental Dermatology Group at the Frazer Institute. He is also the Director of the Department of Dermatology at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and Co-Director of the Australian Skin and Skin Cancer Research Centre in Brisbane.

Professor Khosrotehrani is passionate about the development of academic medicine and future academic clinicians and leads this effort in dermatology on the board of directors of the Australasian College of Dermatologists, and as the immediate-past President of the Australasian Society for Dermatology Research, past board member of the International Society for Investigative Dermatology, and past-Editor in Chief of the Australasian Journal of Dermatology.



Dr Philip Mosley

Neuropsychiatrist at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Neuromodulation, Neurosciences Queensland and Mater Hospital, Honorary Senior Fellow at Queensland Brain Institute, and Clinical Research Fellow, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute

Dr Philip Mosley studied at the University of Oxford and obtained a master's degree in physiological sciences and a degree in medicine. He works as a member of the deep brain stimulation (DBS) team at St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital, Brisbane, runs a private neuropsychiatry practice and also provides a consultation-liaison psychiatry service.

Dr Mosley is an active clinician-scientist with appointments at the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Queensland Brain Institute and CSIRO. He completed his PhD in neuroscience in 2019 and has been awarded a Medical Research Future Fund Early Career Researcher grant. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatry (RANZCP).



Associate Professor Lata Vadlamudi

Senior Staff Specialist Neurology, Comprehensive Epilepsy Program at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Brain, Neurology and Mental Health Theme Lead at The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research, and Vice President, Epilepsy Society of Australia

Associate Professor Lata Vadlamudi is a Senior Staff Specialist in Neurology at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and an Epileptologist within the Comprehensive Epilepsy Program. She is also the Brain, Neurology and Mental Health Theme Lead at The University of Queensland's Centre for Clinical Research and Vice-President of the Epilepsy Society of Australia.

Associate Professor Vadlamudi's clinical interests include integrating genomics into clinical care and management of women with epilepsy. Her current research projects include an MRFF Stem Cell Therapies Mission entitled Spider Venom Peptides: Precision Therapy for Genetic Epilepsies, and a Queensland Health Targeted Clinical Research Fellowship (TCRF) funded project, Women with epilepsy – a life course approach to improving clinical care.





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