

## Life as a Clinician-Scientist

NEW SOUTH WALES
Symposium



## 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.

We are grateful to our program partners across Australia:

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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 warmly welcome you to our NSW Life as a Clinician-Scientist symposium.

Let us take you on a journey of possibilities, where clinical practice is deeply integrated with groundbreaking research. This career can be life-changing for you – and your patients – with global impact.

## Explore pathways to a fulfilling career

Clinician-scientists are critical in advancing healthcare in the world, bringing their clinical insights from the patients they care for, to answer fundamental scientific questions and ultimately, to translate them back to improving patients' lives. Today, you will 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, scientific research and improving health care. 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 to have these outstanding role models share their wisdom with us.

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

We are deeply grateful to our national partners, whose support helps us nurture the next generation of clinician researchers.

We hope tonight encourages you to pursue your passion. Your clinical skills and compassion are already changing lives – research is another way to extend that impact.

Thanks for joining us.

The 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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5.00pm	REGISTRATION
5.30pm	Welcome to the symposium  Professor Elizabeth Elliott AM FAHMS  Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health, The University of Sydney
5.35pm	Introduction to the Academy Professor Louise Baur AM PresAHMS President, Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences and Professor of Child and Adolescent Health, The University of Sydney
SESSION 1	KEYNOTE TALK Chaired by Professor Elizabeth Elliott AM FAHMS
5.40pm	Adventures of a Clinician Scientist in Australia – Fraught but Fab!  Professor David Celermajer AO FAA FAHMS  Head, Department of Cardiology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Scandrett  Professor of Cardiology, The University of Sydney and Clinical Director, Heart Research Institute
SESSION 2	PANEL DISCUSSION Chaired by Professor Elizabeth Elliott AM FAHMS
6.10pm	Building a career as a clinician-scientist  Associate Professor Sydney Ch'ng Head and Neck Specialist Plastic Surgeon and Associate Professor of Surgery, The University of Sydney  Professor Russell Dale Professor of Paediatric Neurology and Paediatric Neurology Research, and Academic Leader (Research), Child and Adolescent Health at The University of Sydney, Clinical Director, Kids Neuroscience Centre, and Head, Clinical School, The Children's Hospital Westmead
	Associate Professor Rebecca Deans Gynaecologist, Royal Hospital for Women and Sydney Children's Hospital, Fertility Specialist, Life Fertility Clinic and Associate Professor, UNSW Associate Professor Phoebe Williams
	Staff Specialist, Sydney Children's Hospital Network, and NHMRC Emerging Leadership Fellow, The University of Sydney
7.00pm	LIGHT SUPPER
7.20pm	SPOT MENTORING SESSIONS Please register for a one-on-one session with a speaker at the registration desk
8.00pm	SYMPOSIUM CLOSE

## **Speakers**



Professor Elizabeth Elliott AM FAHMS

Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health, The University of Sydney

**Professor Elizabeth Elliott** is a Distinguished Professor in Paediatrics and Child Health at The University of Sydney, a Consultant Paediatrician at the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (Westmead) and holds a NHMRC Leadership Fellowship.

Professor Elliott has dedicated her career to advancing the human rights, health and quality of life for ill and disadvantaged children in Australia and beyond, through education, research, clinical care and advocacy.

Professor Elliott is the senior advisor on child health for UNICEF Australia and consultant to the WHO and the US National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. She chairs the Australian Government's national FASD Advisory Group and is a Board Director for the National Organisation for FASD and Royal Far West. She is widely published and has been recognised for her work nationally and internationally



Professor Louise Baur AM PresAHMS

President, AAHMS, and Professor of Child and Adolescent Health at The University of Sydney Professor Louise Baur is Professor of Child and Adolescent Health at The University of Sydney where she is an NHMRC leadership Fellow and Director of the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence on the Early Prevention of Obesity in Childhood (2016-2026). She is also a consultant paediatrician in Weight Management Services at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. Professor Baur's research interests cover many aspects of child and adolescent obesity, and related health issues. Recent publications include the Lancet Commission on clinical obesity (Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology, Jan 2025), the TOPCHILD study on the early prevention of obesity in childhood (Lancet, Sept 2025) and the Fast Track Trial main outcomes (JAMA Pediatrics, Aug 2024). In 2010 Professor Baur was made a Member of the Order of Australia for her service to medicine, particularly in the field of paediatric obesity as a researcher and academic, and to the community through support for a range of children's charities. She is the Immediate Past-President of the World Obesity Federation. In 2023 she was elected as the President of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.



**Professor David Celermajer AO FAA FAHMS** 

Head, Department of Cardiology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Scandrett Professor of Cardiology, The University of Sydney and Clinical Director, Heart Research Institute **Professor David Celermajer** is Head of the Department of Cardiology at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Scandrett Professor of Cardiology at The University of Sydney and Clinical Director of the Heart Research Institute.

University Medallist from Sydney Medical School, Rhodes Scholar (studying the effects of alcohol on cardiac muscle!) and world public speaking champion from long ago, he has tried to balance research, clinical work and teaching with mentorship of the next generation of clinician-scientists. With an H-index of over 115, career citations over 80,000, lifetime grant funding for science and commercial development of over \$250M and most importantly 3 children and 3 grandchildren, Professor Celermajer feels that he has had a very fortunate journey and looks forward to sharing his experiences. He has supervised over 30 PhD students.

The consensus is that he is now the 5th best public speaker in his family and needs to get out more.





Associate Professor
Sydney Ch'ng
Head and Neck Specialist Plastic Surgeon
and Associate Professor of Surgery at
The University of Sydney

**Associate Professor Sydney Ch'ng** is a Head and Neck and Specialist Plastic Surgeon at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse Cancer Centre, Melanoma Institute Australia (MIA), and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA). She is Associate Professor of Surgery at The University of Sydney, and the Academic Head for Plastic Surgery at RPA. During her surgical training, she participated in the surgeon-scientist training pathway, and was awarded a PhD in Tumour Biology in Head Neck Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma. Post-FRACS, she undertook almost three additional years of fellowship training in head and neck ablative and reconstructive surgery (Sydney Head & Neck Cancer Institute, NSW), advanced oncological reconstructive surgery (MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston) and adult craniofacial surgery (Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan). Her busy fully-integrated clinical and academic practice focuses on melanoma, non-melanoma skin cancers, parotid surgery, microsurgery and facial symmetrisation/rejuvenation. She has published over 100 papers in peer-reviewed journals. She is an examiner for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.



**Professor Russell Dale** 

Professor of Paediatric Neurology and Paediatric Neurology Research, and Academic Leader (Research), Child and Adolescent Health at The University of Sydney, Clinical Director, Kids Neuroscience Centre, and Head, Clinical School, The Children's Hospital Westmead Professor Russell Dale is Professor of Paediatric Neurology at The University of Sydney and the Children's Hospital at Westmead. He is Head of the Children's Hospital at Westmead Clinical School, Clinical Director of the Kids Neuroscience Centre, and an NHMRC Investigator Fellow. He is an international leader in neuroimmunology with contributions to defining the clinical and radiological associations of autoimmune brain disorders with diagnostic biomarkers. His research increasingly focuses on the role of the immune system in neurodevelopment and the emerging concept of epigenetic neuroimmunology. Using high-throughput technologies such as transcriptomics, proteomics, and metabolomics, he is defining cellular mechanisms in common diseases such as autism, Tourette and OCD. He has published more than 360 papers, and his Google Scholar H-index is 89, with over 30,000 citations.



Associate Professor Rebecca Deans Gynaecologist, Royal Hospital for

Women and Sydney Children's Hospital, Fertility Specialist, Life Fertility Clinic and Associate Professor, UNSW Associate Professor Rebecca Deans is a gynaecologist with a special interest in fertility, and paediatric and adolescent gynaecology. She works at the University of New South Wales, the Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney Children's Hospital, Prince of Wales Private Hospital, and Life Fertility Sydney. She has PhD in the area of Asherman Syndrome and has authored 79 journal articles and 5 book chapters.

Associate Professor Deans is the lead researcher in a collaborative uterus transplant research project in NSW, and her team performed Australia's first uterus transplant procedure. For her work in women's health, she was awarded the NSW Women of Excellence Award in 2023.



Associate Professor Phoebe Williams

Staff Specialist, Sydney Children's Hospital Network, and NHMRC Emerging Leadership Fellow, The University of Sydney Associate Professor Phoebe Williams is is a paediatrician, infectious diseases physician, and an Associate Professor within the School of Public Health at The University of Sydney. She works as a clinician at The Sydney Children's Hospital Network and within the policy group of the National Centre for Immunisation and Research Surveillance (NCIRS), as part of the policy support team for ATAGI. Associate Professor Williams completed her PhD as a Nuffield Department of Medicine scholar within the Oxford Tropical Medicine network in Kilifi, Kenya. Her four children (including triplets) joined her on this adventure. She is an NHMRC EL1 Fellow whose research is focused on antimicrobial resistance in children, particularly within resource-constrained settings in Southeast Asia.

Associate Professor Williams is the coordinating principal investigator of the NeoSEAP study and is appointed as an advisor to the WHO Paediatric Antibiotic Development Program (PADO) and Research Agenda into AMR on Human Health. She leads a number of clinical trials in paediatric infectious diseases across Australia and Southeast Asia, aiming to reduce the infectious diseases burden responsible for significant infant and child mortality.



The Centenary Institute is a world-leading medical research organisation committed to promoting the value of clinician-scientists and the impact they make on tackling humanity's most pressing health challenges.

At Centenary, we offer early career scientists and clinicians, postgraduates and graduates, opportunities to progress medical research careers working alongside world-leading medical researchers and clinicians supported by state-of-the-art facilities.

We are proud to partner with the AAHMS 'Life as a Clinician-Scientist Program' to foster the future generation of clinician scientists.

#### Are you considering a career as a clinician-scientist?

Register your interest via the QR code or at centenary.org.au/aahms-life-as-a-clinician-scientist-program/







# Make an impact beyond the clinic



As a clinician-researcher at The George Institute for Global Health, you can pursue both your research interests and your clinical practice.

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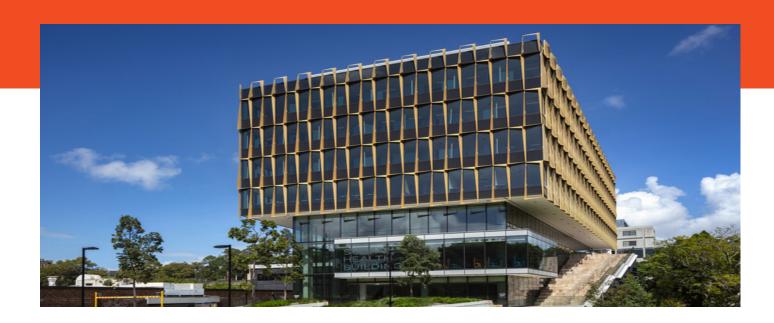
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# Postgraduate courses and professional development short courses for health professionals



## Advance your career or upskill with flexibility



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