



Life as a Clinician-Scientist

ACT
Symposium



Australian
Academy of
Health & Medical
Sciences

Canberra, ACT

Tuesday 25 August 2026

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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Welcome to Life as a Clinician-Scientist

We are delighted to warmly welcome you to our 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 skills in healthcare and your compassion are already changing lives – research is another way to extend that impact.

Thank you for joining us.

Catherine Luckin

Chief Executive Officer, The Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences





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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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5.00pm	REGISTRATION
5.30pm	<i>Welcome to the symposium</i> Catherine Luckin Chief Executive Officer, The Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences
5.35pm	<i>Introduction</i> Professor Paul Fitzgerald FAHMS Director, School of Medicine and Psychology, Australian National University
SESSION 1	KEYNOTE TALK <i>Chaired by Professor Paul Fitzgerald FAHMS</i>
5.40pm	<i>My life as a Clinician Scientist</i> Professor Michael Kidd AO FAHMS Chief Medical Officer, Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
SESSION 2	PANEL DISCUSSION <i>Chaired by Professor Paul Fitzgerald FAHMS</i>
6.15pm	<i>Bridging Care and Discovery: The Clinician-Scientist Experience</i> Professor Stephen Isbel Professor of Occupational Therapy and Co-Director of the Centre for Ageing Research and Translation, University of Canberra Dr Ming Lee Director and Staff Specialist, Canberra Sexual Health Centre, Canberra Health Services Professor Imogen Mitchell AM Pro Vice-Chancellor Health and Medicine, Australian National University. Intensive Care Senior Specialist, Canberra Health Services
7.00pm	LIGHT SUPPER
7.30pm	SPOT MENTORING SESSIONS <i>Please register for a one-on-one session with a speaker at the registration desk</i>
8.30pm	SYMPOSIUM CLOSE

Speakers



Catherine Luckin

Chief Executive Officer, The Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences

Catherine Luckin has been Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS) since May 2018. She has more than 15 years' experience advancing research and innovation in the health and medical sciences through leadership roles in policy, strategy, public affairs, and international engagement. She has worked across the for-purpose, academic, health, and industry sectors and maintains an extensive international network spanning the UK, Europe, and Australia. Catherine leads the Academy's work to deliver a diverse portfolio of initiatives that shape policy, foster leadership, and connect Australia's most eminent experts to drive research, innovation and impact across the health and medical science sector. Catherine has established and led policy projects, global programs and funding schemes with national and international partners, covering areas including the integration of research into health systems, data use in research, research careers, immigration and mobility, global health, emerging technologies, and the COVID-19 response. She holds a BSc in Natural Sciences and an MSc in Science Communication.



Professor Paul Fitzgerald
FAHMS

Director, School of Medicine and Psychology, Australian National University

Professor Paul Fitzgerald is the Head of the School of Medicine and Psychology at the Australian National University. He is an academic psychiatrist with a MBBS degree, Masters of Psychological Medicine and research PhD. He has conducted an extensive series of clinical trials and experimental studies developing new treatments for patients with mental health conditions such as depression, schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive disorder, PTSD, autism and Alzheimer's disease. He has authored over 600 journal articles and several books, been cited nearly 40,000 times, established multiple clinical rTMS services and founded several device and clinical service companies.



Professor Michael Kidd
AO FAHMS

*Chief Medical Officer, Australian
Government Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing*

Professor Michael Kidd is Australia's Chief Medical Officer, based in the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. He is a general practitioner and a primary care and public health researcher, and has served as president of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, and president of the World Organization of Family Doctors. He is an elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, and has held past research appointments at Monash University, the University of Sydney, Flinders University, the Australian National University, and the University of Toronto. He holds a current joint academic appointment as the Foundation Director of the International Centre for Future Health Systems at the University of New South Wales, and as Professor of Global Primary Care with the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences at the University of Oxford.



Professor Stephen Isbel

*Professor of Occupational Therapy and
Co-Director of the Centre for Ageing
Research and Translation, University of
Canberra*

Professor Stephen Isbel is an occupational therapy academic with research interests in allied health care, post stroke rehabilitation, dementia care, aged care and occupational therapy education. He teaches into the Master and Bachelor of Occupational Therapy courses at the University of Canberra and is the Deputy Director of the Centre for Ageing Research and Translation. Previously, he held senior clinical positions in ACT Health, primarily in aged care and adult neurological rehabilitation.



Dr Ming Lee

Director and Staff Specialist, Canberra Sexual Health Centre, Canberra Health Services

Dr Ming Lee is a Staff Specialist in Sexual Health and the Director of the Canberra Sexual Health Centre. He also holds Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer appointments at ANU School of Medicine and Psychology, Australia, and Imperial College London, UK. He completed his PhD investigating broadly neutralising antibodies as a novel HIV cure strategy, and other areas of interest include improving access to STI, HIV and gender affirming care, and healthy ageing for people living with HIV.



Professor Imogen Mitchell AM

Pro Vice-Chancellor Health and Medicine, Australian National University. Intensive Care Senior Specialist, Canberra Health Services

Professor Imogen Mitchell AM is Pro Vice-Chancellor (Health and Medicine) at The Australian National University and a respected clinician, educator and health system leader. With expertise spanning intensive care medicine, medical education and health services research, she has led major reforms in medical training and played a key role in the ACT's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Her work has influenced national policy in patient deterioration and end-of-life care, improving clinical practice across Australia. A Harkness Fellow and Member of the Order of Australia, Professor Mitchell is recognised for her significant contributions to healthcare, higher education and health system leadership.



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