



Epworth Research Week

4 August to 11 August 2026

Celebrating research excellence

epworth.org.au/research



Epworth
Research

Program and activities

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A message from the Group Director of Research and Chief Research Officer

Celebrating Collaboration and Innovation

Be part of research that changes lives

Research and clinical trials play a vital role in advancing medicine. They discover new care pathways and provide alternative treatment options beyond the current standard of care and often support patients with the most complex and critical health needs.

At Epworth HealthCare, our researcher community is actively involved in high quality, multidisciplinary clinical research across a wide range of specialties, including medical oncology, haematology, cardiology, rehabilitation, women’s and children’s health, surgery and many others. Our research teams are made up of medical practitioners, nurses, and allied health professionals, and consumer advisors working collaboratively to improve patient care.

Epworth is strongly committed to fostering research excellence. All research is conducted in accordance with the National Safety & Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards and complies with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research, ensuring the highest standards of safety, ethics, and integrity.

I encourage you to be part of Research Week to connect with your colleagues in our research community and find out unique insights into how our research directly impacts outcome for our patient and helps shape the future of medical practice.

Sincerely,

Professor Ingrid Winship AO
Group Director Research and Chief Research Officer
Office for Research, Epworth HealthCare



A message from the Executive Director, Epworth Medical Foundation and Brand



Research is vital to answering some of the most complex medical questions, unlocking new understanding of disease and driving breakthroughs that transform patient care.

At Epworth, this work is made possible through the generosity of donors, who fund research into some of the most challenging conditions facing our community. Their support enables clinicians and researchers to explore new and better ways to diagnose disease earlier, treat it more effectively, and care for patients with greater precision and compassion.

This commitment continues a proud history of research at Epworth, where philanthropy has long played a central role in advancing innovation and improving outcomes. By backing discovery today, donors are not only enhancing care for today's patients, they are helping to build a future where complex diseases can be better understood, managed and, ultimately, cured. Their generosity creates a lasting impact, ensuring that breakthroughs made here continue to benefit patients for generations to come.

Scott Bulger
Executive Director
Epworth Medical Foundation



We would like to thank the donors of the Epworth Medical Foundation whose generosity supports many of our research projects

A message from the Group Director Clinical Services

We would like to sincerely thank our Consumer Advisors for the invaluable contribution they make to research at Epworth.

Consumer Advisors bring lived experience as patients, carers and members of the community, which adds a vital perspective to our research. While research expertise helps ensure studies are rigorous, ethical and valid, lived experience helps answer equally important questions: does this matter, does it make sense, and will it truly improve care?

By working together, we strengthen the relevance, quality and impact of our research. Consumer Advisors help shape research from early design through to implementation, ensuring research is grounded in what matters most to patients and families.

We thank our Consumer Advisors for their commitment, insight and partnership. Their involvement strengthens our research and supports our shared goal of improving care and treatments for our patients and community.

Lauren Lawler
Group Director Clinical Services





6

Hospitals

13

Research teams
& Centres of
Excellence

12

Clinical Institutes

156

Clinical trials

225

Publications
in 2025

450

Credentialed
Researchers

480+

Research Studies

Opening Symposium

🕒 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

Online event – refer to short program to register and for the link

SYMPOSIUM DETAILS

Welcome and introduction to Research Week 2026

Professor Andrew Stripp AM, Group Chief Executive



Adjunct Associate Professor Suzie Hooper

Director of Clinical Services

Epworth Research Leader of the Year 2025 Award recipient

Every patient matters: Developing and implementing best practice, person-centred care for patients with cognitive impairment across a multi-site hospital network in Australia.

Suzie Hooper is a nurse leader with extensive experience in ICU / CCU, rehabilitation, mental health, nurse education and project management.

Suzie is passionate about nursing research and nurse-led models of care and has presented extensively at national and international conferences. Her leadership extends to developing workforce strategies, advancing innovation and nursing practice through evidence-based research and quality in healthcare and active engagement in professional nursing organisations. Her passion is inspiring and impactful. She is committed to fostering a culture of inquiry among nurses, consistently encouraging nursing staff to engage in innovation and research and actively supports developing their ideas. By championing nurse-led research initiatives, she empowers others to grow, learn, and contribute meaningfully to the profession and the development of evidence-based excellent nursing care.

Suzie was fortunate to receive an EMF scholarship to attend the 37th Global Conference of Alzheimer’s Disease International in Lyon, France in April to represent Epworth at this important international conference and present the work she has co-led with Wendy Villella in the Epworth approach to developing a model of care for caring for patients with Cognitive Impairment.



Professor Gavin Williams

Academic Chair, Continuing Care Research

Epworth Outstanding Researcher 2025 Award recipient

Exercise for TBI across the Spectrum of Severity and Lifespan

Professor Williams PhD FACP is the Professor of Physiotherapy Rehabilitation, a joint position appointed between Epworth and The University of Melbourne. In this role, Gavin dedicates his time equally between the neurological rehabilitation unit and undertaking research.

During his 30 years at Epworth, Gavin has developed a program to teach advanced gait and running skills to people with neurological injuries. This program led to his doctoral studies titled ‘The development of a high-level mobility assessment tool (HiMAT) for people with traumatic brain injury’. He is a world leader in the assessment, classification and treatment of mobility limitations following traumatic brain injury.

Gavin was awarded Fellowship to the Australian College of Physiotherapists in 2011. He has more than 180 peer-reviewed journal publications and over 200 international and national conference presentations.

Research Statistical Methods and Updates Symposium

🕒 9:30 am to 11:00 am

Online event – refer to short program to register and for the link

SYMPOSIUM DETAILS

Session Chair Dr Sarah Rickard <i>Group Manager Research Operations (Epworth Office for Research)</i>
Dr Dean McKenzie , Biostatistician (Epworth Office for Research) Selecting Predictors with Mindful Machine Learning
Dr Laven Padayachee , Senior Intensivist and Data Scientist (Epworth Intensive Care Unit) Choosing the Right Machine Learning Model: A Practical Guide for Clinical Researchers
Jiayue (Jess) Wu , Medical Student (University Melbourne) Problems with using EHR Data for Predictive Modelling
Ms Alexia Samiotis , Provisional Psychologist and PhD Candidate (Clinical Neuropsychology & Monash Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre (MERRC)) Exploring Relationships Between Variables using R
Aly Abdelmaksoud , Clinical Reporting Analyst (Strategy and Performance – Business Analytics) Facilitating data capture using Epworth data warehouse for study feasibilities and data collection
Epworth Office for Research team Research updates including Good Data Management Governance Review & Oversight Workflow (GROW) Research platform

Presented by the Epworth Office for Research. We partner with researchers and research teams to supporting the delivery of world-class research at Epworth.

Find out more at [Research – Epworth HealthCare](#)

🕒 The project was supported by an EMF grant/award

Women’s and Children’s Health Symposium

🕒 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Online event – refer to short program to register and for the link

SYMPOSIUM DETAILS

Session Chair Associate Professor Martin Healey <i>Gynaecologist, Co-Director of Julia Argyrou Endometriosis Centre</i>
Julia Argyrou Endometriosis Centre at Epworth The Centre aims to deliver the best care for patients, while improving current diagnosis and treatment options and working towards a cure for endometriosis. For more information visit – Julia Argyrou Endometriosis Centre at Epworth – Epworth HealthCare
Associate Professor Martin Healey , Gynaecologist & Co-Director of Julia Argyrou Endometriosis Centre JAECE research program – current status and future directions
Charlotte Lynch , Research Assistant (Julia Argyrou Endometriosis Centre) Assessing the role of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) as a non-invasive, early diagnostic method for endometriosis in adolescents and young adults
Other Specialities
Associate Professor Monique Watts , Cardiologist (Cardiac Sciences Clinical Institute) ENRICH ME – Early intervention to reduce the incidence of poor Cardiovascular health outcomes in women with Preeclampsia and gestational hypertension
Associate Professor Joanne Smart , Paediatric Allergist & Immunologist (Director, Epworth Allergy Specialists & Centre for Paediatric Allergies) Peanut allergy – how things have changed... from strict avoidance, to delabelling, to oral immunotherapy and other novel therapeutic interventions that have changed the way we now manage infants and young children presenting with peanut allergy
Mr Eugene Ong , Colorectal Surgeon, General Surgeon (General Surgery & Gastroenterology Clinical Institute) Robotic-assisted ventral rectopexy using autologous fascia lata: Initial experience and technique
Dr Chin Yong , Urogynaecologist (Pelvic Floor Research, Women’s and Children’s Clinical Institute) Sacro hysteropexy using autologous fascia lata for treatment of uterine prolapse: Initial experience and outcomes
Dr Marcus Carey , Gynaecologist (Pelvic Floor Research, Women’s and Children’s Clinical Institute) A Non-Randomised Comparison of the Expanded Autologous Fascia Lata Augmented Anterior Vaginal Wall Repair versus Native Tissue Anterior Colporrhaphy: The FLAiR Study
Dr Marcus Carey , Gynaecologist (Pelvic Floor Research, Women’s and Children’s Clinical Institute) Minimally Invasive Abdominal Sacral Colpopexy Using Autologous Fascia Lata Compared to Mesh Sacral Colpopexy for Pical Prolapse: The SCUFL Study

🕒 The project was supported by an EMF grant/award

Nurse-Led Research Symposium

🕒 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Online event – refer to short program to register and for the link

SYMPOSIUM DETAILS

Session Chair
Adjunct Professor Callan Battley
Executive Director of Clinical Services & Chief Nursing Officer

Brookes Academy Nursing and Midwifery at Epworth
Exclusive to Epworth nurses and midwives, the Brookes Academy, Nursing and Midwifery at Epworth is dedicated to cultivating, nurturing, and fostering the development of future nursing talent to support the needs of the Victorian community. For more information visit – [The Brookes Academy, Nursing and Midwifery at Epworth](#)



Invited Speaker
Rebecca Doyle
*Chair, Human Research Ethics Committee, Children’s Health Queensland
Nurse Researcher, Queensland Specialist Immunisation Service
Clinical Associate Professor, Faculty of Health, School of Nursing,
Queensland University of Technology*

Rebecca is a Nurse Researcher at Children’s Health Queensland, an Adjunct Research Fellow at the University of Queensland, and Chair of the CHQ Human Research Ethics Committee. She has a background in Paediatric Intensive Care nursing and has been working in paediatric research for the past 10 years. Rebecca’s research interests include infectious diseases, vaccine preventable diseases, immunisation, clinical trials, health equity and ethical aspects of research with children.

Brook Alexander, Simulation Coordinator/Instructor and **Spencer Fowler Steen**, eLearn Project Administrator
Impact of Participating in Interprofessional Simulation on Graduate Nurses and Junior Doctors communication and teamwork skills in practice

Lisa Smith, Brookes Academy Program Manager
Nursing & Midwifery Leadership in Focus: Growing Strong Leaders

Maia Hester and Bridget Mitchell, Richmond Clinical Nurse Educators
Development and Implementation of the Post Anaesthetic Care Unit (PACU) Paediatric Program

Deidre Sweeney, Program Lead – TSP Cancer Care and **Dr Damien Khaw** (Deakin QPS-Epworth partnership)
Evaluating the Transition to Specialty Practice (TSP) cancer care program

Kate Keighran, Wound Clinical Nurse Consultant, ER Wound Care Clinic
Malignant Fungating Wound Care: Improving Comfort, Exudate Management and Odour Reduction With Silicone Superabsorbent Dressings

Adjunct Associate Professor Suzie Hooper, DCS Epworth Camberwell and Epworth Eastern Rehabilitation and **Dr Damien Khaw** (Deakin QPS-Epworth partnership)
Increasing mental health nurses’ skill and capacity to deliver therapeutic group sessions to mental health inpatients in an acute psychiatric service

Maria Bradshaw, Lived Experience Consultant
Consumer reflection on being involved in the conceptualization and development of an integrating lived experience practitioners in acute psychiatric care



🕒 The project was supported by an EMF grant/award 🗑 Consumers Advisors were involved in study design or review

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2026

Cancer Research Symposium

🕒 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Online event – refer to short program to register and for the link

SYMPOSIUM DETAILS

Session Chair Dominic Fernandez <i>Scientific Lead Cell Therapy and Immunotherapy, Epworth Genomics Centre</i>
Jreissati Pancreatic Centre at Epworth (JPCE) The Centre aims to improve outcomes for patients with pancreatic cancer and provides the best possible care to patients in a timely, patient-centred, coordinated and multidisciplinary manner. For more information visit – Jreissati Pancreatic Centre at Epworth – Epworth HealthCare
Dr Sue Thang , Clinical Research Coordinator A retrospective analysis of Selective Internal Radiation Therapy (SIRT) and chemotherapy for metastatic pancreatic adenocarcinoma
Alishiya Murali , Clinical Research Coordinator – ACCENT ACCENT – Case Study
Dr Halina Pietrzak , Clinical Research Coordinator – APRISE The Australian Pancreatic High-RIsk ScrEening (APRISE) Program
Epworth Medical Oncology Clinical Trials Unit (MOCTU) MOCTU is committed to improving outcomes for patients with solid tumours by providing timely, patient centred care and access to cutting edge cancer therapies through world class clinical trials. For more information visit – Medical Oncology Clinical Trials Unit – Epworth HealthCare
Dr Ross Jennens , Medical Oncologist, Director Epworth Cancer Research, Director Medical Oncology Clinical Trial Unit (MOCTU) Epworth Collaboration with Breast Cancer Trials
E.J. Whitten Foundation Prostate Cancer Research Centre at Epworth The Centre focuses on improving and extending the lives of men with prostate cancer world-first clinical trials. For more information visit – EJ Whitten Centre for Prostate Cancer Research – Epworth HealthCare
Dr John Lai , Medical Oncologist (Cancer Services) What’s Working in Prostate and Urological Cancers: A Medical Oncologist’s Perspective
Epworth Centre for Immunotherapies and Snowdome Laboratories The centre’s vision is to deliver excellence in treatment, care and deliver of better outcomes for blood cancer patients through access to innovative personalised treatments, research and clinical trials. For more information visit – Epworth Centre for Immunotherapies and Snowdome Laboratories Haematology Clinical Trials Unit – Epworth HealthCare Molecular Oncology and Cancer Immunology (MOCI)
Elena Bayly-McCredie , Lead Clinical Trials Coordinator (Haematology Clinical Trial Unit) Translational Research in Action: Elranatamab at Epworth
Xinyi Wu , Student (Epworth Centre for Immunotherapies and Snowdome Laboratories (ECISL)) The Effects of Conscious Sedation with Midazolam versus Deep Sedation with Propofol for Bone Marrow Examination on Patient and Clinician Experience
Other Specialities
Martin Checklin , Senior Speech Pathologist (Head and Neck Clinical Institute) “You just don’t know until you go through it”: A multi-perspective study of healthcare experiences with head and neck cancer-related communication changes

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2026

Consumer Advisor – Meet and Greet

🕒 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm

In person event – refer to short program to register for the session

The strongest research combines scientific expertise with consumer insight, ensuring that evidence translates into meaningful change.

Consumer Advisors contribute throughout the research journey – from shaping priorities and refining research questions to advising on study design, recruitment strategies and participant-facing materials. Their lived experience helps ensure studies are practical, accessible and focused on outcomes that matter most to patients and families, keeping research grounded in real-world needs and experiences. Hear the consumer and researcher perspectives about their experience working together on research. This session also offers a chance to meet some of our fabulous Consumer Advisors and hear why they are passionate about supporting research.



Research expertise and lived experience answer different questions.
We need both, if research is to be meaningful.

Cancer Panel Discussion: Research – driving the future of cancer treatments

🕒 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm

Hybrid event – refer to short program to register and for the link

SYMPOSIUM DETAILS



Panel Moderator

Professor Ingrid Winship AO, Clinical Geneticist, Dermatologist, Clinician Scientist in clinical genetics, cancer genetics and genodermatology
Group Director Research and Chief Research Officer



Associate Professor Sumitra Ananda, Medical Oncologist
Co-Director, Epworth Cancer Services Clinical Institute, Senior Clinical Trialist MOCTU

External appointments: Chair of the CTA Gynae-Oncology Group, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (consultant) and Western Health (consultant).

Medical Researcher of the Year 2025 Award recipient.

Associate Professor Ananda manages all solid tumours with a particular interest in gynaecological and gastrointestinal cancers. She is focused on providing first class patient care whilst conducting high quality clinical trials and translational research and has been the Principal Investigator on over 30 clinical trials at Epworth.



Dr Ross Jennens, Medical Oncologist
Director Epworth Cancer Research, Director Medical Oncology Clinical Trial Unit (MOCTU)

External appointments: Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (consultant).

Dr Jennens has expertise in solid tumour oncology, with a particular interest in breast, lung, brain and gastrointestinal cancers including pancreas, colorectal, stomach and oesophageal cancers. He has been the Principal Investigator on over 100 clinical trials at Epworth.

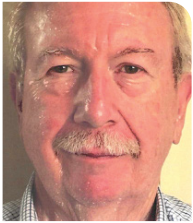


Associate Professor Dan Buchanan, Molecular Geneticist
*Dame Cate Campbell Fellow
Head Colorectal Oncogenomics Group, The University of Melbourne*

A/Prof Dan Buchanan is Head of the Colorectal Oncogenomics Group in the Department of Clinical Pathology and Collaborative Centre for Genomic Cancer Medicine at the University of Melbourne.

He leads a diverse, multi-disciplinary research program focused on determining the causes of early-onset colorectal cancer and polyposis using integrative multi-omic and molecular pathology epidemiology approaches applied to world-leading studies. He holds leadership roles as an InSiGHT council member, co-PI of the Colon Cancer Family Registry, as the PI of the Genetics of Colonic Polyposis Study, and PI of the ANGELS study investigating the aetiology of early-onset colorectal cancer.

He is CIA of a recently funded Cancer Australia Research Initiative (CARI) grant and a NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence grant on early-onset colorectal cancer. He was awarded the University of Melbourne Dame Kate Campbell Fellowship in 2021 and again in 2026.



Andrew McLean, Epworth Consumer Advisor

I have been an Epworth consumer advisor for more than six years and joined the Group Research Governance Committee about four years ago. My professional background is in retail and construction.

This work is so important to me because my wife has benefited from cancer research. Without that research, the chemotherapy drug she relies on would not be available. The more we promote research projects, the better outcomes we can help create. I grab all chances to be involved.

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2026

Research Poster Symposium

🕒 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

In person event – refer to short program to register for the event

SYMPOSIUM DETAILS

Join us at the Research Poster Symposium to view over 40 posters, meet the dedicated researchers and teams, and celebrate research excellence through our research awards.

Research Award presentations:

- > Epworth Research Leader award
- > Epworth Outstanding Researcher
- > Poster awards

Includes door prize, refreshments and nibbles.



2025 Research and Poster award winners

(L-R) Adjunct A/Professor Suzie Hooper (Epworth Research Leader Award);

Rhiannon Whale on behalf of Nikki Campbell (Women’s and Children’s Health Poster Award);

Professor Gavin Williams (Outstanding Research Award);

Dr Bianca Fedele (Allied Health Poster Award);

Kate Taubert (Nursing Poster Award);

Dr Dean McKenzie on behalf of Associate Professor Kyle Brooks (Executive Poster Award)

Absent – Dr Jonathon Carll (Medical Poster Award)

FRIDAY 7 AUGUST 2026

Acute to Chronic Care Research Symposium

🕒 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Online event – refer to short program to register and for the link

SYMPOSIUM DETAILS

Session Chair

Professor Gavin Williams

Academic Chair, Continuing Care Research, Epworth HealthCare and The University of Melbourne

Professor Antony (Tony) Walton, Cardiologist (Cardiac Sciences)

Secondary Access – FEmoral or Radial in Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation TAVI results



Professor Gavin Williams, Academic Chair, Continuing Care Research (Allied Health Research)

Development of a core outcome set for the assessment of spasticity in adults



Dr Bianca Fedele, Clinical Research & Administrative Manager (Epworth Monash Rehabilitation Medicine)

The Lights Are Out, but No-One is Sleeping: Implementing Gold-Standard Sleep Assessment after Traumatic Brain Injury at Epworth



Lauren Fletcher, Senior Speech Pathologist (Allied Health Research)

HealthTalk Connect – Collaboration is the Key to Clinical Research



Associate Professor Adam McKay, Psychology Services Manager Role (Monash Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre)

Co-designing a family guide on post traumatic amnesia after TBI



Yash Bedekar, ERR – Occupational Therapy

Developing a Vocational Rehabilitation Training Package for Allied Health Clinicians Working in Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation

Matt Wingfield, ERC – Inpatient Physiotherapist (Epworth Rehabilitation and Mental Health)

Engagement strategies to support sub-acute, post-stroke upper limb interventions: a codesign study



Sara Issak, Senior Clinician Physiotherapist (Epworth Rehabilitation and Mental Health)

Phenotyping Functional Neurological Gait Disorder: An Exploratory Analysis of Existing Frameworks



Emma Campagna, Physiotherapist (Epworth Rehabilitation and Mental Health)

Lower-limb muscle-tendon surgery for adults with neurological conditions: A scoping review

Epworth’s Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Rehabilitation Unit is internationally recognised for its expert care, positive patient outcomes and innovative research program.

🕒 The project was supported by an EMF grant/award 🗨 Consumers Advisors were involved in study design or review

MONDAY 10 AUGUST 2026

Orthopaedic Surgery Symposium

🕒 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Online event – refer to short program to register and for the link

SYMPOSIUM DETAILS

Session Chair
Professor Richard de Steiger
Epworth Victor Smorgon Chair Surgery



Invited Speaker
Professor Peter Choong AO
Orthopaedic Oncology Surgeon
Research, innovation and entrepreneurship
in private healthcare – A personal journey

Professor Peter Choong AO is an orthopaedic oncology surgeon, healthcare innovator and translational leader with more than three decades of experience spanning surgery, research, medical leadership and healthcare enterprise.

Professor Choong is an orthopaedic oncology surgeon at Epworth and former Head of the Department of Surgery at the University of Melbourne and Associate Dean (Innovation and Enterprise), he is recognised internationally for his contributions to musculoskeletal oncology, surgical innovation, regenerative medicine, MedTech translation and healthcare leadership. In 2022, he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to orthopaedic medicine, research, tertiary education and professional leadership.

Professor Choong has led major national and international collaborations across surgery, engineering, AI, immersive technologies and translational medicine, including initiatives in 3D printing, robotics, regenerative medicine and virtual reality surgical education. He has secured more than \$61 million in competitive research funding and authored more than 700 scholarly works with global collaborations spanning medicine, engineering and advanced manufacturing.

His current work focuses on healthcare innovation ecosystems, MedTech commercialisation, AI-enabled surgical education, strategic advisory and leadership under complexity, helping bridge research, clinical practice and enterprise to shape the future of healthcare.

Professor Julian Feller, Orthopaedic Surgeon (OrthoSport Victoria)
Five-year survival analysis of graft and contralateral ACL rupture in the OrthoSport Victoria longitudinal ACL outcomes study

Mr Lachlan Batty, Orthopaedic Surgeon (OrthoSport Victoria)
Outcomes of anterior cruciate ligament surgery: can a blood test predict the future?

Mr Camdon Fary, Orthopaedic Surgeon (Centaur Institute)
Technology-Driven Precision in Knee Replacement: Integrating Robotic Surgery, Objective Biomechanics, and Perioperative Data to Optimise Outcomes

Constantine Kapouleas, 4th year Doctor of Medicine/University of Melbourne (Musculoskeletal Clinical Institute)
The prevalence of Vitamin D deficiency in patients undergoing hip and knee joint replacements

🔵 The project was supported by an EMF grant/award

MONDAY 10 AUGUST 2026

Rehabilitation Research – MERRC

🕒 3:00pm to 4:30 pm

Online event – refer to short program to register and for the link

SYMPOSIUM DETAILS

Session Chair
Professor Jennie Ponsford
Director of the Monash-Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre (MERRC)

Professor Jennie Ponsford, Director of the Monash-Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre (MERRC)
Long-term outcomes following TBI: Clinical, psychosocial, and cultural perspectives

Dr Marina Downing, MERRC Deputy Director and Senior Research Fellow
Participation in leisure activity after traumatic brain injury: A qualitative exploration

Meg Rankin, Research Officer and PhD Candidate
Exploring multidimensional apathy profiles in chronic traumatic brain injury and their association with participation outcomes

Halima Nalaye, PhD Candidate
Caring across cultures: culturally and linguistically diverse family experiences of traumatic brain injury in Australia



TUESDAY 11 AUGUST 2026

Closing Symposium

🕒 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

Online event – refer to short program to register and for the link

SYMPOSIUM DETAILS

Chair and Closing remarks

> Professor Andrew Stripp AM, Group Chief Executive



Invited Speaker
Professor Nathan Lawrentschuk
Urologist and urologic-oncologist
(Cancer Services Clinical Institute, Urology and Vascular Clinical Institute)
Robotic surgery now and in the future – will surgeons survive?

Professor Lawrentschuk (MBBS, FRACS, PhD) specialises in Urological Cancer Surgery. He is the founding Director of the EJ Whitten Prostate Cancer Research Centre at Epworth, Director of Urology at The Royal Melbourne Hospital Department of Urology and a Urologic Oncologist in the Division of Cancer Surgery at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

Nathan has a particular clinical interest in cancer undertaking high-risk surgery of the prostate, kidney, bladder and testis including retroperitoneal lymph node dissection (RPLND) as well as being comfortable with active surveillance of many cancers where appropriate. He has also helped develop focal therapy of the prostate over the past decade to minimise treatment harm to men with prostate cancer.

Nathan’s chief research and clinical interests are in the biology and clinical management of urologic tumours. He has published 500 peer-reviewed articles, eighteen book chapters and is frequently invited to speak nationally and internationally.



Invited Speaker
Dr Salvatore (Sam) Fiorenza
Haematologist and physician-scientist
Correlates of CAR-T cell efficacy

Dr Fiorenza (MBBS, PhD, BSc (Hons), MPH, FRACP, FRCPA) is the deputy director and medical lead of cell therapy at Epworth HealthCare in Melbourne, lymphoma CAR-T lead at the Alfred Hospital and a senior postdoctoral research scientist at the University of Sydney with Prof Cameron Turtle.

Sam’s research interests aim is to improve and expand the delivery of cell to patients with haematological malignancies. He leads multiple clinical trials, supervises research students and runs bench-based scientific research. Sam holds a PhD in cellular immunotherapy and a Master of Public Health. Sam also completed a postdoctoral research fellowship funded by The Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Centre in Seattle, USA.

Close of Research Week 2026



epworth.org.au

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