INVITED SPEAKERS

National Guest Speakers

Prof. Alan Cass

Prof. Cass is the Director of Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies). Headquartered in Darwin, Menzies employs over 250 staff across Australia and the Asia Pacific region. Since opening its doors in 1985, Menzies core commitment has been to improving Indigenous health and wellbeing and addressing the highest priority health problems of communities across northern Australia and our region.

Having trained as a kidney specialist at Sydney University and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Prof Cass has pursued a research career with particular interest in the prevention and management of chronic disease and Indigenous health. His research has focused on developing, implementing and evaluating effective strategies to improve health outcomes. Professor Cass has a comprehensive understanding of health service delivery needs of Indigenous Australians. For example, as a clinician, he has worked in a hands-on capacity providing care to patients and family members in urban, rural and remote settings. Professor Cass has been instrumental in leading the conduct of national and international clinical trials; conducting research to improve access to services and to improve provision of care to patients with low health literacy, who speak a different language and have different understandings of health and illness.

Professor Cass has published more than 250 peer-reviewed papers and seminal reports for governments and NGOs. He is immediate past-President of the ANZ Society of Nephrology (kidney specialists); Board Member for Top End Health and Hospital Services, the NT Heart Foundation, Australian Clinical Trials Alliance and Australian Spinal Cord Injury Network.

Prof. David Celermajer

Professor David Celermajer MBBS MSc PhD DSc FAHA FRACP FAA

David Celermajer is the Scandrett Professor of Cardiology at The University of Sydney and Director of Echocardiography in the Cardiology Department at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, as well as Staff Cardiologist at the Children's Hospital in Westmead. He has been Group Leader of the Clinical Research Group of the the Heart Research Institute since 1994, and in 2003 was appointed as Clinical Director of the Heart Research Institute. He sits on the National Heart Foundation of Australia's Cardiovascular Health Advisory Committee and is currently also a Board Member of the Menzies School of Health Research in the Northern Territory. Since 2006 he has been a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. Dux of Sydney Grammar School Rhodes Scholar for NSW 1983 University Medallist, USyd Medicine, 1984 World Debating and Public Speaking Champion 1984 Winner of RT Hall Prize and Eric Susman Medal for Research, 1998 Winner of Commonwealth Health Minister's Award for Health Research 2002 Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science 2006 Sir Kempson Maddox Lecturer, Cardiac Society of ANZ 2008.

Prof. Stuart Cordwell

As a researcher, I enjoy the freedom a research career provides, success depends heavily on imagination and creativity, yet also on careful analysis. We hope that in some small ways we can improve both the longevity and quality of human life through our discoveries.

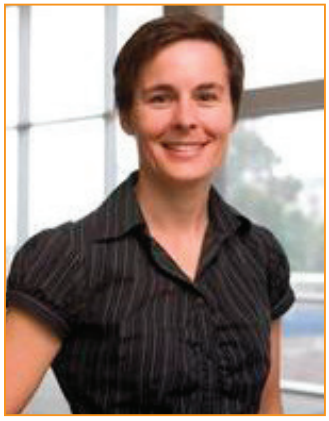
Our group is primarily interested in utilizing the tools of proteomics to understand disease processes and discover new targets for protein-based diagnosis of disease and potential vaccine and therapeutic targets.

Stuart Cordwell graduated with a PhD in 1997 and was one of the authors responsible for coining the term 'proteomics'. He has an international reputation as an innovator in this field. He is Group Leader of both the Microbial Proteomics (SMMB) and Cardiovascular Proteomics (SMS, Bosch Institute) Groups within the University. He took up his current appointment at The University of Sydney in December, 2004. He is also the Deputy Director of the University of Sydney Proteomics Facility. He was previously Director of Research and Development (2002-2004) and Senior Research Fellow (1999-2004) at the Australian Proteome Analysis Facility, Macquarie University. He has co-supervised 7 PhD students and more than 10 Honours students and recently established the first undergraduate Proteomics course in Australia. Stuart has over 60 publications in peer-reviewed journals with an emphasis on the development and application of proteomics tools to solve biomedical problems. He was recently awarded the Selby Research Award for 2006. This award is provided to a young investigator in the Biochemical, Physical or Chemical Sciences at the University of Sydney. He was also Honorary Professor of Proteomics at Yonsei University, Korea (2001-2003). Stuart takes an active role in the wider scientific community – he is Secretary of the Australasian Proteomics Society (APS), a member of the Scientific Advisory Board, Australasian Proteomics Computational Facility (APCF; 2006-), Chair, Education Sub-Committee APS (2004-), part of the Organizing Committee for the Lorne Proteomics Symposium (2004-), AOHUPO Cairns 2008, and HUPO 2010, and he is a past-President of the Australian Electrophoresis and Proteomics Society (2001-2002). He is also a member of the Editorial Board for the field-leading journal, Proteomics.

A/Prof. Barbora de Courten

Dr. Barbora de Courten an associate professor and National Heart Foundation Future Leader Fellow at Monash University and consultant physician at Department of Diabetes and Vascular Medicine at Monash Health. She has a PhD in epidemiology, extensive training in clinical trials (NIH) and is a Master of Public Health. She has expertise across the translational research continuum from human mechanistic studies to clinical trials and public health interventions through to practice.

Her vision is to establish new strategies for prevention and management of chronic diseases, specifically obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Her goal is that her research findings will ultimately translate into treatment guidelines, reduced diabetes and cardiovascular morbidity and mortality and reduced health-care costs. She is passionate about research into holistic approaches to prevention of chronic diseases by promoting health as she believes this will impact not only health of individuals but also be beneficial to our society and environment we live in. She has worked in a variety of international settings, as reflected by her appointments at prestigious institutions in the USA (NIH), Australia (Baker IDI, Monash University) and Europe (University of Copenhagen and Steno Diabetes Centre). She enjoys an active national and international research network. She is an author on 95 publications and more than 120 presentations at national and international meetings.



Prof. Gemma Figtree

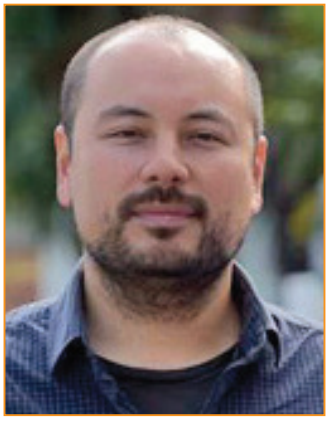
Gemma Figtree is a Professor in Medicine at the University of Sydney, and Research Lead for Cardiothoracic and Vascular Health at the Kolling Institute and for Northern Sydney Local Health District. She co-leads the Cardiovascular Theme for Sydney Health Partners, a NHMRC Advanced Health Research and Translation Centre. Gemma completed her DPhil at Oxford University in 2002 supported by a Rhodes Scholarship and has continued in the field of oxidative signalling. She is committed to improving the care for heart attack patients- using her knowledge of redox signalling and molecular biology to develop methods of identifying those at highest risk of adverse outcome, and discovering novel therapies to prevent and treat events, inspired by her clinical work as an interventional cardiologist. Discoveries in her Laboratory have been published in leading journals Circulation, European Heart Journal, and FRBM, with a total of 116 publications. GF is a principal investigator on grants >$5 mill. She is personally supported by Heart Foundation and NHMRC Fellowships. She is committed to the advancement of her field, and serves as a member of the Editorial Board of the leading international cardiovascular journal Circulation, as well as being a founding editorial board member for Redox Biology, and an Associate Editor for Heart, Lung and Circulation. Her research and clinical perspective and leadership are recognised by her appointment to the Expert Advisory Panel for NHMRC Structural Review of Grants Program (2016-), and her membership of the Scientific Board of Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (responsible for International Relations), as well as the Clinical Council of the Australian Atherosclerosis Society and the Clinical Issues Committee of the Heart Foundation. She serves as a non-executive Director on 3 Boards- Heart Research Australia, Australian Cardiovascular Alliance, and Queenwood School for Girls.

Prof. Michael Gracey

Professor Michael Gracey AO MD PhD FRACP FAAP is a paediatrician who has worked with Aboriginal patients, their families and communities in remote, rural and urban areas for 45 years. His roles have included clinician, medical researcher, country locum medical practitioner, public health medical officer, health bureaucrat and academic. He also worked for more than a decade as a medical consultant to an Aboriginal-run non-profit organisation concerned with community development and health promotion in the Kimberley region in the far north of Western Australia.

Michael was Principal Medical Adviser on Aboriginal Health to the West Australian Department of Health for many years and in the 1990s was made Australia's first Professor of Aboriginal Health at Curtin University in Perth. He served on committees of the International Paediatric Association for more than twenty years and was the first Australian to become President of that organisation which brings together about 150 national paediatric societies.

His main professional interests have been in child growth and nutrition as well as paediatric gastroenterology. His work with Aboriginal people in many parts of Australia going back so far has shown him, first-hand, the rapid changes in health and illness patterns which have occurred as a result of acculturation and dramatically altered lifestyles over recent decades. Cardiovascular diseases and related co-morbidities comprise a major part of those changes.



A/Prof. Mike Inouye

Mike grew up in the Seattle area before beginning undergraduate study in 1999 at the University of Washington, where he later graduated with BSc's in biochemistry and economics. During this time he was also introduced to computational genomics as the initial draft Human Genome was being finished, spending several years doing research in gene finding and protein structure prediction.

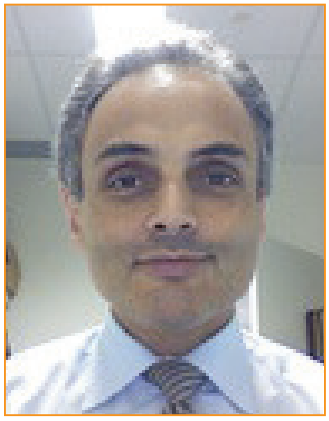
He continued studying biochemistry as a graduate student at UCLA, but returned to genomics in 2005 when he moved to the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Cambridge, UK. While at Sanger, Mike completed his PhD with Prof Leena Peltonen and Prof Gert-Jan van Ommen and was heavily involved in the first wave of genome-wide association studies, especially the statistical methods thereof. He also led large-scale studies to integrate multi-omic data, and identified a gene co-expression network related to the innate immune response and associated with diverse metabolic traits. In 2010, Mike moved to the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne on an NHMRC postdoctoral fellowship to continue applying genomic expertise to problems in immunology.

In 2012, he joined the faculty at the University of Melbourne where he later began an NHMRC – Heart Foundation Career Development Fellowship, was awarded the Heart Foundation's Paul Korner Innovation Award, and co-founded the UoM Centre for Systems Genomics. In 2017, Mike was recruited to the Baker Institute to establish the Systems Genomics Laboratory and he maintains close links with the University of Melbourne and the University of Cambridge (UK).

Prof. Alicia Jenkins

Alicia Jenkins, MBBS, MD, FRACP, FRCP

Having trained and worked in Australia, Ireland, the UK and the USA, Alicia Jenkins joined the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre / University of Sydney in 2013 as a Professor of Diabetes and Vascular Medicine. She is a clinical endocrinologist and lipidologist, focusing on the prediction and prevention of diabetes complications, and the use of technology in diabetes care. With over 25 years of research experience she leads clinical and basic science teams exploring diabetes and it complications, biomarkers, and trialing interventions such as metformin and fenofibrate for the prevention of vascular damage in type 1 diabetes and insulin pump technology . She has over 300 publications and was Chief Editor on a textbook "Lipoproteins in diabetes mellitus". Alicia is a past member of the ADS Council and is currently on the IDF Western Pacific Executive Council and is on the boards of diabetes charities (Insulin For Life and the IDF Life For a Child Program) that provide diabetes care to clinics in disadvantaged countries.



Prof. Len Kritharides

Prof. Leonard Kritharides, University of Sydney, Head of the Department of Cardiology and Director of Echocardiography at Concord Repatriation General Hospital, and Professor in Medicine University of Sydney. Particular clinical interests include the primary prevention of coronary disease,

the management of complex hyperlipidaemia, cardiac involvement in muscular dystrophy, pulmonary embolism and pulmonary hypertension, and cardiac toxicity after chemotherapy or after psychotropic medications.

A/Prof. André La Gerche

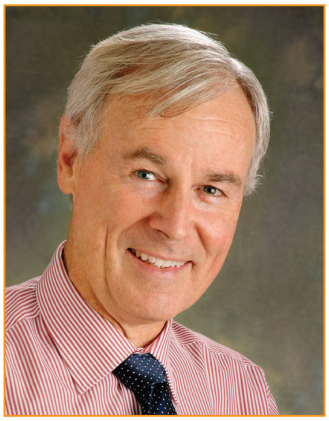
Head of Sports Cardiology at the Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute Melbourne and a cardiologist at the Alfred Hospital and St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne. He is an Early Career Fellow and a Future Leader Fellow of the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council and National Heart Foundation. André completed a PhD at the University of Melbourne and 4 years of post-doctoral research at the University Hospital of Leuven, Belgium studying the effect of endurance exercise on the heart. In particular, exercise CMR was used to understand the mechanisms of right ventricular arrhythmias. Major research interests can be summarised as: "exertional symptoms require assessment during exertion" reflecting the fact that resting imaging is a poor surrogate of functional limitation. André has developed novel echocardiographic and CMR methodologies for assessment of the right ventricle and pulmonary circulation during exercise. These have been applied to the assessment of heart failure, congenital heart disease, pulmonary hypertension and athletes. He has over 90 peer-review publications and text-book chapters including publications in Circulation and the European Heart Journal.

Prof. Trevor Mori

Professor Trevor Mori is a medical research scientist in the School of Medicine at the University of Western Australia. He holds a National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia Senior Research Fellowship. He has more than 30 years research experience in the study of nutrition, hypertension, atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease. His research specifically seeks to examine the role of lifestyle, including aspects of diet, overweight/obesity, physical activity, alcohol consumption and psychosocial factors, on risk factors for atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease, and to elucidate the underlying mechanisms. His other research interest includes examining the developmental origins of cardiovascular disease within the Western Australian Pregnancy Cohort (Raine) Study, which is one of the largest and longest running longitudinal pregnancy studies in the world.

Prof. Steve Nicholls

Stephen Nicholls is Deputy Director and Heart Health Theme Leader at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI). He is Professor of Cardiology at the University of Adelaide, Consultant Cardiologist at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and Principal Research Fellow of the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia. He completed his medical training in Adelaide, cardiology training in Newcastle and his PhD at the Heart Research Institute, focusing on the anti-inflammatory properties of high-density lipoproteins. After a postdoctoral fellowship in plaque imaging, he was appointed to faculty at the Cleveland Clinic, where he served as the Medical Director of the Atherosclerosis Imaging Core Laboratory and Cardiovascular Director of the Cleveland Clinic Coordinating Center for Clinical Research. He returned to Australia in 2012 to take up his current positions in Adelaide. He has published more than 600 original manuscripts, conference proceedings and book chapters, including in the New England Journal of Medicine, Lancet, Journal of the American Medical Association and Nature Medicine. He is currently a Past President of the Australian Atherosclerosis Society and Treasurer of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand. He is an inaugural Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences. His major research interests include studying the impact of metabolic factors influencing heart disease, development of novel plaque imaging modalities in clinical practice and performing large scale clinical trials of novel cardioprotective therapies.



Prof. David Sullivan

David Sullivan is a physician and chemical pathologist in the Department of Clinical Biochemistry at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. This includes conjoint appointment as Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sydney Central Clinical School. David has a long-term interest in lipid metabolism with particular emphasis on the environmental component (especially dietary) of gene – environment interactions contributing to cardiovascular disease. He has been involved in the early use of many forms of lipid-lowering intervention and has a particular interest in interventions arising from nutritional principles, such as the cholesterol-lowering effect of plant sterols. His other main interest is the improvement of detection and management of severe inherited dyslipidaemia, such as that seen in Familial Hypercholesterolaemia. David has experience in several international clinical posts, including registrarship at the MRC Lipoprotein Unit, Royal Postgraduate School of Medicine, Hammersmith Hospital, London and co-ordination of international clinical studies from the World Health Organization reference lipid laboratory in Wageningen, Netherlands. In addition to his clinical activities in Australia, he has served on numerous clinical committees including the management committees of the LIPID and FIELD trials. Current research interests are focussed on biomarkers and post-prandial metabolism.

Dr Natalie C. Ward

Dr Ward is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Biomedical Sciences at Curtin University and an Adjunct Senior Lecturer in the Medical School at the University of Western Australia. Following completion of her PhD in 2003, she held fellowships from UWA, NHMRC, NHF and RPH Medical Research Foundation.

Dr Ward's primary research interests include; investigating the role of nutrition and specific dietary components in the treatment and prevention of cardiometabolic diseases; the pathogenesis of vascular dysfunction and atherosclerosis; and the role of the gut microbiome in cardiometabolic diseases.

Dr Connie Wong

Connie Wong obtained her PhD from Monash University in 2008 and is currently a Heart Foundation Future Leader Fellow. She is a vascular biologist and immunologist experienced in the use of advanced in vivo microscopy to examine the mechanisms of immune suppression and leukocyte recruitment. She has published first/senior author articles in leading journals including Science, Nature Immunology and Nature Medicine, and co-authored in studies published in Circulation Research, PNAS and Nature Communications.

She has been Chief Investigator on multiple NHMRC Project Grants, an inventor on a patent, and has won numerous awards and 4 fellowships, with ongoing salary support since PhD. Connie currently leads the Neuroinflammation Research Group in the Centre for Inflammatory Disease at Monash University.