

Centre for Clinical Trials in Rare Neurodevelopmental Disorders

Speaker bios



Associate Professor Helen 'Honey' Heussler

A/P Heussler is the current Medical Director of the Child Development Program at Children's Health Queensland. She is appointed as Senior Medical Officer in Sleep Medicine and as an Associate Professor at The University of Queensland's School of Medicine. Honey is on multiple advisory committees for family groups and research groups throughout Australia and Internationally, providing expert opinion and experience in research and training. She is dedicated to initiatives and research supporting children with developmental disabilities and/or sleep difficulties.

Dr Geoff Wallace

Dr Wallace is currently appointed as a Senior Medical Officer within Children's Health Queensland and holds a Senior Lecturing role at the University of Queensland. He has worked in multiple children's hospitals across Queensland and in private practice in as a specialist in paediatric neurology. Geoff has supported the compassionate access scheme for children in Queensland to access medicinal cannabis to treat severe, drug-resistant epilepsy.

Professor Keith McNeil, Acting Deputy Director-General and Chief Clinical Information Officer

Professor Keith McNeil plays a key role in the clinical leadership of the state-wide eHealth program. He works closely with key clinical stakeholders to maximise the clinical and patient safety benefits associated with technology in the healthcare setting.

Prof McNeil has previously worked within Queensland Health as the Head of Transplant Services at The Prince Charles Hospital, Chief Executive Officer at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, and Chief Executive Metro North Hospital and Health Service.

More recently, Prof McNeil was Chief Clinical Information Officer and Head of IT for the NHS in England following roles as Chief Executive Officer at Addenbrooke's Hospital and Cambridge University Hospital Foundation Trust.



Meagan Cross

Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics Australia chairperson. Meagan became involved with Angelman syndrome (AS) research and advocacy when her youngest daughter, Molly, was diagnosed with AS in 2008. In 2010 she formed the Australian chapter of the Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics. Meagan has a background in information science and operates a geographic information science consultancy with experience in data development, management, programming, analysis and presentation. Meagan also runs a business in Far North Queensland with her husband, Rohan, and a small charity in her home town of Cairns that hosts an annual fun run and walk to raise awareness for Rare Disease Day. Meagan serves on the board of directors of FAST United States and is a member of Rare Voices Australia.

Michelle Hiller

Michelle is a parent of three boys. Michelle's youngest son has uncontrolled epilepsy and is currently on a trial of medicinal cannabis with the Neuroscience Department of the Queensland Children's Hospital.

Professor Iain McGregor

Iain McGregor is Professor of Psychopharmacology and Academic Director of the Lambert Initiative for Cannabinoid Therapeutics in the Brain and Mind Centre at the University of Sydney, Australia.

Iain's research is focused on the discovery and development of new medications for the treatment of disease. His research spans medicinal chemistry, in silico pharmacology, cellular and preclinical animal models, human psychopharmacology and clinical trials. His discovery of new drugs that stimulate brain oxytocin systems to increase sociability are being commercialized by the startup company Kinosis Therapeutics as potential treatments for addiction and autism.

Iain has a strong interest in the area of medicinal cannabis with more than 25 years of experience in cannabinoid research. The Lambert Initiative for Cannabinoid Therapeutics was formed in 2015 with a gift of unprecedented generosity from the Lambert family to the University of Sydney.

The Lambert Initiative aims to fast track research into the therapeutic benefits of cannabinoids in various disease states including epilepsy, pain, cancer, addictions and mental health conditions. The Lambert Initiative is also engaged at a social and political level to improve community and professional education around medicinal cannabis and to bring about evidence-based regulatory change and improved patient access.

Dr Stewart Campbell

Dr. Campbell brings more than 22 years of drug discovery and development experience to the team, with an emphasis on CMC and manufacturing. He has built and led R&D teams involved in a variety of environments from early stage research through to advanced clinical development in small start-ups to mid-sized companies. Prior to joining Axial, Dr. Campbell held various leadership roles at biopharmaceutical and chemical manufacturing companies including Corden Pharma, Surface Logix and Insmed Inc. At Corden Pharma, Dr. Campbell served as Head of Product Management and Business Development for Carbohydrates and Lipids and as Head of Operations for Corden Pharma's Woburn, MA manufacturing site. Prior to Corden Pharma Dr. Campbell served as Vice President of R&D at Ancora Pharmaceuticals, successfully triaging the company through the acquisition and integration process by

Corden Pharma. While at Surface Logix and Insmed, Dr. Campbell played an integral role in the discovery and development of five clinical stage drug candidates, including small molecules and biotherapeutics.

He holds a BSc with Honours in Chemistry from St. Francis Xavier University, a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the Queen's University, and did post-doctoral research in natural product synthesis at Duke University. He has consulted for several start-up companies in multiple technology and therapeutic areas in the Greater Boston area and is co-inventor on 15 issued patents.

Professor Adam Guastella

Professor Adam Guastella is the Michael Crouch Chair in Child and Youth Mental Health, the Chair of Neurodevelopment Australia, and the head of the Child Neurodevelopment and Mental Health Team for the University of Sydney and the Sydney Children's Hospital Network. Prof. Guastella's research focuses on identification and treatment for social difficulties from early childhood into young adulthood. His research program includes interdisciplinary methods incorporating markers (neuropsychology, physiology, neuroimaging) and interventions (Cognitive-Behaviour Therapy, novel hormonal and gut-based therapies). His research on social development, autism and social anxiety is world renowned. He published the first evidence of a medical therapy to improve social impairments and social responsiveness in child autism spectrum disorder. The work he has conducted developing evidence for the biological underpinnings of social behaviour, including hormonal and immune factors, is highly cited. He has been invited to present keynotes to international conferences and workshops in New York, North Carolina, Germany, Sicily and Chengdu.

Associate Professor Karen Barlow

Dr Barlow is a paediatric neurologist and the Dr Paul Hopkins Chair in Paediatric Rehabilitation at The University of Queensland and Children's Health Queensland. After completing specialist paediatric neurology training in UK, Karen took a conjoint academic and clinical position at the University of Calgary, Canada in Paediatrics and Clinical Neurosciences. Karen was recruited to Queensland in October 2017 and subsequently established and direct the Acquired Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Research Program at UQ CHRC. Karen is also a founder and director of the KidStim lab at CCHR. This lab is fully equipped with state-of-the-art technology to detect alterations in brain function and connectivity and to deliver non-invasive brain stimulation treatments. Karen has an extensive track record leading major studies in paediatric traumatic brain injury to advance the knowledge and its translation into clinical practice to improve outcomes in these children.

Professor Matthew Bellgard

Professor Matt Bellgard is the inaugural eResearch Director at Queensland University of Technology and holds a PhD in Computer Science from the University of Western Australia. His scientific work has resulted in developments in the computational areas of pairwise sequence alignment and artificial intelligence, health informatics/precision medicine, computer music, bacterial bioinformatics, whole genome analysis and annotation for a range of species, as well as eResearch within a range of disciplines. To date, he has personally attracted over \$44m in research funding, co-inventor of 5 full/20 provisional patents, designed and commissioned a world's top 100 supercomputer and co-authored over 152 peer reviewed articles. He has led the design and development of digital health solutions for government, industry and academia, addressing policy, privacy, consent issues across multiple jurisdictions.

Professor Bellgard is also Chair of the APEC Rare Disease Network which has overseen the development the APEC's Rare Disease Action Plan that, endorsed by the 21 APEC economies, aims to set a precedent to integrate rare disease care by 2025 via a multisectoral collaboration. This work was presented at the Rare Disease Day policy event at the United Nations.

Associate Professor James McGree

James McGree is an Associate Professor of Statistics at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT). His main area of expertise is Bayesian design, analysis and applications; areas where he has published over 90 peer reviewed articles. Since joining QUT in 2008, he has been successful in securing over \$8 million in research funding through highly competitive government schemes such as those run by the Australian Research Council and through industry partners.

Since being at QUT, he has also successfully supervised 4 Postdoctoral Fellow positions and 16 PhD students to completion. Currently A/Prof McGree is a Program Leader for the QUT Centre for Data Science where much of his current research activities related to the work presented today reside.

Professor David Segal

David Segal received his Ph.D. from the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT in 1996, where his dissertation research focused on stimulation of recombination with double strand breaks in DNA. Seeking better methods, he pursued post-doctoral studies with Carlos Barbas at The Scripps Research Institute, where he helped develop one of the most widely used methods for engineering zinc finger DNA-binding proteins. He is currently a Professor at UC Davis with joint appointments in the Genome Center, the Departments of Biochemistry and Pharmacology, and the MIND Institute. He is the Director of the UC Davis Center for Interventional Genetics, and Director of Genome Editing core for the Nonhuman Primate Testing Center of the NIH Somatic Cell Genome Engineering consortium. His research focuses on gene and epigenetic editing for the treatment of neurologic disorders.

Professor David Coman MBBS MPhil FRACP

David works as a general paediatrician, a metabolic physician, and a clinical geneticist. David is currently involved in multiple research projects aimed at novel disease discovery, improved diagnostic testing and treatments for children with Inherited Genetic Disorders.

Michelle Lewis

Michelle has worked as a Clinical Nurse and Research Nurse for the past 5 years. In the most recent 2 and ½ years, Michelle has worked with the Neurosciences Department. Prior to that, Michelle was working with the Professor Anne Chang Respiratory Research team (CAARG). Michelle's research nursing career has been build on 13 years of Paediatric Nursing, including Surgical and Medical wards at the Royal Children's Hospital.

Tanya Bain

Manager, Office of Medicinal Cannabis and Program Manager, Program of Work -Monitored Medicines

A professional advisor and strategic planner with over 30 year's policy, project management and program development experience within the public health and private sectors including in tertiary education. Tanya currently works in the Chief Medical Officer and Healthcare Regulation Branch of Prevention Division, Queensland Department of Health heading the Office of Medicinal Cannabis and leading a team for the roll-

out of the real time prescription monitoring ICT project including development of the regulatory framework to support its implementation.

During her work in the public health areas of viral hepatitis, HIV and medicinal cannabis, Tanya has represented Queensland Health on national working groups and committees and led the implementation of the Hepatitis C Shared Care Initiative across ten public hospitals in Queensland boosting resources for the Queensland response to an increasing incidence of liver disease.

Tanya holds a Bachelor of Applied Science degree and qualifications in Project Management, Work, Health and Safety and Training and Assessment. In addition to her acknowledged work in the public health areas of viral hepatitis and HIV/AIDS, Tanya was awarded a staff excellence award for innovation and sustainability for her work as Project Coordinator for the implementation of the North Lakes Health Service Precinct in Metro North.

Dr Suzie Harte PhD, BSc (Nut and Diet), APD, BSc (Comp Sci), RGN

Suzie works as a Senior Research Officer in the Centre for Clinical Trials in Rare Neurodevelopmental Disorders at South Brisbane. Suzie is currently involved in multiple research projects in children's health research aiming to improve diagnostic testing and health outcomes for children with neurodevelopmental disorders. Suzie's work includes private practice as an Accredited Practising Dietitian, and she holds an Honorary Fellowship with the University of Queensland. Suzie's ongoing research interests in early life eating behaviour have been published and presented Internationally and she consults to National and International committees with a focus on early life healthy eating behaviour.

Keith Kwan Cheung

Mr Keith Kwan Cheung is a PhD student, who is researching the interactions between cannabinoids and the human endocannabinoid system, to contribute to better understanding the safety and efficacy of cannabinoid therapy. In 2018, he studied preeclamptic placental tissue for his Bachelor of Science, First-Class Honours degree (supervised by Dr Olivia Holland and Dr Deanne Skelly), and was awarded the Griffith University Medal for outstanding academic excellence.

Michael Duhig MAPS FCEDP

Michael Duhig is an Educational and Developmental psychologist and Team Leader of the Centre for Clinical Trials in Rare-Neurodevelopmental Disorders. Michael also holds an adjunct appointment as associate lecturer at the University of Queensland, Child Health Research Centre. Michael's research interests include developmental disability and child and youth mental health. Michael has published several articles related to autism, childhood trauma and psychosis, hospital readmission and off-label pharmacological use. Aside from research, Michael is a panel member of the Mental Health Scholarships Scheme for Allied Health Professionals and Chair of the College of Educational and Developmental Psychologists in Queensland.

Dr Helen Irving MBBS, FRACP, MBioethics

Pre-Eminent Specialist, Children's Health Queensland Hospital & Health Service, Associate Professor, University of Queensland, Faculty of Medicine

While Dr Irving's clinical role is that of Specialist Paediatric and Adolescent Oncologist and Medical Lead for the State-wide paediatric haematology, oncology and palliative care network (QPPHON), Helen is the Clinical Lead of the Centre for Children's Health Ethics and Law (CCHL) Children's Health Queensland, She

is a member of the Metro South Hospitals and Health Service Clinical Ethics Service, and past member of two Human Research Ethics Committees (HREC), including the Royal Children's Hospital, Queensland HREC. Dr Irving is a current member of the Centre for Neurodevelopmental Disorders Steering Committee and Children's Oncology Group, Bioethics Committee. Her interest in bioethics stems from the challenges of care and decision making in paediatric medicine, particularly around the extent of and conflict around direction of care, staff distress, and innovations in care. She is Associate Professor, University of Queensland Faculty of Medicine and involved in undergraduate and postgraduate medical and interdisciplinary teaching.

Dr Anita Cairns MBBS FRACP

Dr Cairns is a Paediatric Neurologist working at the Queensland Children's Hospital. Dr Cairns has clinical and research interests in neuromuscular disorders.

Dr Andrea McGlade

Dr McGlade is a developmental paediatrician currently undertaking PhD studies in a project called 'Environmental enrichment for infants: parenting with acceptance and commitment therapy (ENACT)', trialling a very early intervention for infants at high familial risk of autism. It will be Australia's first 'baby-sibs' prospective study and the earliest ever intervention for infants at increased likelihood of a later diagnosis of ASD. As part of the project, Dr McGlade has developed the social reciprocity component of the parenting intervention and recently undertaken eye tracking training in Utrecht to enable the use of this technology in the assessment protocol.

Katie Barwick BSc Masters Nutr & Diet, APD

Katie has been a paediatric clinical dietitian for over 20 years. She is an accredited practicing dietitian with experience working at the 2 major children's hospitals in Sydney and in Brisbane providing her a board range of clinical experience. Katie has been working at Queensland Children's hospital since it opened in 2014 specialising in the nutritional management of children with epilepsy including ketogenic diets.

For the past 9 years she has had a keen interest and experience in ketogenic diets helping to reduce the seizures of many children across the state as part of the Qld Children's Hospital Ketogenic diet service. Her expertise has resulted in a number of publications and presentations on the ketogenic diet including the supervision of honours students in completing ketogenic diet research.