

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023



FROM THE ACvA LEADERSHIP

Welcome to 2023 and our first newsletter for the year. We're still riding high from the ACvA Excellence in Cardiovascular Research awards held in Sydney last Thursday. It's only the second time the Awards have been held and the first time that we could all get together and do so in-person. There was a clear buzz in the room of people thrilled to see each other again but also the celebration and significance of what the cardiovascular research sector is working towards.

We'd like to acknowledge everyone who was involved in the Awards but special thanks go to the Hon. Ged Kearney MP, Assistant Minister for Health & Aged Care who joined us, Annelies Sellheim who shared her experience and story with us and Boston Consulting Group (BCG), by way of ACvA Board Director Dr Chloe Flutter, who hosted us. You can read more on the evening below.

There were more celebrations earlier in the year with our Board Director Professor Gemma Figtree receiving an AM (Member of the Order of Australia) as part of the 2023 Australia Day Honours Ceremony for her contributions to medical research as an interventional cardiologist and cardiovascular researcher. Also awarded an AM was fellow cardiologist and Immediate Past President of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ) Professor Clara Chow. We'd like to congratulate them both and applaud the recognition of great female leadership and role models. You can read our full press release [HERE](#).

As you'll read below, our programs and initiatives may have had a well-earned rest over the holiday period but plans and activities for 2023 are underway.

ACvA ACTIVITIES

2022 ACvA Excellence in Cardiovascular Research Awards

Over 100 people gathered in Sydney last Thursday the 23rd February, to celebrate the second ACvA Excellence in Cardiovascular Research Awards.

Research excellence and impact are vital in the fight against CVD and we set up the Awards to celebrate and highlight the leadership, collaboration and

ACvA Excellence in Cardiovascular Research Awards



Translation Award Winners 2022



Professors Geoffrey Donnan & Stephen Davis

Mentor Award Winners 2022



Professors Grant Drummond & Julie Redfern

Game Changer Award Winner 2022



Professor Doan Ngo



innovation taking place within the sector. The Awards are a chance to showcase the depth and diversity across the cardiovascular research spectrum.

The Awards were generously hosted by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) on the 26th floor of their gorgeous Sydney offices with BCG Partner and ACvA Board Director Dr Chloe Flutter as our MC for the evening.

The Honourable Ged Kearney MP, Assistant Minister for Health & Aged Care introduced and presented the Awards. She congratulated all researchers saying, "Australia's reputation for world class research and medical innovation doesn't just happen and it is in no small part due to the hard work and dedication of every one of you." She went on to congratulate and thank Winners, Finalists, Nominees and all cardiovascular researchers for their contributions.

Our President Gemma Figtree, spoke about the origins of ACvA and the Awards as well as introducing each of the Finalists and their program of work. David Lloyd, CEO of the Heart Foundation spoke about research and collaboration and Annelies Sellheim generously shared her experiences as a patient with lived experience after scarring due to radiotherapy.

The Game Changer Award recognises innovative breakthroughs and the emerging and established researchers who have made them. The 2022 Game Changer Award was won by Professor Doan Ngo from the University of Newcastle. Professor Ngo's research focuses on identifying drugs that protect the heart from the toxic side effects of cancer therapies without reducing their anticancer benefits.

The Mentor Award honours the integral role that guidance, support and the sharing of knowledge play in supporting our next generation of researchers, promoting a positive culture and building a sustainable research sector. This year's Mentor award recipients are Professors Grant Drummond from La Trobe University and Julie Redfern, from the University of Sydney whose extraordinary leadership and guidance continually goes above and beyond.

The Translation Award recognises the outstanding achievements of researchers who have translated observations from the laboratory or unmet needs seen in the clinic into interventions that have real-life impact for patients. The winners of the 2022 Translation Award are Professors Geoffrey Donnan and Stephen Davis from the [Australian Stroke Alliance](#) whose multi-disciplinary and cross-sector team are developing lightweight portable brain imaging technology that brings the hospital to the patient by road and air, enabling expert stroke care across the vast distances of Australia.

Read the [full press release](#) and find out more about [all of the Finalists](#).

We're always looking for ways to improve our events and processes and value your feedback. If you attended the Awards, we'd really appreciate if you took two minutes to complete 4 quick questions.

[COMPLETE SURVEY](#)



National Hypertension Taskforce

National Hypertension Taskforce

Doubling blood pressure control rates from 32% to 70% by 2030



The National Hypertension Taskforce was launched on the 8th December 2022 by the Honourable Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care and the inaugural Taskforce meeting was held on the 17th February, 2023. This meeting focussed on identifying Taskforce short-term and long-term priorities that will be integral to achieving the Taskforce goal of doubling hypertension control rates from 32% to 70% by 2030.

The next steps for the Taskforce will be to formally establish the governance framework including the National Hypertension Taskforce Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will have eight members from the Taskforce who will oversee the Taskforce agenda, develop the roadmap and implementation plan and establish frameworks for monitoring and evaluations.

University of Western Sydney National Imaging Facility Visit

ACvA Executive Director, Kerry Doyle visited the University of Western Sydney's node of the National Imaging Facility (NIF) at the end of 2022. The NIF provides open access to Australia's advanced imaging capabilities, including flagship imaging equipment, expertise, data, tools and analytic capabilities to address strategic science and research priorities.



The Western Sydney node has particular expertise in diffusion MRIs. The work at this node contributes substantially to health, agricultural and industry priorities. Kerry was given an in-depth tour of the facilities by Director Professor Bill Price and Dr Timothy Strait Gardner, NIF facility fellow, ahead of discussions of how these facilities can be optimally used to advance research into cardiovascular disease and stroke advancing diagnostic and prognostic outcomes.

Professor Bill Price, Kerry Doyle and Dr Timothy Strait Gardner (from left to right)

EMERGING LEADERS COMMITTEE

We said good-bye to our ELC Chair A/Professor Anna Calkin this month as she stepped down to take on another role. We'd like to thank her for all the work she put in over the past two years and wish her all the best with her future pursuits. Through her leadership, the ELC is now well-placed to take on the big challenges facing our emerging researchers. We're extremely grateful for her constant advocacy and action and wish her all the very best in her new role.

Dr Niamh Chapman is acting as the Interim Chair until later this year when we hope to have some exciting announcements about the evolution of the ELC.

If you've been on our website recently, you may notice the new **EMERGING RESEARCHERS** tab. This has been created in response to feedback from the 2022 ACvA EMCR



Summit. We hope Emerging Researchers find it easier to locate programs and events specific to them.

CV Champs Program

We're halfway through our CV Champions Program which launched in 2022 and kicked off 2023 with a refresher session on Friday 17th February 2023. The group shared key learnings, how they were going with their mentors, as well as strategies for catching up on the program 'homework'. Moving forward, we'll be offering fortnightly informal drop-in sessions to promote collaboration, networking, and accountability for the out-of-session activities. Thanks to all the CV Champs that attended and provided excellent feedback.

The third workshop is scheduled for Thursday 2nd March 2023 and will focus on stakeholder engagement and communicating effectively.

Mentoring Program

The mentoring program has successfully paired 38 mentees and mentors as part of the CV Champs program. A special thanks goes out to all the mentors who have given up their valuable time to contribute to this mentoring program and the next generation of researchers. The program has linked mentees with mentors from across the cardiovascular sector to provide career guidance and support as this year's cohort progress through the CV Champs program. Huge congratulations to the ACvA 2023 Mentor Award Winners Professor Grant Drummond and Professor Julie Redfern who are both longstanding ACvA mentors!

Pulsewave by ACvA

The dedicated ACvA podcast can be found on all major streaming services and [via our website](#). More episodes will be released later this year sharing insights on the Australia's fantastic cardiovascular research and the people behind it. If you have any comments or feedback or if you or someone who would like to be a podcast guest, please email acva@ozheart.org



NETWORK AND PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Victorian Heart Hospital launched



Cardiovascular care, world-class research, and a significant healthcare network and workforce have combined in one place with

the official opening of the Victorian Heart Hospital (VHH), home to the Monash Victorian Heart Institute (VHI), at Monash University, Clayton, held on Sunday the 19th February.

Monash President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Margaret Gardner AC joined Victorian Premier the Hon Daniel Andrews, Minister for Health the Hon Mary-Anne Thomas, and Monash Health Chief Executive Professor Andrew Stripp to celebrate the opening of the 200-bed hospital. The first clinical services commenced last week.

The Institute brings together world-leading cardiovascular experts, researchers, students and entrepreneurs who are focused on taking discoveries, techniques and therapies out of the lab and into practice.

With an increased capacity for cardiac care, the hospital aims to provide significant benefits in patient care by reducing:



- the average length-of-stay, so patients are able to safely recover at home sooner
- waiting times for non-urgent procedures
- the need to transfer between sites or units



Queensland Cardiovascular Research Network Leadership EOI



Queensland Cardiovascular Research Network

After steering the ship for 3 years, John Fraser and Nathan Palpant have decided it's time for fresh leadership of the Queensland Cardiovascular Research Network (QCVRN). When they took over in late 2019, there were less than 50 active members. The QCVRN now has over 300 members including government,

industry and academic stakeholders.

QCVRN are currently accepting expressions of interest to recruit a new chair who will provide ongoing leadership for the organisation. This role can be a shared arrangement (co-chair). QCVRN welcomes interest covering diverse disciplines (clinical, public health, biomedical) and experience levels. Key is the desire to advance cardiovascular outcomes in Queensland and an ability to lead a great team to even greater outcomes.

You can find more on QCVRN and expected roles and responsibilities [HERE](#).

Please apply via email to qcvrn@qcvrn.org providing a CV and cover letter (2 pages max) demonstrating your motivation and ability to meet the key roles and responsibilities of this role. Note this is open to **QUEENSLAND APPLICANTS** only but you **don't have to be a member of QCVRN**. Applications close **March 31st 2023, 11:00pm AEDT**

NSW Cardiovascular Research Network Rising Star Seminars begin



Following on from the success of their 2023 series, the NSW CVRN Rising Stars Seminar Series are back! EMCRs and late-stage PhD students will present their research in a bimonthly seminar series beginning in March.

Join the NSW CVRN for the first Rising Stars Seminar of the year **CVD risk factors across the life course – from bench to big data**, held at The George Institute and hosted by Dr Wenbo Peng (UTS).

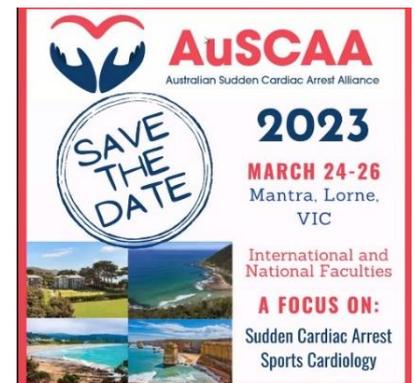
You'll find all the details plus online or face-to-face registration [HERE](#).

The International Sudden Cardiac Arrest & Sports Symposium REGISTER NOW

24-26 March, Lorne, Victoria

This three-day symposium has an amazing program, with national and international speakers. It's aimed at medical professionals, researchers, and groups with an interest in sudden cardiac arrest and/or sports cardiology.

Details of the full program and registration are available [HERE](#).



Australian Stroke Alliance Telehealth Platform Improves Patient Outcomes



As well as the Australian Stroke Alliance's Professor Geoffrey Donnan and Stephen Davis winning the 2022 ACvA Translation Award, they've also had spectacular results from a trial in South Australia (SA).

Zeus, the Alliance's telehealth platform in partnership with Titan Neuroscience, has been in use in rural and remote SA for a year.

In that time;

- Zeus telehealth patients have received life-saving treatment up to 30 minutes faster
- Double the number of patients have been treated with life-saving thrombectomy
- Unnecessary hospital-to-hospital transfers have been cut by 72%

- For the first time in SA, all patient data is in one place, fast-tracking neurological care across 61 hospitals.

It's hoped that this is the start of a national roll-out as they scale up their research program.

Changes to National Clinical Trials Governance Framework

From **March 2023**, all health service organisations conducting clinical trials will need to implement the **National Clinical Trials Governance Framework** in alignment with the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards.

To assist implementation, the Commission has developed **new resources**, including a tool to conduct a self-assessment, manage examples of evidence and report on trial operations.

Organisations can also access direct support through the **Safety and Quality Advice Centre**, and join preparatory information sessions to learn more. If you'd like to join a session, email the clinical trials team at HMR@saftyandquality.gov.au.

**AUSTRALIAN
COMMISSION
ON SAFETY AND
QUALITY IN
HEALTH CARE**

Consultation open – Framework for Australian clinical quality registries

Clinical quality registries support the delivery of better value care and improve patient outcomes. Recognising the need for strengthened guidance on registry operations, the Commission has developed a second edition of the Framework for Australian clinical quality registries.

Visit [the Australian Commission of Safety & Quality in Healthcare website](https://www.acqhc.gov.au) to review the draft Framework Second Edition and give feedback by:

- Responding to a short online survey
- Providing a written submission

As members, you are the ACvA, so please let us know if you have any cardiovascular research news, events, jobs or training which you'd like to share. Email nina.cullen@ozheart.org

Tag us in your posts so we can help spread the word @OzCvA (Twitter) @Australian Cardiovascular Alliance (LinkedIn)



UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING



Science meets parliament / online / 7-9 March

Science meets parliament / Canberra / 15 & 22 March

Healthcare Startups Summit & Pitchfest / Sydney / 16 March 2023

Implementation Science Health Conference Australia / Sydney / 23 – 24 March 2023

International Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Sports Symposium / Lorne / 24 – 26 March

AusMedtech 2023 / Adelaide / 24 – 25 May

CSANZ 2023 / Adelaide / 3-6 August

Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP) / Adelaide / ongoing

GRANTS & OPPORTUNITIES



CSANZ 2023 – Call for abstracts

CSANZ / Adelaide / 13 March

Abstract submission and case reports are now open for the 2023 Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand Scientific Meeting being held in Adelaide from 3 - 6 August 2023.

Investigator Grants

NHMRC / Australia / 22 March

The objective of NHMRC's Investigator Grant scheme is to support the research program of outstanding investigators at all career stages.

Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities for funding commencing in 2024

ARC / Australia / 29 March

The Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) scheme provides funding for research infrastructure, equipment and facilities to Eligible Organisations. It enables researchers to participate in cooperative initiatives so that expensive research infrastructure, equipment and facilities can be shared between higher education organisations and also with industry. The scheme also fosters collaboration through its support of the cooperative use of international or national research facilities.

e-ASIA 2023 Joint Research Program funding commencing in 2024

NHMRC / Australia / 30 March

The NHMRC e-ASIA Joint Research Program supports Australian participation and collaboration in leading international research. The e-ASIA JRP supports international joint research projects in the East Asia region.

The Challenge

WA Department of Health / Australia / 31 March

The Government of Western Australia has issued a global challenge for a world-leading medical research and innovation solution to resolve a pressing problem of health service delivery in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The best solution will take home a \$5 million prize.

2022 Frontier Health and Medical Research Grant

MRFF / Australia / 31 March

This grant opportunity offers funding to support medical research and medical innovation programs of research that deliver a 'moonshot' by creating a treatment for a currently serious and incurable health condition, through a series of linked projects. The program of research can propose to develop novel health technologies and/or re-purpose existing health technologies in a novel way.

NSW Health & Medical Research - Medical Devices Fund

NSW Health / NSW / 3 April

The Medical Devices Fund aims to provide support to individuals, companies, public and private hospitals, medical research institutes, universities and the medical devices industry, to take local innovation to market.

Synergy Grants

NHMRC / Australia / 5 April

The objective of NHMRC's Synergy Grant scheme is to support outstanding multidisciplinary teams of investigators to work together to answer major questions that cannot be answered by a single investigator.

Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) Research Projects Round 3

MTP Connect / Australia / 28 April

MTP Connect / Australia / 28

The Indigenous-specific priority areas for this third and final round of TTRA Research Projects funding are designed to deliver real benefit for health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Rapid Applied Research Translation Grant Opportunity

MRFF / Australia / 12 May

This initiative is investing in research projects that encourage academic researchers and health service providers to collaborate to improve health care delivery, services and systems sustainability.

Synbio 10x Accelerator

UNSW Founders / Australia / 29 May

SynBio 10x is a national program open to any start up in Australia using biology to solve problems & create products. Bringing a wealth of entrepreneurial experience and R&D capabilities, SynBio10x accelerates your product development and commercialisation.