

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023



FROM THE ACvA LEADERSHIP

It's nearly May, and soon you'll find our membership renewal notice in your Inbox. You have until the end of the financial year to do so but we understand that processing payments can take time, so this is a gentle reminder.

We're a member-based organisation, so you are the ACvA. We're here for you and want you to get the most out of your membership. You'll find more details below about recent and future events, initiatives and opportunities to align your membership and interest areas.

We'd like to welcome our newest member organisation, [Heart Support Australia](#). We believe that consumer engagement is a critical part of the translational pipeline and applaud their work supporting Australians affected by heart disease through peer support. We're proud to say that our current President Professor Gemma Figtree AM as well as previous Board Director Professor Steve Nicholls are two of eight new patrons appointed by Heart Support Australia.

We would also like to congratulate all the recent MRFF grant recipients in the cardiovascular and stroke sector. Did you know that the ACvA is able to provide support letters to our members for research proposals that align with our strategy? If this is of interest to you, our new organisational [Letter of Support Policy](#) is online.

A final congratulations to Claire Gardner, Manager of the new South Australian Cardiovascular Research Network and Dr Jocelyn Mulangala, new Manager of the Queensland Cardiovascular Research Network. It's incredibly important for researchers to connect at both national and local levels. We are proud to support a co-ordinated approach across the country and look forward to working with Claire and Jocelyn, as well as existing managers Sally McNeill from NSW Cardiovascular Research Network and Helena Viola, WA State Manager.

ACvA ACTIVITIES

Towards near real-time data dashboard [Tasmanian Workshop](#)



In March, we were all in Tasmania to facilitate a Clinical Quality Indicator workshop, supported by the Menzies Institute of Medical Research and the Tasmanian Department of Health. The development of a minimum set of indicators for stroke, ACS and Heart Failure was identified as a high priority by the National Cardiovascular Health Leadership Research Forum (HLRF) held in November last year. The HLRF is a strategic initiative of the ACvA and serves as a platform to connect the health

system research needs, identified by the best available data, with the research sector to catalyse innovative and multidisciplinary research solutions.

The workshop was attended by health senior officials from most States and Territories and the Commonwealth, as well as peak bodies, government agencies, industry, clinicians, consumer representatives and researchers. We'd like to thank all the participants that attended the workshop (both in-person and online) for their valuable contributions to the discussions, helping us to set an agenda that will take this forward in Tasmania and be a template for work in other jurisdictions. A special thank you also goes out to support provided by the Menzies Institute for Medical Research and the Tasmanian Department of Health, as well as Mr Mike Whittle who shared his story as a stroke survivor and Associate Professor Seana Gall, Professor James Sharman and Professor Matthew Jose for their significant input and advice that brought the workshop to fruition.



A report has been prepared and will be circulated to participants and published on our website shortly.

Time to renew your membership

It's that time of year again! Most memberships will lapse at the end of June and we urge you renew your membership before the deadline.

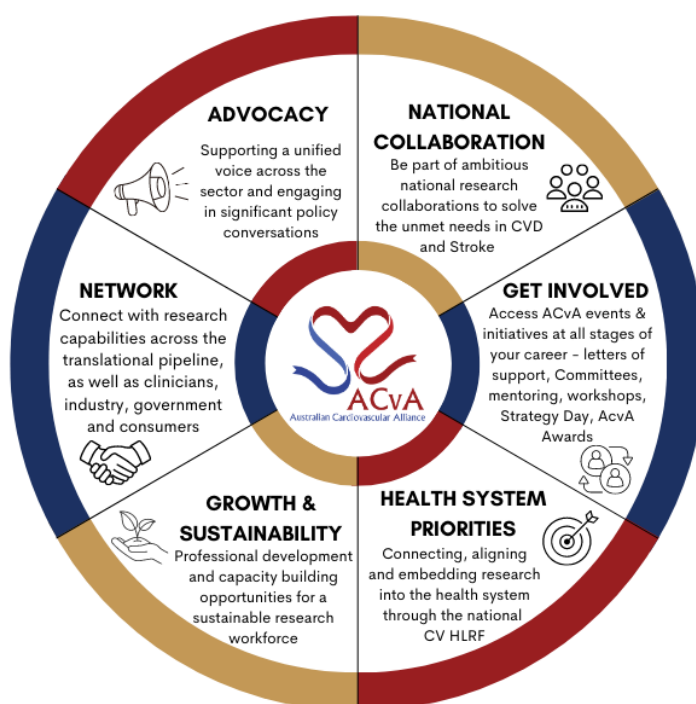
We know that as an ACvA member, you believe in the vital role that cardiovascular research plays in better outcomes for people at risk of or living with cardiovascular disease and that collaboration and collective efforts are crucial to driving solutions and creating health impact.

You can read our [2022 Year In Review](#) to see how our strategic Initiatives and member engagement are creating significant impact.

Australian Cardiovascular Alliance Membership Benefits

CONNECT • COORDINATE • COLLABORATE

Bringing the cardiovascular research sector together in a whole-of-pipeline approach, to collaboratively develop solutions to the most pressing areas of need



If you know any peers, networks or organisations that are also passionate about collaborating to make a difference and who would like to join us, please share.

You can renew as an **individual**, **institution** or **industry**.

If you are a not-for-profit or SME and think your circumstances don't match these categories, please email acva@ozheart.org.

Flagship News

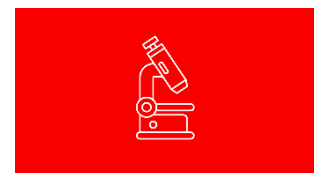


There was plenty to discuss at the recent **Precision Medicine Flagship** meeting regarding Advisory Group composition and evolution, a Symposium and community engagement.

There was agreement to update the Flagship terms reference and recruit an EMCR representative to the Advisory Group to strengthen links with our Emerging Leaders Committee. The Flagship is also looking to recruit an

industry member to the Advisory Group. If you are interested, please contact us at acva@ozheart.org. The Flagship is planning to hold a Precision Medicine Symposium in the second half of the year showcasing precision medicine initiatives and facilitating opportunities for engagement and collaborations. Please get in **touch** if you're interested in joining the organising committee.

There was also discussion around the Flagship playing a greater role in community outreach, awareness and public education of the importance and impact of precision medicine approaches. Suggestions or opportunities are welcome and can be submitted by **email** or representation at the next committee meeting.



Disease Mechanisms, our newest Flagship, has been very active under the energetic leadership of Professor Mary Kavurma and Associate Professor Alex Pinto. They've established the following three working groups to progress and reflect identified priorities and workstreams:

Working Group 1 – Advocacy

Working Group 2 - Engagement and integration into translational pathway

Working Group 3 - Better understanding of existing strengths and facilities in discovery science – with a survey instrument in development

Save-the-Date: EMCR Summit



Following the success of the ACvA EMCR Summit last year that focused on identifying solutions to support EMCRs across the sector, our Emerging Leaders Committee are planning to convene a whole-of-nation discussion on research strategy and workforce sustainability with a focus on EMCRs.

This year, the Summit will be held in Adelaide on Wednesday 2 August, ahead of the **CSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting**. More details to follow so watch this space.

Personal Presentation – ACvA Excellence in Cardiovascular Research Awards

Professors Geoffrey Donnan and Stephen Davis won the ACvA Translation Award for their work which has transformed pre-hospital stroke care through the development of lightweight portable brain imaging technology that brings the hospital to the patient by road and air.

Unfortunately, they were overseas and unable to join us on the night of the Awards. Once they were back in the country, our Strategic Initiatives Manager, Dr Catherine Shang caught up with them at **Australian Stroke Alliance** HQ and was able to congratulate and personally present their Awards. Geoff and Stephen exemplify the collaboration culture and generosity that defines our sector.



SECTOR ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES

Reinstating the South Australia Cardiovascular Research Network

The Heart Foundation is **reinstating the SA Cardiovascular Research Network** (SA CVRN) to grow and maintain a vibrant and collaborative cardiovascular research community in South Australia.

Membership is free, so **join today!** All South Australian researchers, clinicians, community, government and industry representatives with an interest and passion for cardiovascular research are welcome.

All members will receive communications about local cardiovascular research activity from the SA CVRN and the Heart Foundation.

There are a number of exciting events, networking and grant opportunities coming up. For more information, visit the [SA CVRN website](#) or contact sacvrn@heartfoundation.org.au.



South Australia Emerging Leaders CV Symposium



The SAHMRI Heart and Vascular emerging leaders team together with the SA CVRN invite you to this mid-year Symposium where Honours, PhD students and EMCRs will present their research. The Showcase will also include plenaries from A/Prof Chris Wong (University of Adelaide) and Prof Natasha Harvey (University of South Australia) followed by two panels;

“Grant and Fellowship Writing” and **“Career Building”**. The new SA CVRN will close the Symposium with a brainstorming and open mic session on what is needed in SA to support early and mid-career cardiovascular research and to spark ideas for new collaborations.

Friday 30th June

To join your fellow CV researchers at the **South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI)** Register [here](#).

Western Australian Cardiovascular Research Alliance



Save the date! The WACRA EMCR committee is organizing the **“Heart-to-Vessel Research Showcase 2023”** symposium (including the WACRA AGM) to be held on **Tuesday, 29th of August (11 am - 5 pm)** at the University Club (UniClub) of Western Australia

(The University of Western Australia – UWA, Crawley Campus). More details to come.

Rising Stars Seminar Series – LIVE from Newcastle

Following on from the success of the NSW Cardiovascular Research Network’s (NSW CVRN) 2022 series, the CVRN Rising Stars Seminar Series are back. EMCRs and late-stage PhD students will present their research in a bimonthly seminar series in 2023.



Join fellow CVRN members for the second Rising Stars Seminar series for 2023 at **The Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI)**, hosted by Dr Daniel Beard (University of Newcastle) & Dr Rachel Sutherland (The Hunter Medical Research Institute). Register [here](#) to join F2F or online.

Snow Fellowships Now Open

Snow Fellowships target emerging global research leaders that show the potential to drive, manage and influence the next generation of health and medical innovation. The Fellowship provides the independence, funding and time to develop a bold research program, build a research team, and establish leadership experience.

Each Snow Fellowship will be valued at approximately \$8 million over eight years for eligible early to mid-career researchers.

The Snow Fellowship program supports ambitious research and high performing teams, and these are based on values of diversity, inclusivity and gender equality.

Stage 1: Expression of Interest open now open - **closes 5.00pm AEST 19 May 2023**

For more details and key dates visit [HERE](#).



The Stroke Foundation has a new CEO



We'd like to formally congratulate and welcome Dr Lisa Murphy as the new CEO for the Stroke Foundation. Dr Murphy brings a wealth of international and local knowledge to her new role with a background of significant medical and organisational leadership experience.



The ACvA has had the pleasure of working with her through our Stroke Clinical Theme and more recently as a member on the new National Hypertension Taskforce. We know that she'll do a great job and look forward to further collaborations and involvement between our organisations.

Australian Paediatric Hypertension Guideline Initiative Call for EOs

BPOzKids, Hypertension Australia and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute have initiated development of Australian guidelines for the detection and management of high blood pressure in children and adolescents. A Steering Committee has been formed and they are now seeking **expressions of interest** for the **Clinical Advisory Panel and Project Team**.

Closes: **20th May, 2023**

For full details, and to register your interest, click [HERE](#).



Addressing EMCR Research Funding



[AAMRI Budget Submission calls for a rethink on NHMRC Ideas Grant](#)

The Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI) has highlighted the issues with early to mid-career funding in Australia in their Budget Submission. In an [explainer animation](#) AAMRI shows that the NHMRC Ideas Grants program, the primary source of funding for early to mid-career researchers, had 232 grants available in 2022, and when awarded less than 40 were given to early to mid-career researchers. The rest went to more senior researchers. They've stated that the system is not sustainable, and Australia risks losing many of the best and brightest to overseas opportunities or other industries.

AAMRI's modelling indicates the need for an additional 241 Ideas Grants, specifically for early and mid-career researchers, to ensure the viability of our health and medical research sector. Find out more [HERE](#).

Register your Trial Resources

[Australian Clinical Trials Alliance Clinical Trials Web Resource launching soon](#)

The Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA) is in the process of building a collaborative resource page, which will consolidate contributions made across the clinical trials sector. This initiative will allow researchers to find resource materials from multiple providers in one location.

They invite not-for-profit organisations, research institutes, agencies, and governments to share content, materials and weblinks that may be useful to clinical researchers.

Email your request to register resources to info@clinicaltrialsalliance.org.au.



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

And don't forget to tag us in your posts so we can help spread the word:

@OzCvA (Twitter)

@Australian Cardiovascular Alliance (LinkedIn)



UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING



World Heart Summit 2023 / Switzerland / 19 -21 May

AusMedTech 2023 / Adelaide / 24 – 25 May

Synbio 10x Accelerator (UNSW Founders) / Australia / 29 May

2023 ARCS Annual Conference / Sydney / 6-8 June

Digital Health Festival 2023 / Melbourne/ 6-7 June

International Congress of Genetics / Melbourne 16 – 21 July

Australian Cardiovascular Health & Rehabilitation Association ASM / Perth / 31 July - 2 August

The Cardiac Society of Australia & New Zealand ASM / Adelaide / 3- 6 August

World Congress on Rheumatic Heart Disease / Abu Dhabi / 2-4 November

Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP) / Adelaide / ongoing

GRANTS & OPPORTUNITIES



CSIRO Kick-Start

CSIRO / Australia / ongoing

The CSIRO Kick-Start program provides matched funding to Australian start-ups and very small SME's to utilise CSIRO expertise to undertake research activities that will enable your business to:

- research a new idea with commercial potential
- develop a novel or improved product or process
- test a novel product or material

Translational Research Grants Scheme

NSW Health & Medical Research / NSW / 1 May

Funds research projects that will translate into better patient outcomes, health service delivery, and population health and wellbeing.

Ideas Grant 2023

NHMRC / Australia / 3 May

The objective of the Ideas Grant scheme is to support innovative research projects addressing a specific question(s). The scheme will provide particular opportunities for early and mid-career researchers.

2022 Rapid Applied Research Translation Grant Opportunity

MRFF / Australia / 12 May

This grant is for innovative medical research projects that encourage academic researchers and health service providers to collaborate to improve health care delivery, services and systems sustainability.

Postdoctoral Fellowship

National Heart Foundation of Australia / Australia / 12 May

This fellowship funding will allow a recent PhD graduate to boost their research career and enhance their ability to attract and secure future funding.

Development Grants

NHMRC / Australia / 17 May

The Development Grant scheme provides financial support to individual researchers and/or research teams to undertake health and medical research within Australia at the proof-of-concept stage that specifically drives towards a commercial outcome within a foreseeable timeframe.

Future Leader Fellowship

National Heart Foundation of Australia / Australia / 19 May

This fellowship supports aspiring leaders who are developing independence and developing their own research portfolio, through to established leaders of cardiovascular research groups with extensive research portfolios.

Vanguard Grant

National Heart Foundation of Australia / Australia / 26 May

Applying in biomedical, clinical, public health and/or health services (including clinical service delivery) research, applicants may submit pilot studies and 'stand-alone' projects which may lead to larger, more rigorous studies in the future.

Abstracts for the World Congress on Rheumatic Heart Disease

World Heart Federation / International / 30 May

The World Congress on RHD, hosted by the World Heart Federation in partnership with other leading organizations in the field, will bring together global experts on RHD, including researchers, practitioners, patients and advocates, to learn about the latest research, share key challenges and explore effective solutions to ending rheumatic heart disease once and for all.

The E O Myers Travel Grants

Heart Foundation / South Australia / 31st May

The E O Myers Trust Fund provides grants to support medical education, advancing the knowledge and skills of cardiology health professionals or postgraduate students in South Australia. In 2023 there are five grants available supporting domestic and international activities.

Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD): Non-Communicable Disease Prevention in Cities Funding Call 2023

NHMRC / Australia / 7 June

The objective of the NHMRC-GACD 2023 scheme is to fund implementation research focused on addressing non-communicable disease (NCD) risk factors associated with city environments and related health inequities.

Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme

NHMRC / Australia / 7 June

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Postgraduate Scholarships scheme funds successful applicants to attain a research based postgraduate degree – Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or a Research Masters Degree.

Preventive and Public Health Research Initiative – 2023 Maternal Health and Healthy Lifestyles Grant Opportunity

MRFF / Australia / 14 June

The Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) - Preventive and Public Health Research Initiative - 2023 Maternal Health and Healthy Lifestyles Grant Opportunity aims to provide grants of financial assistance to support health and medical research and innovation to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians.

Preventive and Public Health Research Initiative - 2023 Consumer-Led Research Grant Opportunity

MRFF / Australia / 14 June

The objective of this grant opportunity is to provide grants of financial assistance to support Australian medical research and medical innovation projects that:

- Stream 1: develop and/or test the implementation of interventions for improving health self-efficacy for:
 - consumers with long term diseases and conditions, and/or
 - one or more Priority Populations.
- Stream 2: use citizen science methodologies where citizens and scientists use web-based platforms and digital tools to co-create health knowledge that has practical implications for improving health outcomes and/or improving consumer experiences of health care, whilst increasing consumer understanding of, and consumer involvement in, research.

NHMRC Development Grants NHMRC / Australia / June 14

The objectives of the Development Grant scheme are:

- to expedite the translation of health and medical research outcomes through to commercialisation, within a foreseeable timeframe.
- to support proof-of-concept research with a feasible commercialisation pathway and a high likelihood of producing protected IP.
- to provide a potential mechanism through which research outcomes can be progressed to a stage that makes them competitive to receive industry investment through other government schemes or from the private sector.
- to encourage collaboration between health research, the private sector and industry (domestic and international).

2023 Early to Mid-Career Researchers Grant MRFF / Australia / 21 June

The objective of this grant opportunity is to provide grants of financial assistance to support Australian medical research and medical innovation projects that:

- **Stream 1 (Incubator):** conduct early stage, small scale research, led by early-career researchers, that seeks to assess the potential and feasibility of novel strategies to address a critical or intractable health issue in one or more Priority Populations.
- **Stream 2 (Accelerator):** establish a large-scale interdisciplinary research program, led by mid-career researchers, that drives implementation of substantial improvements to health care and/or health system effectiveness for one or more Priority Populations.
- **Stream 3 (Targeted Call for Research):** utilise co-funding between the MRFF, a sponsoring academic organisation and partner organisation(s) to accelerate translation of research led by early to mid-career researchers.

Early Career Academic Research Grant for Women Capstone Editing / Australia / 24 June 2023

The Capstone Editing Early Career Academic Research Grant for Women provides up to A\$5,000 for one academic per year to assist with the costs associated with a research project of her choosing leading towards a publication.

2022 Clinical Trials Activity Grant MRFF / Australia / 28 June

The objective of this grant opportunity is addressed in the following four Streams:

Rare Cancers, Rare Diseases and Unmet Need

- **Stream 1** – conduct a clinical trial of one or more treatments and/or management-based interventions for rare cancers, rare diseases and/or unmet need.
- **Stream 2** – conduct an implementation science trial to determine the best strategies for reducing inappropriate antibiotic use in clinical settings.

Effective health interventions

- **Stream 3** – conduct a clinical trial that reduces inequities in health outcomes by addressing the specific health and health care needs that are of priority for people in regional, rural, and remote communities.

- **Stream 4** - conduct a clinical trial that assesses the comparative effectiveness of two or more health interventions to treat a specific clinical condition, to inform the decisions of policy makers, clinicians, and consumers regarding healthcare and to minimise the use of unnecessary, ineffective, and harmful health interventions.

PhD Scholarship

National Heart Foundation of Australia / Australia / 14 July

Scholarship support will be provided to successful applicants looking to attain a research-based postgraduate degree (Doctor of Philosophy or Master's Degree by Research).

Collaboration & Exchange Award

National Heart Foundation of Australia / Australia / 14 July

This award encourages fellows and scholars to visit research facilities (AUS & OS), to develop collaborations, exchange knowledge, develop skills and encourage innovation.

NHMRC-NIHR Collaborative Research Grant Scheme 2023

NHMRC / Australia / 20 July

The NHMRC-NIHR Collaborative Research Grant scheme supports Australian participation in international collaborative research through the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme.

First Nations CVD Grant

National Heart Foundation of Australia / Australia / 28 July

This funding is expected to produce tangible outcomes with the potential of creating high-impact change for First Nations cardiovascular health. Embedded within this project is the opportunity for a pathway into research. The role should be designed into the project with mentoring and guidance provided by the projects Chief Investigator. This is an introductory role in the field of cardiovascular research.

2023 National Critical Research Infrastructure Grant

MRFF / Australia / 31 July

The 2023 National Critical Research Infrastructure initiative invests in research infrastructure to ensure Australian researchers find innovative solutions to complex health problems in areas of unmet medical need.