

NEWSLETTER

April 2024



FROM THE ACvA LEADERSHIP

In our ongoing commitment to embracing the rich diversity of our national membership, we are thrilled to introduce our two newest additions to the ACvA Board of Directors: Professor John Fraser and Associate Professor Peter Psaltis. Between them, they bring a unique blend of experience and expertise.

Professor John Fraser is the Founder & Director of the Critical Care Research Group (CCRG) at the Prince Charles Hospital & University of Queensland. He is also the ICU Director at the St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital, Co-founder of BiVacor and has recently concluded his tenure as Co-Chair of the Queensland Cardiovascular Research Network.

Associate Professor Peter Psaltis is the Deputy Director at SAHMRI and leads its Lifelong Health Theme and Heart and Vascular Program. He is also Head of Interventional Coronary Services at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, Co-chair of the South Australian Cardiovascular Research Network and a member of the Scientific Committee of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand.

As we approach the end of the financial year, we kindly remind members that current memberships are set to expire on June 30, 2024. In line with this, we are excited to announce the transition to a new membership platform designed to enhance functionality and the member experience.

Renewal reminders, accompanied by instructions for accessing the new platform, will be sent to your inboxes next week. There are more details in the newsletter below.

ACvA ACTIVITIES

Hypertension Taskforce Roadmap Launch at Parliament House

We had the privilege of launching the National Hypertension Taskforce Roadmap at Parliament House in Canberra on the 18th March.

The event commenced with an introduction by Maria Vamvakinou MP, who was joined on stage by Senator Raff Ciccone. Senator Ciccone generously shared his personal journey with uncontrolled blood pressure, recounting how symptoms initially presented during a parliamentary session.

Today, he has it under control but in a post after the event he gave the following important message, "High blood pressure usually has no warning signs or symptoms, so it's important to visit your GP and have your blood pressure measured."

Belinda Bennett also shared her poignant story, revealing how she discovered the silent dangers of high blood pressure at the age of 34, during her first pregnancy. Despite feeling well, she was confronted with life-threatening high blood pressure and pre-eclampsia, highlighting the severe risks associated with undiagnosed hypertension.

A few years later, her husband, despite being seemingly fit and healthy, experienced a heart attack and cardiac arrest at the age of 53 due to untreated high blood pressure. He was lucky to survive.



These heartfelt accounts serve as a reminder that high blood pressure can affect anyone, irrespective of age or apparent health. Members of Parliament were presented with personalised statistics and confronted with the realities of high blood pressure within their own electorates.

Professor Alta Schutte Co-chair of the National Hypertension Taskforce underscored the importance of collective and community action during the launch event. She outlined prevention, detection, and treatment as the core pillars of the Taskforce's roadmap, emphasising that everyone has a role to play in addressing this pressing issue.

As we approach [May Measure Month](#), her message was echoed by Professor Markus Schlaich, Hypertension Taskforce Co-chair, who urged MPs to lead by example by getting their blood pressure checked and encouraging constituents to do the same. He stressed that together, we can empower all Australians to know their numbers and take control of their health.



We extend our gratitude to Maria Vamvakinou MP and Senator Wendy Askew, Co-chairs of the Parliamentary Friends of Heart and Stroke Foundations, for hosting this important event. It was a collaborative effort presented by the Australian Cardiovascular Alliance, Hypertension Australia, the Heart Foundation, and the Stroke Foundation, reflecting our shared commitment to improving cardiovascular health across the nation.

You can read the official media release [HERE](#) and find out about the National Hypertension Taskforce [HERE](#).

ACvA Membership Renewals

As mentioned above, it's renewal time for Australian Cardiovascular Alliance (ACvA) memberships. Renewal reminders will hit your inbox early next week for all current and lapsed members.

As dedicated ACvA members, you understand the pivotal role cardiovascular and stroke research plays in enhancing outcomes for those affected by these conditions. Your collaboration and collective efforts are instrumental in driving impactful solutions. If you know of peers, networks, or organisations equally passionate about making a difference please spread the word and invite them to join us in our mission.

Renewal is simple, whether you're an **individual**, **institution** or **industry** member. For those under Institutional or Industry memberships, the co-ordinator will receive renewal communications directly.

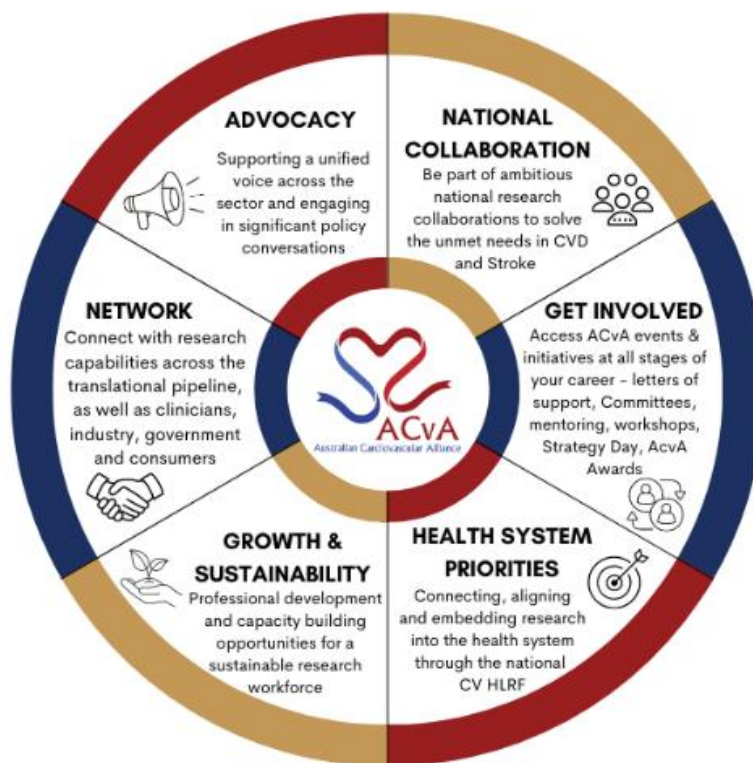
To renew or rejoin, just follow the prompts in the email you receive. Please note that we've migrated to a new membership database, so you'll need to set up a fresh password and verify your profile. To do this, you'll need to select FORGOT PASSWORD at the initial login screen. It will then send further instructions to your email address. If you have any problems with this process, please email us at acva@ozheart.org.

We look forward to working together towards our shared goals of advancing cardiovascular and stroke research for a healthier future.

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



Emerging Leaders Committee EOI

We are calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for up to eight early or mid-career researchers (EMCRs), to join the ACvA Emerging Leaders Committee (ELC).

The core objective of the ELC over the coming years will be to work with key partners and stakeholders nationally and advise the ACvA Board on how it can best support our EMCR community, in line with priorities and recommendations emerging from annual national EMCR Summits (partnered events with Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ) and the National Heart Foundation of Australia (NHFA).

How to apply

Before applying, please read the:

- **ELC Terms of Reference**
- **ELC Priority Areas**

Please provide a cover letter and two-page CV that best demonstrates your motivation, commitment and ability to meet the requirements of the role for a two-year term. In your cover letter please indicate the ELC priority area you are most interested in and how your leadership experience and/or networks would enable you to support this.



You can find all the details on our website [HERE](#).

Please note that being an ELC member is a non-salaried honorary appointment.

All applications should be submitted to ACvA@ozheart.org by COB Friday 17 May 2024.

For further information please contact Chair of the ACvA Emerging Leaders Committee: Dr. Niamh Chapman niamh.chapman@sydney.edu.au.

SECTOR ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES

May Measurement Month



May Measurement Month (MMM) is a global blood pressure screening awareness campaign, launched by the International Society of Hypertension. It aims to highlight the importance of measuring your blood pressure (BP) and to raise awareness of the dangers posed by elevated BP and hypertension.

MMM will take place between 1 May – 31 July 2024 and builds on the **World Hypertension Day** (held on 17 May each year) with volunteer health professionals at local screening sites, in more than 90 countries.

The goal is to increase the numbers of adult participants who are regularly getting their BP checked and to give people the tools to understand how this information can contribute to your knowledge about your individual health.

National Hypertension Taskforce Co-leads Professors Markus Schlaich and Alta Schutte are both MMM Trustees. You can find out more [HERE](#).

CVD Impact Report Launched

In March we attended the launch of the **CVD Impact Report** at a Parliamentary Friends of Rural and Regional Health event with Novartis at Parliament House in Canberra.

The Report, which is based on three, key principles to shift the focus from treating CVD disease to prevention, was launched by the Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler MP.

You can read the full report [HERE](#).



Victorian Cardiovascular Research Network Panel Discussion



The Victorian Cardiovascular Research Network will be holding **Aboriginal perspectives and lived experiences in cardiovascular disease – the journey so far**, a panel discussion involving members of the Indigenous community living with CVD who will share their insights into their respective health care journey. It will be an opportunity to discuss how we can improve health equity in CVD for all. Networking drinks will follow the panel discussion. You can register your attendance [HERE](#).

Thursday May 16th, 5:00pm-7:00pm.
Tower 2, Level 12/727 Collins Street, Melbourne.

New Committee Members - Queensland Cardiovascular Research Network



Queensland Cardiovascular Research Network

The QLD Cardiovascular Research Network (QCVRN) is thrilled to announce its refreshed Executive Steering Committee, which includes ACvA CEO Kerry Doyle PSM OAM and Flagship director Professor Julie Redfern, and the launch of their Emerging Leaders Committee (ELC). The new ELC committee marks a significant step forward in their commitment to fostering and supporting Early and Mid-Career Researchers. Congratulations to all new members!

Executive Steering Committee

- **Co-Chairs:** A/Prof Jonathon Fanning (UQ) & Dr. Meegan Walker (USC)
- **Members:** A/Prof Jason Peart (UQ), Dr. Saman Khalesi (CQU), Mrs. Sheree Hughes (Heart Foundation), Ms. Kerry Doyle (ACvA), Prof Julie Redfern (Bond University), Dr. Melissa Reichelt (UQ), A/Prof Fraser Russell (USC), Dr. Uba Nwose (USQ), Prof Zhiyong Li (QUT), A/ Prof Joseph Moxon (JCU), Prof Hang Ta (Griffith)

Emerging Leaders Committee

- **Co-Chairs:** A/Prof Jason Peart (UQ) & EMCR Chair (TBA)
- **Members:** Dr. Danielle Kamato (Griffith), Dr. Nchatatso Obonyo (UQ), Mr. Krist Feka (USC), Dr. Yuanzhao Cao (UQ), Dr. Tianjiao Wang (Griffith), Dr. Antony McNamee (Griffith), Dr. Gursharan Singh (QUT), Miss Molly-Rose McInerney (UQ), Mrs. Jennifer Dermer (USC), Dr. Andrew Stephens (QUT)

NSW Cardiovascular Research Network



NSW Cardiovascular Research Network

The 2nd NSW CVRN Rising Stars Seminar of 2024 *Metabolic profiling, inflammation, cancer, and the cardiovascular system - a road toward understanding and managing CVD in a holistic way*, is on **Friday 10th May, 3pm**.

This event will take place at University of Newcastle's NUspace building, in the University's CBD Campus. Register for live or online attendance [HERE](#).

NSW CVRN – OHMR Grants Workshop & Pitching Sessions



The NSW Office of Health and Medical Research (OHMR) and the NSW Cardiovascular Research Network (CVRN) are hosting a workshop on **9 May from 9.30 – 3.30pm** to support researchers intending to apply for the **Senior and Early-Mid Career Researcher Grants Scheme** in 2024.

The program will include presentations on key components of the grant application, delivered by experienced researchers, previous successful recipients, and grant administrators, and will feature a Q&A panel of experienced reviewers. You can register for the workshop [HERE](#).

Pitching sessions will be offered online in the weeks following the Workshop via Microsoft Teams. The pitching sessions are designed for researchers to receive feedback on their proposed research project by 'pitching' their project to a panel of senior researchers. Participation in a pitching session is optional and is a confidential opportunity to pitch your grant proposal to an expert panel for feedback.

If anyone has questions about the grant round, the Research Grants team will be happy to assist and can be reached at MOH-OHMRGrants@health.nsw.gov.au.

SACVRN - Awards, Grants & Symposium



South Australian Cardiovascular Research Network

The inaugural **2024 SA CVRN Awards for Cardiovascular Research** are now open. The three award categories include:

Cardiovascular Research Excellence, Emerging Leader in Cardiovascular Research and PhD Rising Stars in Cardiovascular Research.

Nominations **close Monday 20 May 2024.**

Guidelines and applications forms, including eligibility criteria and nomination requirements, are available now on the [SA CVRN webpage](#). Awardees will be recognised and receive their award at the SA CVRN Awards Ceremony in Adelaide on Saturday 29 June 2024.

The **EO Myers Trust Fund** provides grants to support medical education, advancing the knowledge and skills of cardiology health professionals or postgraduate students in South Australia. The following grants are offered in 2024:

Three grants up to the value of \$1500 for domestic related activities

Two grants up to the value of \$3000 to support international activities.

Nominations **close Friday 31 May 2024.** You can find out more [HERE](#).

Early Career Researchers, Honours, and Higher Degree Research students to submit an expression of interest (EOI) to present at the **SA CVRN Emerging Leaders Symposium, Friday 26 July 2024 in Adelaide.**

They are calling for submissions for oral and poster presentations. Those selected for oral presentation will be required to prepare a 10-minute presentation (ECRs) or 6-minute presentation (Hons & HDRs).

EOIs require a title (max. 30 words) and summary of work (max. 150 words), including the rationale for the study, experimental approach taken to address this, and highlight of the conclusions and significance of the work. EOI submissions **close Friday 17 May 2024.**

You can submit now [HERE](#).

Hospital Patient Visitor Online Course



Heart Support Australia will be running their FREE Hospital Patient Visitor online training course **Tuesday 11 & Wednesday 12 June at 7pm AEST.**

Hospital Patient Visitors are Heart Support volunteers who have heart disease and have and first-hand experiences of dealing with the physical and mental trauma of a cardiac event or surgery. They provide bedside support to cardiac patients and their carers going through their hospital journey, in order to assist them through a difficult time.

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a Heart Support Hospital Patient Carer, please email office@heartnet.org.au.

Global Cardiac Prevention & Rehabilitation Forum

SOLVE CHD

The inaugural Global Cardiac Prevention and Rehabilitation Forum will be held on 29th August 2024 in London, UK led by the **International Council of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation (ICCP)** and **SOLVE-CHD NHMRC Synergy Grant**. Stay informed about this event by registering [here](#).

ACvA Implementation and Policy Flagship Co-director Professor Julie Redfern will be taking up a new role at Bond University in Queensland. Her Farewell Afternoon Tea will be held on 17th May at the University of Sydney Camperdown campus. You can register your attendance [HERE](#).

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



ACC 2024 – Highlights through an Australian lens / The Limbic LIVE online / 30 April

AusMedTech Conference / Adelaide / 22-23 May

World Heart Summit / Geneva, Switzerland / 24-26 May

ACRA ASM / Sydney / 28-30 July

CSANZ 2024 / Perth / 1-4 August

Cardiac Prevention & Rehabilitation Global Forum 2024 / London / 29 August

2024 AAS Annual Scientific Meeting / Melbourne / 23 -25 October

ASCEPT, APFP & APSA Joint Congress / Melbourne 1 – 4 December

Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP) / Adelaide / ongoing

GRANTS & OPPORTUNITIES



PhD Opportunity - Regenerating damaged arteries using biodegradable grafts

Sydney University / Charles Perkins Centre Camperdown / apply now

In collaboration with biomaterials and tissue engineering experts, you will test a novel blood vessel graft that degrades as new tissue forms, is resistant to blockages and has similar elastic properties to native arteries.

Carer's Scholarship

Franklin Women / Australia / 30 April

The Franklin Women Carer's Scholarship aims to reduce the financial and logistical barriers associated with primary caring responsibilities to enable health and medical researchers to participate fully in valuable career opportunities.

Academy Honorific Awards

Australian Academy of Science / Australia / 1 May

The Australian Academy of Science offers two types of opportunities for scientists. Their honorific awards recognise outstanding contributions to the advancement of science across the career spectrum. Their funding opportunities support scientists to undertake research projects as well as travel and lectures at a national and international level.

Translational Research Grants Scheme

NSW Health / NSW / 15 May

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

Vanguard Grants

Heart Foundation / Australia / 24 May

Testing the feasibility of innovative concepts, the Vanguard Grant offers funding opportunities to individuals or research teams.

MRFF 2024 Early to Mid-Career Researchers Grant Opportunity

NHMRC / Australia / 24 July

The objective of this grant opportunity is to provide grants of financial assistance to support 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 other organisation(s) to accelerate translation of research led by early to mid-career researchers.

Partnerships Project PRC2

NHMRC / Australia / 24 July

This funding scheme provides funding and support to create new opportunities for researchers and policy makers to work together to define research questions, undertake research, interpret the findings and implement the findings into policy and practice.

MRFF – Cardiovascular Health Mission – 2024 Cardiovascular Health Grant Opportunity

NHMRC / Australia / 31 July

The objective of the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) - Cardiovascular Health Mission – 2024 Cardiovascular Health Grant Opportunity is to provide grants of financial assistance to support medical research and medical innovation projects that:

- Stream 1 (Priority area 1.2, Targeted Call for Research): reduce the number of Australians experiencing cardiovascular disease and stroke by developing and implementing early, more effective preventive health interventions, by developing, optimising and implementing clinical pathways that embed evidence-based treatment, including for risk factors.
- Stream 2 (Priority area 2.1, Targeted Call for Research): conduct research to foster uptake of best-practice care, including to reduce care inequities, by improving uptake of evidence generated from the program into acute care guidelines or policy.
- Stream 3 (Priority area 3.3, Targeted Call for Research): conduct a large-scale project that builds on the development projects (i.e. the short-term, small-scale development projects under Priority area 3.3 that were supported through the 2020 Cardiovascular Health grant opportunity) that are focused on new models of rehabilitation and recovery support that increase equity of access for all people (e.g. digital or online delivery of services like tele-rehab for heart and stroke).
- Stream 4 (Priority area 3.3, Targeted Call for Research): conduct research to support effective national adoption and best-practice use of rehabilitation and recovery programs.

CSIRO Kick-Start Program

CSIRO / Australia / apply at any time

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