

International Speakers

Eva M A Ombaka

Tanzania

Winner of the 2007 Olle Hansson award for her work in rational use of medicines, Eva Ombaka trained as a pharmacist at the University of Aston in Birmingham, UK where she also did her PhD research in pharmaceutical microbiology. Her 34-year career in pharmacy has spanned hospital practice, academia and manufacturing. She has been involved in pharmaceutical policy development, capacity building for better pharmacy practice and advocacy. Her main advocacy areas are in the field of access to medicines. For 17 years she was the coordinator of the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN) bringing together church-related health services around the world to address pharmaceutical issues.



Eva is an honorary pharmaceutical adviser to the World Council of Churches. She is also involved in the work of Sustainable Healthcare Enterprises Foundation (SHEF) that has pioneered the franchising of community based pharmaceutical services to enable access to essential medicines and other basic health services.

Eva Ombaka is Tanzanian and is currently working partly in Nairobi, Kenya and in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Professor Munir Pirmohamed

MB ChB (Hons), PhD, FRCP, FRCP(E)

NHS Chair of Pharmacogenetics & Consultant Physician
University of Liverpool, UK

NHS Chair of Pharmacogenetics since 2007, Professor Munir Pirmohamed is also Deputy Director of the MRC Centre for Drug Safety Sciences in Liverpool. He was awarded a Personal Chair in Clinical Pharmacology at the University of Liverpool in 2001.

Professor Pirmohamed is a member of the Commission on Human Medicines and Chair of its Pharmacovigilance Expert Advisory Group. He qualified in medicine in 1985, undertook a PhD in pharmacology in 1993 and was appointed consultant physician at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital in 1996. His main area of research is in pharmacogenetics and drug safety. Adverse reactions to drugs are a major cause of illness in the population. The research aims to maximise the benefits of drugs and minimise their harms. This is being achieved through the use of different strategies ranging from improvements in prescribing to the development of genetic and other tests for predicting and monitoring individual susceptibility to toxicity.



Dr Victor M. Montori

MD, MSc
Professor of Medicine
Mayo Clinic, USA



Dr Victor Montori is a diabetologist and clinical epidemiologist and Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine in Rochester, Minnesota, USA. He serves as co-director of the Knowledge Translation Research Unit of the NIH-sponsored Mayo Center for Translational Research.

He was born in Peru, where he obtained his medical degree and trained in internal medicine and endocrinology at the Mayo Clinic where he was a chief resident. He also obtained a master's degree in biomedical research from Mayo Graduate School and spent two years as a research fellow at McMaster University in Canada.

His areas of research interest are clinical decision making in patients with chronic conditions, knowledge generation, synthesis, translation into practice and optimal patient outcomes.

Dr Montori is an associate editor for the ACP Journal Club and evidence-based medicine, a member of the editorial board of *Trials*, and has published a book on evidence-based endocrinology. He has more than 200 peer-reviewed publications in top medical and specialty journals.

Asia-Pacific QUM scholarship winner

Dr Nithima Sumpradit

Thailand

Have you ever dreamed of saving the world? Nithima Sumpradit followed that dream by initiating the Antibiotics Smart Use (ASU) program after she completed her PhD and resumed work at the Thai Food and Drug Administration (Thai FDA).

The ASU Program started humbly but within two years it became nationally recognised. In regards to the success of the ASU, Dr Sumpradit said "my colleagues and I simply facilitate changes but local health professionals take actions and that leads to real change. We are like farmers who till the soil, fertilise the paddy field, manage the water level, and control insects. When conditions are right, rice begins to bud the ears of paddy itself. We cannot force the seed. We simply provide a nurturing climate".

Dr Nithima Sumpradit is a pharmacist. She earned her PhD in pharmacy social and administrative sciences at the University of Michigan in 2003. Her master's degree is in health promotion and health behavior from the University of Georgia in 1999 and her bachelor's degree is in pharmaceutical sciences, Mahidol University, Thailand.

In addition to serving for the Thai FDA, Dr Sumpradit also serves as a researcher at the International Health Policy Program, Thailand. Her research interests focus on understanding of the determinants of health, medical decision making, and rational use of medicines; and the application of social psychology and behavioral theories to plan and evaluate interventions targeting behavioral change. Furthermore, she is interested in issues of direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs and the physician-industry relationships.

Dr Sumpradit has served on various committees, groups and task forces for government agencies. She is the recipient of the Rho Chi National Honorary Society (2003), the Ministry of Public Health Excellent Research Award (2009), the Thai Food and Drug Administration Research Award (2010), and most recently, the QUM Asia-Pacific Scholarship for NMS 2010.



Invited speakers and session chairs

Tim Agius

Tim Agius has been an active member of the Aboriginal community in South Australia particularly in relation to Aboriginal legal services, Aboriginal health, Aboriginal community and family well being. He was recognised for his national contribution to indigenous affairs through his nomination as a senior adjunct research fellow with the School of Social Work and Social Policy at the University of South Australia, which led to becoming a member of the Social Policy Research Group as an adviser on policy, management and practices in an indigenous context.



Mr Agius has worked directly in the community as a health services planner and policy advisor providing insights and connections about the practical lived experiences of families in rural communities in SA. He was a founding staff and council member for establishing the Aboriginal Legal Service in South Australia in 1972.

As director of Aboriginal health in a number of positions he was responsible for Aboriginal health management, policy, operations, programs and service development at a state and national level and was a member of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, which was a sub committee of the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Committee.

Dr Parisa Aslani

Dr Parisa Aslani has been a researcher and educator in the field of consumer medicine information for the past 15 years. In the last eight years, Dr Aslani and her research colleagues have received over \$2.6 million in research funds from both public and private sectors, including a recent \$1 million tender from the Department of Health and Ageing managed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, for developing and evaluating consumer medicine information (CMI).



Dr Aslani has co-authored five books, more than 40 peer-reviewed journal articles and numerous contributions to professional journals. Her research addresses areas of fundamental significance: the design of CMI and issues that impact the quality use of medicines. Dr Aslani's profound long-term goal is to determine how consumers evaluate medicine information, enabling the profession to enhance patient access to and understanding of medicines. This complex goal will measure the effectiveness of information format and delivery which is a critical step towards promoting adherence and compliance.

Professor Justin Beilby

Professor Justin Beilby is the Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Adelaide and was head of the Department of General Practice from 2002-2005. As Executive Dean, he oversees all undergraduate training in medicine, nursing, dentistry, health sciences, psychology and public health at the university. He is a member of the Executive of the Medical Deans of Australia and New Zealand. He has been involved in research and evaluation with workforce planning, primary care financing, chronic illness and the quality use of medicines for almost twenty years, in both urban and rural settings. He has published widely in asthma, diabetes and primary care financing. Professor Beilby has been a member of the strategic research initiatives working group of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC). He served as a commissioner for the National Hospital and Health Reform Commission. He is still in active general practice.



Professor Peter Brooks

Professor Peter Brooks is currently Interim Director of the Australian Health Workforce Institute (AHWI). He has held previous posts as an executive dean of health sciences at the University of Queensland, a professor of medicine at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney (University of New South Wales) and as the foundation professor of rheumatology at the Royal North Shore Hospital and the University of Sydney. He completed his medical training at Monash University in Melbourne and then studied rheumatology under Professor Watson Buchanan in Glasgow.



Professor Brooks is a rheumatologist with a major research interest in the treatment and epidemiology of rheumatic diseases. He is a recognised international expert in this area. He has a major interest in medical research, in particular, the linking of basic and clinical research and in internationalisation and the development of postgraduate training. More recently he developed an interest in health workforce and inter-professional learning. He recently established the Australian Health Workforce Institute, a joint initiative of the University of Queensland and the University of Melbourne. He has published widely in the treatment and outcomes in arthritis and in psychological aspects of rheumatic diseases and on medical education and health workforce.

Professor Brooks sits on a number of boards including: Queensland Institute for Medical Research, Mater Medical Research Institute, CONROD, EnTox, International Steering Committee Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010, Epworth Hospital Board, Gallipoli Foundation, and Executive Committee OMERACT (Outcome Measures in Arthritis Clinical Trials).

Associate Professor Shane Carney

Associate Professor Shane Carney is a nephrologist at John Hunter Hospital and an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, the University of Newcastle. Together with an interest in continuing medical education with the Hunter Postgraduate Medical Institute, he is committed to quality use of medicines.

He is a member of the Therapeutics Advisory Committee of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, and a member of the NPS Board governance and nomination committee. He represents the NPS Board on the evaluation working group and the pharmaceutical decision support working group.



Bronwyn Collins

Bronwyn is 21 years old and is a beyondblue young Ambassador.

Bronwyn has personal experience with depression and anxiety. She grew up near Port Fairy in South Western Victoria, but now lives in Melbourne and is studying business marketing at La Trobe University.

Bronwyn is a member of the Ministerial Youth Advisory Committee for the Minister for Youth, Mr James Merlino, and has been actively involved in beyondblue's young persons reference group since 2007.



Camilla Cooke

Camilla is a digital marketing expert, with extensive experience across online advertising, social media marketing, website development, email and mobile, and a specialty in measurement and database marketing through digital channels. She has held senior positions at digital agencies in London and Sydney and now consults for agencies and direct clients on the development of their digital strategies. Since arriving in Australia her clients have included Sony, Vodafone, The Commonwealth Bank, Nokia, Microsoft, Dell and the ALP, for whom she managed the digital marketing for Kevin Rudd's election campaign (KEVIN07).



Professor Michael J Cousins AM

Professor Michael Cousins has worked in the field of persistent pain for over 40 years as a clinician, researcher, educator, administrator and community advocate. He developed two major multidisciplinary pain centres: one at the Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide and the second at Royal North Shore Hospital, University of Sydney—the Pain Management Research Institute (PMRI). He is the author of over 250 peer reviewed publications as well as three books. He served as the founding president of the Australian Pain Society and founding dean of the Faculty of Pain Medicine. He was a long serving councillor of the IASP and served as its president from 1987 to 1990. He has also served as president of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists and chair of the Presidents of Medical Colleges (CPMC). He was also a councillor of the NH&MRC and is currently a councillor of the Australian Medical Council. He is currently chair of the Steering Committee for the National Pain Summit in Australia.



Ross Dawson

Ross Dawson is globally recognised as a leading futurist, entrepreneur and authority on business strategy. He is the founding chairman of three companies, including leading future think-tank Future Exploration Network, and the bestselling author of books including Living Networks. Strong global demand has seen him deliver keynote speeches on six continents, with frequent media appearances including CNN, Bloomberg TV, SkyNews, ABC TV, Today and Sunrise shows, New York Times and many others.



Dr Emil Djakic

Dr Emil Djakic is a Tasmanian graduate working for the past 12 years in the north west region of Tasmania as a partner in a 10-doctor practice in Ulverstone.

Dr Djakic has actively taken an interest in the structure of the health care system and thus has become involved in the Divisions of General Practice Network. He is a board member of the Australian General Practice Network, presently the Chair, and has for the last 10 years been a participant in his local division, General Practice North West, spending four years as Chair. He has a strong interest in governance issues and has taken a proactive role in health policy planning. He also works closely with the state RACGP office and is on the state faculty board.



Dr Djakic is married with four young daughters and spends his spare time pursuing his other passions—fishing and local amateur theatre.

Professor Michael Dooley

Professor Michael Dooley holds a joint appointment as Director of Pharmacy at Alfred Health and Professor of Clinical Pharmacy in the Department of Pharmacy Practice of Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences of Monash University.

He manages the pharmacy services to The Alfred, Caulfield and also the Sandringham hospitals and is a co-director of the Centre for Medication Use and Safety of the Faculty based at The Alfred campus. The hospital pharmacy services include comprehensive clinical pharmacy services, medication use evaluation programs and active research program amongst others.

His contribution to pharmacy and improvements in medication use have been recognised by receiving the Australia Council of Health Standard (ACHS) 2005 Gold Medal, and the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia Clinical Pharmacy Award and 2003 Medal of Merit.

Professor Dooley contributes to many national and local professional committees and working parties related to improving the delivery of quality health care services and medication usage. He has been actively involved in a range of research activities, from practice-based undergraduate projects through to competitively funded NH&MRC and ARC collaborative initiatives and post graduate programs. He has presented and published both locally and internationally on a wide range of topics.



Russell Edwards

Russell Edwards' career in the pharmaceutical industry spans 36 years. In 1991 he founded the Australian branch of the biotechnology company, Amgen, and was its Managing Director for 15 years.

As a former board member of Medicines Australia, he sponsored the establishment of guidelines for relationships between consumer health organisations and the pharmaceutical industry and currently chairs the Medicines Australia Code of Conduct Monitoring Committee. In 2005 he founded Medicines Australia's Biotechnology Group (MABIG). More recently, he has been Vice-President External Affairs at Amgen.

Russell has an understanding of issues in the public and private health sectors and the National Medicines Policy. He is regarded as an opinion leader in the pharmaceutical industry, particularly in the field of biotechnology.

Russell is a member of the NPS Board and Chair of the NPS audit committee.



Professor Jon Emery

Professor Jon Emery is the Head of School of Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care and Winthrop Professor of General Practice at the University of Western Australia. He is also a senior clinical research associate at the University of Cambridge and a GP in Perth. He has previously worked as an academic general practitioner at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. His research interests include the evaluation of health technologies in primary care, and the role of general practice in cancer diagnosis and management. He has recently completed two large NH&MRC-funded projects with Prof D'Arcy Holman related to medication safety and chronic disease management in seniors.



Michael Fitzsimons

Michael Fitzsimons is the Policy Manager for Medicines Australia providing advice to Medicines Australia on the implementation and industry impact of the PBS reforms, consumer access to medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and industry issues regarding quality use of medicines.

Michael has previously been the Secretary of the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Reference Committee and Pharmacy Advisor for the Department of Veterans' Affairs in which he managed the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS) and the implementation of the PBS reforms for the RPBS. Michael has worked as a community and consultant pharmacist.



He is currently a member of the ACT Branch Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

Professor Andrew Gilbert

Professor Andrew Gilbert is Professor and Director in the Quality Use of Medicines and Pharmacy Research Centre, Sansom Institute, University of South Australia. He holds a Bachelor of Pharmacy Degree, a Diploma of Applied Psychology and a PhD. Before joining the university he worked in his own community pharmacies for over 20 years. His interests focus on medication use among the elderly and methods to ensure high quality use of medicines. His research has included a five-year program to develop collaborative medication management services and the development and implementation of standards of practice standards for medication use in community, hospital and aged-care settings. He is currently Director of the Veterans' MATES project which provides patient specific prescribing feedback to medical practitioners, and health information to the veterans to improve outcomes for these patients. He received the 2005 Australian Pharmacist of the Year award.



Kate Gilbert

Kate Gilbert trained in political science and public policy development at Melbourne University and is now completing a Masters in Public Health majoring in health program evaluation. Ms Gilbert is currently on secondment to the Victorian government's Department of Human Services to support the implementation of chronic disease programs in the primary and community health sector. She has held several communications and project management roles in different parts of the health sector, including as national manager of community outreach for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and recently spending two years in London where she worked in the city's largest hospital, Guy's and St Thomas', auditing and publishing medical information and other publications for patients.



Ms Gilbert was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in her first year at school, at the age of five. Later in her life, in 1998, finding the support available for adults with the condition to be lacking, Kate founded a consumer organisation, The Type 1 Diabetes Network. The Network now has 4,000 members, manages a popular website and several online communities, runs educational and networking events and represents the interests of its members to government and the media. In this capacity Ms Gilbert has published several consumer resources and conducted research about patients' information needs, and their utilisation and experiences of health services which has been presented at national and international medical conferences.

John Grant

John Grant is the Director of the Asia Pacific Healthcare Practice in Cisco's Strategic Consulting Group, IBSG. He has 18+ years experience in healthcare and life sciences ICT at enterprise, regional and national levels.

As a trusted advisor to healthcare executives in a number of Cisco's healthcare and life sciences customers, Mr Grant has advised on a wide range of topics including IT operations; innovation and business development; connected health strategy and e-clinical research.

Before joining Cisco nine years ago, Mr Grant was the head of systems integration with PA Consulting Group (Scotland), prior to which he was the director of IT in the commercial division of a global pharmaceutical company. He has led the development and implementation of clinical research systems, hospital information systems, an international organ transplantation database and a national primary care administration system.

Mr Grant is a graduate of the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow and the Open University of the UK.



Barbara Harvie

Barbara Harvie is a nurse practitioner for chronic kidney disease at the Canberra Hospital, with qualifications in advanced practice and self management. Ms Harvie has worked within nephrology nursing for over 20 years in dialysis, transplantation and chronic kidney disease settings. Her additional roles include being a member of the Kidney Check Australia Taskforce (KCAT) committee, past secretary of the Australian Nurse Practitioner Association, and an editorial board member for the Renal Society of Australasia Journal. Her commitment to sharing education is demonstrated by her successful workshops, co-authored booklets for management of end stage kidney disease and pathology for renal nurses. Ms Harvie was awarded ACT Nurse of the Year in 2008 in recognition of her work in chronic kidney disease, transplant and indigenous health.



Dr Alex Hope

Dr Alex Hope has worked for the people of Santa Teresa, 80 km SE of Alice Springs, as their salaried community GP since 2001. His interest in remote healthcare began in 1970 when experiences he had as a volunteer in a remote part of the PNG Highlands led him to study medicine. He has worked in central Australia since 1983 for a variety of Aboriginal community controlled health services, both in Alice Springs and across the SA and WA borders. He also spent three years in the late 1990's helping to establish the Central Australian Division of Primary Health Care and the NT Remote Health Workforce Agency.



Alex has a long-standing interest in systematic approaches to care, and as a founder member of the Central Australian Rural Practitioners Association helped to develop the CARPA Standard Treatment Manual. Now going into its fifth edition, this manual has set a benchmark for treatment standards in remote Australia, and helped to systematise the care of Aboriginal patients with chronic conditions. He is also interested in quality use of medicines in Aboriginal contexts and was a member of PHARM from 2002-2004.

Joan Hughes

Joan Hughes was appointed CEO, Carers Australia in 2006. She has been an honorary associate in the Department of Nursing Research Centre, University of Sydney until moving to Canberra. Joan is a Churchill Fellow. The research about ageing parents of people with disabilities was carried out in Canada, USA and the UK.

From 1993 until 2006, Joan was CEO of Carers NSW, which has won many state, national and international awards. Carers NSW was funded as the first state peak organisation for carers in 2003.

In 2008 she was selected to attend Australia's 2020 Summit. Joan serves on many Federal Government committees as well as international carer advisory committees. She regularly presents at national and international conferences and summits.



Dr Nancy Huang

Dr Nancy Huang comes from a clinical and public health background, with 13 years in general practice and over 18 years in academic and public health roles. Currently she is the Director of Guidelines Research Program at the National Health and Medical Research Council, National Institute of Clinical Studies Branch. Combined with four years at the National Heart Foundation of Australia, her recent expertise has focused on developing and implementing clinical practice guidelines across health care settings to reduce evidence treatment gaps. She has also worked extensively in research and policy development to enhance health care practitioners' capacity to provide evidence-based best practice in clinical care. She has also been invited to be a member of several planning and preventive committees at the both the state and Commonwealth levels in Australia.



Dr Graeme Killer AO

Dr Graeme Killer is Principal Medical Adviser to the Repatriation Commission. Trained as an occupational physician, he served for 23 years in the Royal Australian Air Force, including postings to Malaysia and the UK. He served in Malaysia during the Vietnam War and was involved in aeronautical evacuation. On retiring from full-time defence service in 1990, he was appointed Director of environment health for the Australian Defence Force.



He has been Principal Medical Adviser to the Department of Veterans' Affairs and has taken a leading role in departmental quality use of medicines initiatives. Graeme is a member of the repatriation pharmaceutical reference committee and chair of the editorial committee and consumer reference group for the Veterans' Medicines Advice and Therapeutic Education Services Program. He pioneered the introduction of care planning and preventive annual health assessments for older Australians and initiated the Health Links Program between the Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs.

His extensive healthcare interests include occupational and public health and aged care. He maintains part-time clinical practice and was personal physician to Prime Ministers Keating and Howard, and has a similar role with Government House, Canberra. He was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1999 for service to the veteran community.

Graeme is a member of the NPS Board governance and nomination committee, and represents the NPS board on the phone line services working group.

Professor Kathie Knights

Professor Kathie Knights currently holds the position of Professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacology, School of Medicine, Flinders University. Her research interests centre principally on the enzymology of drug metabolism and she has a particular interest in the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and the sartan class of antihypertensive drugs. One aspect of her research relates to the role of the kidney in the metabolism of drugs and mechanisms of drug-induced renal toxicity. In addition to her research Professor Knights is actively involved in the education of health professionals including medical students, paramedic students and nurse practitioners.



Kate Lynch

Kate Lynch was appointed CEO of the Generic Medicines Industry Association (GMiA) in December 2008. The GMiA provides a unified voice representing the interests of the generic prescription medicines industry in Australia.

Ms Lynch has a wealth of experience working in industry to secure access for new and in line medical products in the Australian market. Her broad experience has been built up within organisations including major pharmaceutical, bio-technology, Australian start-up and device companies. She has worked with products spanning pre-clinical through to off-patent status.

In her capacity as CEO of GMiA, Ms Lynch sits on the pharmaceutical industry working group, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Pricing Authority, the drug utilisation sub-committee of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, and the Pharmaceutical Industry Council.

Ms Lynch holds master and bachelor degrees in economics and post graduate qualifications in health economics.



Dr Ross Maxwell

Dr Ross Maxwell has over 25 years of experience in general practice, with a very strong rural and regional medicine perspective.

Dr Maxwell is the immediate past president of the Rural Doctors Association of Australia and maintains an active membership of his local Division of General Practice and the AMA Queensland. He is a past member of the NPS Board and Treasurer of Health WorkForce Queensland and Chair of their Risk Management Committee.

**Dr Kirsten McCaffery**

Dr Kirsten McCaffery is a senior research fellow within the Screening and Test Evaluation Program at the School of Public Health, and Deputy Director (Public Health) of the recently established Centre for Medical Psychology and Evidence based Decision Making (CeMPED) at the University of Sydney. Kirsten holds an Australian NH&MRC career development award. The current focus of her research spans three areas: health literacy; health decision making and psychosocial outcomes of screening and testing. She has published 50 peer reviewed papers in international journals, including seven papers in high impact journals including the BMJ, three book chapters and has been awarded 19 research grants totalling over \$10 million of research funding. She is a member of the editorial board of the international journal Medical Decision Making and co-edited a special health literacy issue of Patient Education and Counselling (2009).

**Anne McKenzie**

Anne McKenzie works as the consumer advocate at the University of Western Australia's School of Population Health and the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research where her key task is to increase consumer and community participation in health research. Anne is the Chairperson of the Health Consumers' Council WA and is a senior consumer representative for the Consumers Health Forum of Australia. Anne has developed a keen interest in the quality use of medicines and currently sits on committees for NPS, Medicines Australia and the NH&MRC.

**Professor Ross McKinnon**

Professor Ross McKinnon is Professor of Pharmaceutical Biotechnology in the School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences and former director of the Sanson Institute at the University of South Australia. He has broad research interests in molecular pharmacology including pharmacogenomics and personalised medicine. He is also co-founder of PharmaQest Pty Ltd which is currently progressing a novel skin cancer chemopreventive through clinical trials. His current roles include Chair of the South Australian Tall Poppy campaign, Director of the Australian Institute of Policy and Science and he is immediate past-President of the Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association. Other roles include membership of the CSIRO Health Sector and Health Advisory Boards and TGA's pharmaceutical science sub-committee. He was recently admitted as a member of the NH&MRC Academy for 2010.



Professor Andrew McLachlan

Professor Andrew McLachlan is a pharmacist, academic and researcher with experience in clinical and experimental pharmacology and research into the quality use of medicines. He is Professor of Pharmacy (Aged Care) in the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney based at Concord Hospital in the Centre for Education and Research on Ageing (CERA). His main research interests centre on understanding the causes and consequences of variability in response to medicines and how this informs their quality use. Professor McLachlan serves as the Chair of Australia's National Medicines Policy Committee and is a member of the pharmaceutical sub-committee of the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee.



Voula Messimeri AM

Voula Messimeri has been involved in the community services field for over 20 years with particular experience in multicultural affairs and women's issues. She is Executive Director of Australian Greek Welfare Society (AGWS) and Chair of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA). She serves as Deputy Chair on the VITS LanguageLink Board, a Victorian government business corporation. Ms Messimeri was recently appointed to the Australian Multicultural Advisory Council (AMAC). She was inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women in 2007 and in 2008 was recognised under the Order of Australia for her contribution to refugees, migrants and women.



Professor Helen Milroy

Professor Helen Milroy is a descendant of the Palyku people of the Pilbara region of Western Australia, but was born and educated in Perth. She studied medicine at the University of Western Australia, worked as a GP and consultant in childhood sexual abuse at Princess Margaret Hospital for children for several years before completing specialist training in child and adolescent psychiatry. At present, Ms Milroy works as a consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist at the Bentley Family Clinic and Families At Work residential program, and as Associate Professor and Director for the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health (CAMDH) at the University of Western Australia. She has been on state, national and college policy committees, reference and advisory groups. Ms Milroy is a past president of the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA); a current member of the National Advisory Council on Mental Health; a board member of Headspace, the National Youth Mental Health initiative, and the Western Australian Indigenous Implementation Board; and a member of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation development team.



Ms Milroy's work and research interests include holistic medicine, child mental health, recovery from trauma and grief, application of Indigenous knowledge, and developing and supporting the Aboriginal medical workforce.

Professor John Miners

Professor John Miners holds BSc, MSc, PhD and DSc degrees and is an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. He is currently Professor and Head of the Department of Clinical Pharmacology of Flinders Medical Centre and the Flinders University School of Medicine, and Associate Dean, Flinders Medical Science and Technology. Professor Miners has more than 30 years' experience as a pharmacologist in both academic and tertiary hospital settings. His major research interests include factors that influence variability in drug elimination and response in humans, particularly drug-drug interactions and pharmacogenetics, and the development of in-vitro and computational approaches for the prediction of drug disposition parameters in-vivo. He is the author of 230 peer reviewed publications in these areas. Professor Miners is a member of the editorial boards of seven international peer reviewed journals, including the British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology, the European Journal of Clinical Pharmacology, and Pharmacogenetics and Genomics.



Kate Moore

Kate Moore has had a long career working on consumer health projects. As a consultant, she has worked on projects such as the assessment of the Quality of Care Reports, published by Public Health Services in Victoria and as a special advisor to the healthcare management advisors' project that reviewed the Australian pharmaceutical advisory committee.

She is Chair of the ACT Health Council, a member of the Executive Committee of the Health Care Consumers' Association of the ACT and Chair of its policy sub-committee, and a member of several other committees.

Kate is the Chair of the NPS Board governance and nomination committee and represents the NPS board on the prescribing intervention working group.



Dr Mary Murray

Dr Mary Murray has worked for over 40 years in Australia, in many developing countries and in global arenas to develop equitable and effective national medicines policies. She chaired the inaugural Ministerial Advisory Committee (PHARM 1990 – 1996) which established and implemented Australia's Quality Use of Medicines Policy. Mary worked over a period of 7 years assisting the development and renewal of the Philippines National Drug Policy. She has also worked on National Drug Policy in Vietnam, Samoa and many other countries. She collaborated with the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation to tell the stories of the development of NMP in 6 countries to show the important cultural, political and economic forces behind the technical aspects.

Mary helped organise the First Peoples Health Assembly of the Peoples Health Movement in 2000 in Bangladesh.

Since 2005 she works as the global network coordinator for ReAct – Action on Antibiotic Resistance, based at Uppsala University in Sweden. ReAct is working to bring this mainly technically understood problem into social and political processes of change. In 2004 she completed a PhD in Cultural psychology.



Dr Lisa Nissen

Dr Lisa Nissen is an Associate Professor (quality use of medicines) in the University of Queensland School of Pharmacy. She has over 15 years' experience, having worked in hospital and community pharmacy in both rural and metropolitan. Her research focuses on the quality use of medicines in the wider community and the expansion of roles for pharmacists, including development of pharmacy practice into other cognitive service delivery areas including diabetes, asthma, pain and pharmacist prescribing. Her specific clinical interest is in the management of chronic pain.



Dr Nissen is very committed to the continuing professional development of not only pharmacists, but also other health professionals, providing undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing professional development sessions. She was the 2002 Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Young Pharmacist of the Year, 2008 PSA Pharmacist of the Year and in 2008 received an Australian Learning and Teaching Council National University excellence in teaching award. Dr Nissen is a past Chairperson of SHPA (QLD branch), a fellow of SHPA, current President of the PSA QLD branch, a PSA national board member and national Vice-President.

Professor Margaret O'Connor AM

Professor Margaret O'Connor has held the Vivian Bullwinkel Chair in Palliative Care Nursing, School of Nursing & Midwifery, Monash University Australia, for six years, which formally encompasses three clinical partners adjacent to her university campus on the Mornington Peninsula near Melbourne. She is responsible for the palliative care research team in the school and manages a number of clinical research projects. Professor O'Connor sits on many state, national and international committees related to palliative care and is well published in her research areas. She received the national honour of an Order of Australia (AM) in 2005 for services to the development of palliative care in the state of Victoria and is currently President of Palliative Care Australia.



Dr Sallie Pearson

Dr Sallie Pearson is a health service researcher specialising in clinician behaviour change, pharmacoepidemiology and pharmaceutical policy evaluation. She has conducted this research in Australia, the United States and the developing world. Sallie completed her doctoral training in 1998 at the University of Newcastle, Australia and was the inaugural postdoctoral fellow in pharmaceutical policy at Harvard Medical School from 2000-2001. She returned to Australia in 2002 where she worked as a consultant to the WHO Collaborating Centre in Pharmaceutical Policy Boston and Medicare Australia for two years. She returned to academia in 2004 and in March 2006 joined the adult cancer program as the pharmacoepidemiology and pharmaceutical policy team leader. She currently holds a Cancer Institute NSW Career Development Fellowship (2010-2012). Sallie's current research interests focus on three core areas: 1) using secondary data sources to investigate the use and impact of medicines in real world clinical practice, 2) clinician behaviour change, specifically the use and uptake of electronic decision support to guide prescribing practice, and 3) investigating the direct and indirect costs of cancer care from the perspective of health care payers and patients. Sallie has received more than \$7 million in competitive research funding and has more than 50 publications in the peer-reviewed literature.



Dr Marie Pirotta

Dr Marie Pirotta is a Primary Health Care Research Evaluation Development (PHCRED) mid-career research fellow at the Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne and a general practitioner. Her research interests include safe and effective use of complementary medicines, women's health and randomised controlled trials. Marie is the current chair of the RACGP's national standing committee on research.



Dr Janette Randall

Dr Janette Randall is a general practitioner in Brisbane. She has worked in general practice on a full and part-time basis since 1994, obtaining her General Practice Fellowship in 1996. She has a special interest in mental health issues, and has undertaken additional training in this area.

Janette has been significantly involved in the Divisions of General Practice Program since 1997, having held various roles with her local division of general practice in Queensland. She was a board member of the state based representative body for divisions in Queensland, retiring in October 2006.

Until recently Janette was a member of the Queensland General Practice Advisory Council and a member of the Bayside Health Community Council.

She chaired the NPS Board audit committee until October 2007 and was previously a member of the new drugs working group. Janette has been NPS Chair since 2007.



Debbie Rigby

Debbie Rigby is a consultant clinical pharmacist practising in Brisbane. She is an internationally recognised certified geriatric pharmacist, having a special interest in geriatric pharmacotherapy, and regularly conducts medication review services and presentations to pharmacists, nurses, allied health professionals and consumers.

Debbie is a former director of the PSA. She is currently vice-president of the PSA QLD branch, director of the Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy (AACP) and a member of the National Advisory Group of AACP. Debbie is also a fellow of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists and an adjunct senior lecturer at the School of Pharmacy, University of Queensland.

Debbie's work is award-winning, earning her an AMRAD Pharmacy Specialisation Grant by SHPA in 1999, the PSA Australian Pharmacist of the Year in 2001, the PSA Queensland Bowl of Hygeia in 2002, and the inaugural Consultant Pharmacist Award for 2008.

Debbie is a member of the NPS Board audit committee and represents the NPS Board on the community quality use of medicines working group, and curriculum and training working group.



Dr Rebecca Ryan

Dr Rebecca Ryan is a research fellow at the Centre for Health Communication and Participation based at La Trobe University. Since completing her PhD in pharmacology at Monash University, she has worked in the area of evidence-based health care. Her research interests include evidence-based prescribing and medicines use for and by consumers, risk communication for rare diseases, and effective communication with people with multimorbidity. Dr Ryan is an author of several Cochrane systematic reviews with a focus on communication with health consumers, and provides support to review authors completing reviews through the Cochrane consumers and communication review group, which is also based at the Centre. Dr Ryan also provides research input and support to the Australian arm of a project funded by the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health to develop a database and inventory of systematic review-level evidence to promote evidence-based prescribing and medicines use.



Lesley Salem

Lesley Salem is a descendant of the Wonaruah Nation in NSW and is a nurse practitioner/high dependency with a speciality in renal medicine, dialysis, transplant and apheresis with Hunter New England Health. She has worked as an Aboriginal policy analyst for Aboriginal chronic care program NSW Health and was recently the federal indigenous women's delegate on the Diplomatic Party to the United Nations for the 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women.



Ms Salem's qualifications include a Masters in Nursing Science/Research, Graduate Diploma in Nursing Science, Graduate Certificate in Nursing Science-Apheresis, and Hospital Certificate in Nephrology and Transplant.

Her nursing has been dedicated to nephrology, dialysis, transplantation and advanced practice in apheresis. Through her work is a strong dedication to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal Australians. Ms Salem is now employed to help clinically manage the 350+ patients of the community dialysis centres of Wansey Centre at Charlestown, Maitland, Singleton, Muswellbrook and Taree as well as the home haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis patient populations in the 31,000 sq km in the lower Hunter New England Area Health Service, as well as progressing chronic disease strategies for Aboriginal people locally and nationally.

Professor Emeritus Lloyd Sansom AO

Professor Lloyd Sansom graduated in pharmacy in 1962 and completed his PhD in Biophysical Chemistry at the University of Adelaide in 1972. He retired in 2000 as the Head of the School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences at the University of South Australia. He was appointed the Chair of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee in January 2001 having been the Chair of the Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council since 1991. Professor Sansom has been involved in the development of Australia's National Medicines Policy. He holds the title of Emeritus Professor at the University of South Australia and has received honorary doctorates from the University of Queensland, University of Newcastle and Griffith University. His research interests are in the areas of pharmacokinetics, biopharmaceutics and quality use of medicines. In 2002 Professor Sansom was made an Officer in the Order of Australia for contributions to the development of national pharmaceutical policy.



Juliet Seifert

Juliet Seifert has been Executive Director of the Australian Self-Medication Industry (ASMI) since July 1989. She has focussed on fostering widespread acceptance and understanding of the role of non-prescription medicines in community health.

Juliet has been a representative on the Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council (APAC) to the Minister for Health, a past director of the Australian Pharmacy Research Centre, a past chair and current member of the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code Council and a member of the implementation steering group for the recommendations of the expert committee on complementary medicines in the health system. Juliet is also a board member of the World Self-Medication Industry (WSMI), a non-government organisation recognised by the World Health Organization.



Dr Brendan Shaw

In January 2010 Dr Brendan Shaw was appointed Chief Executive of Medicines Australia.

Brendan has been instrumental in guiding the pharmaceutical industry through reforms to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee processes and the Therapeutic Goods Administration. He has driven Medicines Australia's research program, developed Joint Medicines Policy Conferences with the Australian Government, and Medicines Australia's contribution to the international debate on health technology assessment.

For the last six years Dr Shaw led the Health Policy and Research function at Medicines Australia, representing the industry on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Pricing Authority, the Access to Medicines Working Group, and for two years was the industry member of the Economic Sub-Committee of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

Prior to taking up his appointment with Medicines Australia in January 2004, Dr Shaw was adviser to the then Shadow Minister for Innovation, Industry and Trade, Dr Craig Emerson MP. Dr Shaw has previously worked in academia, consulting and the Australian Government in the areas of economic development, innovation, industry analysis and public policy. He has an honours degree in economics from the University of Queensland and a PhD in management from Monash University.



Dr Janie Smith

Dr Janie Smith is a rural woman who has been actively involved in remote, rural and Indigenous health as a practitioner, academic, researcher, project manager and evaluator for almost 30 years. She is the director of a national consulting company, RhED Consulting Pty Ltd, and has undertaken over 40 consultancies in the past six years for the government, university, not-for-profit, community controlled, non government and corporate sectors. Dr Smith works across all health disciplines as a health educationalist and sits on the council of the National Rural Health Alliance. Dr Smith is an adjunct associate professor at JCU and SCU and is author of Australia's Rural and Remote Health: A Social Justice Perspective, a book used extensively in Australian universities for undergraduate health students.



Dr Danielle Stowasser

As Chair of the Scientific Program Committee for the 2010 National Medicines Symposium, Dr Danielle Stowasser has extensive skills and knowledge gained from over 20 years as a pharmacist, academic researcher, manager and now as CEO at Charm Health.



In early 2009, Dr Stowasser joined Charm Health to lead the company in a time of rapid growth of organisational infrastructure and offerings to market.

Dr Stowasser's experience in leadership and management arises out of Director positions in senior levels of government and in private companies. Dr Stowasser holds a primary degree in pharmacy, a post graduate diploma in clinical and hospital pharmacy and a PhD. Dr Stowasser's research interests have focused on medication related communication, medication safety and the continuum of quality use of medicines between hospital and community. Programs and initiatives implemented underneath Dr Stowasser's direction have included the statewide pharmacy computer system (QHPIIMS) in Queensland health and a range of initiatives focused on enhancing medication related services for the Queensland public health sector. Danielle also has a research interest in adverse drug events (ADE) and the use of information technology in ADE prevention.

Dr Stowasser holds an adjunct Associate Professor position with the University of Queensland.

John Stubbs

John Stubbs is a nine-year bone marrow transplant survivor for chronic myeloid leukaemia. He holds degrees in accounting and arts and has 30 years' experience in the public and private sphere, including thirteen years operating his own management consultancy business. He is a regular speaker at medical conferences and seminars on cancer advocacy, clinical trials and cancer related issues.



Mr Stubbs is Executive Officer, Cancer Voices Australia and holds government positions at both board and committee level. He has contributed to a number of booklets – 'Cancer how are you travelling', research papers, edited consumer booklets for the Cancer Council and contributed to government policy on cancer, cancer services and the value of consumer involvement.

Dr Shiong Tan

Dr Shiong Tan is a GP and clinical adviser to the Western Australian Department of Health. He has a strong interest in the role that primary care services play in health promotion and advancing population health. He is a commissioner on the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care and currently chairs the Commission's primary care committee.

Shiong is a member of the NPS Board governance and nomination committee.



Rosy Tirimacco

Rosy Tirimacco is the Operations and Research Manager of the Integrated Cardiovascular Clinical Network SA (iCCnet SA) funded by Country Health South Australia that supports rural and remote physicians and nurses to deliver evidence-based cardiac care to patients with chest pain and possible acute coronary syndrome regardless of location or facilities available. The network currently encompasses all rural hospitals in South Australia.

Ms Tirimacco has extensive experience in implementing and running point-of-care testing (PoCT) in hospitals and general practice. She is heavily involved in PoCT education of rural doctors and nurses across South Australia. Her major research interests include point-of-care pathology, short-stay chest pain assessment protocols, development of diagnostic cardiac marker protocols, standardisation of glucose PoCT and the development of electronic real time clinical databases.

Ms Tirimacco is Chair of the Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists Point of Care Testing working party.



Dr Joanne Travaglia

Dr Joanne Travaglia is a medical sociologist with a specialisation in health services research, focusing on patient safety, professional practice, and the implications of patient and clinician diversity on the quality of care. Graduating in December 2009 with a PhD focusing on vulnerability and patient safety, Dr Travaglia is already building a reputation for her work in the following areas: the implementation of patient safety policy and strategies; knowledge creation and management in the public sector; social and organisational origins of errors and adverse events; clinical governance and its enactment; interprofessional and interdisciplinary collaboration and learning; mixed method research; the use of data mining in qualitative research; and the management of workplace diversity.



Speakers

Professor Tim Usherwood

Professor Tim Usherwood is Professor of General Practice at the University of Sydney and is in clinical practice at Aboriginal Medical Service Western Sydney. His research interests include the evaluation of interventions to enhance patient and doctor adherence in primary care, especially in the fields of cardiovascular disease and asthma. He is Chair of the NPS diagnostics initiative advisory group.



Dr Janney Wale

Janney Wale is the international convenor of Consumer Network of The Cochrane Collaboration and a health consumer representative within Australia. She is a pharmacologist by training and worked for many years in drug and basic research. Her own health issues took her out of that workforce and into evidence-based health care from a consumer perspective. In her present roles she works toward improved awareness, availability and use of balanced information on the potential benefits and harms of healthcare interventions. She has a keen awareness of the roles of consumers and patients themselves in health care.



Dr Lynn Weekes

As inaugural Chief Executive Officer of NPS, Dr Lynn Weekes has contributed significantly to the development of quality use of medicines (QUM) resources and services for health professionals and consumers in Australia since 1998.

As part of her PhD thesis, Organisational Structures to Promote Quality Use of Medicines, Lynn developed indicators for quality use of medicines for drug and therapeutics committees and for hospitals more generally. She has a strong professional interest in quality assurance, behaviour change and pharmacoepidemiology.

With her expertise in the quality use of medicines area Lynn sits, by invitation, on various national boards and committees from government, pharmacy and academic sectors.

Prior to Lynn's appointment to NPS, she was Executive Officer of NSW Therapeutic Assessment Group where she was involved in drug-use practice, evaluation and policy. She originally trained as a pharmacist and practised in hospital and research settings.

