

3 – 5 September 2025



WORKING THROUGH ETHICAL CHALLENGES; FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

16th National Paediatric Bioethics Conference



16th National Paediatric Bioethics Conference - Program

3- 5 September, Ella Latham Theatre | The Royal Children's Hospital

Wednesday 3rd September 2025	
12:00 – 12:30	Conference Opening Chair: Professor John Massie, Clinical Director, Children's Bioethics Centre, RCH Opening: Peter Steer, CEO, RCH Welcome to Country - Wurundjeri Elder Colin Hunter
12:30 - 1:30PM	Grand Rounds and Opening Keynote Chair: Professor Lynn Gillam, Academic Director, Children's Bioethics Centre, RCH Socrates in the clinic: the role of ethical analysis in health care Prof John McMillan, Bioethics Centre, University of Otago
1:30 - 2:15pm	LUNCH BREAK
2:15 – 3:45pm	Session 2: Thinking About the Child Chair: A/Prof Michelle Telfer, Paediatrician and Adolescent Medicine Physician/Chief of Medicine RCH Reconstituting the child Anne Preisz (Clinical Ethicist), Nadia Rajabalee (Clinical Ethics Fellow), and Phil Britton (Paediatrician) – Sydney Children's Hospital Network at Westmead An imagined life: but whose imagination? Adam Rozsa (Neurovascular Clinical Nurse) and John Massie (Clinical Director, CBC) – RCH Thinking about the child as future adult Panel: Simone Huntingford (Neonatologist, RCH), Kate Irving (Neurologist, RCH), Kari Steer (Physiotherapist, RCH)
3:45 - 4:00PM	BREAK
4:00 - 5:00pm	Session 3: Where do parents fit in? Chair: Giuliana Antolovich, Neurodevelopment and Disability
4:00 – 4:30pm	"The Squeaky Wheel" An ethical approach to finding the balance between addressing parental concerns and managing excessive demands Ciara Earley (General Paediatrician) – Monash Children's Hospital
4:30 – 5:00pm	Accessing respite care for children with Neurodisability and their families - the ethical undercurrents of idealism versus the reality of needing and having help Ingrid Sutherland (Clinical Nurse Consultant) and Erin Georgiou (Occupational Therapist) - RCH
6:00 – 7:30PM	Friends of the CBC Hypothetical RCH Foundation, Level 2, 48 Flemington Rd.

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Thursday 4th September 2025

7:30 - 8:30AM

MSA Breakfast - Vernon Collins Theatre

Pain prevention and treatment as a human right

Prof Stefan Friedrichsdorf, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals in San Francisco and Oakland

9:00 - 10:30am

Session 4: Society-level issues

Chair: Amy Gray, Consultant, RCH

9:00 – 9:30am

Is two, one too many? A case discussion looking at the ethical considerations of resources allocation in Multiple-Organ Transplant recipients

Mark Oliver (Paediatric Gastroenterologist) and **Elly Law** (Clinical Nurse Specialist) – RCH

9:30 – 10:00am

Between a Jab and a Hard Place: The Moral and Ethical Dilemmas of Childhood Vaccine Exemptions

Bianca Devsam (PhD Candidate) – University of Melbourne

10:00 – 10:30am

The role of justice as an ethical principle underpinning the fair distribution of resources in resource rich healthcare environments

Kate Middleton (Neurodevelopment and Disability Fellow) – RCH

10:30 – 11:00am

BREAK

11:00am - 12:00pm

Session 5: Ethical complexities

Chair: Sarah Connolly, Director Allied Health, RCH

11:00 – 11:30am

When less is more: Chest physiotherapy in end-stage lung disease in children with a neuro-disability

Lisa Robson (Physiotherapist), **Adrian Whitman** (Physiotherapist) and **Sarah Loveday** (Paediatrician) - RCH

11:30am – 12:00pm

“If you hit someone with a frying pan, it's not cooking!!!”

Dani Gold (Senior Social Worker) and **Anna Lucia** (Senior Social Worker) – RCH

12:00 – 1.00PM

Lunch Break

1.00 – 2.00 PM

Session 6: Keynote Speaker

Chair: Professor Lynn Gillam

A/Prof Rosalind McDougall, University of Melbourne

How can we make better ethical decisions in practice?

2.00 - 3:15PM

Session 7: Talking with children about illness and dying

Em/Prof Myra Bluebond-Langner University College London

In discussion with Prof Lynn Gillam, RCH

3:15 - 3:45PM

BREAK

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3:45 - 5:15 PM

Session 8: Novel Therapies

Chair: A/Prof Tom Connell, Chief Medical Officer, RCH

3:45 – 4:15pm

Ethics of children with rare diseases and the resulting disability participating in commercially sponsored advanced therapy clinical trials

Cat Wood (Research Nurse Coordinator) – MCRI

4:15 – 4:45pm

Multi-stakeholder discussion to support equitable access to novel therapeutics: a guidance ethics approach

Katherine Lieschke (PhD student, Stem Cell Ethics & Policy) – MCRI

4:45 – 5:15pm

Hope in one hemisphere: The ethical landscape of hemispherectomy

Carolyn Pinto (Research Associate, MCRI) and **Kelly Wilton** President of Hemispherectomy Foundation Australia

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Friday 5th September 2025

9:30 – 11:30am	Session 9: More Ethical Complexities Chair: Tamara Rumble, General Manager, Speciality Medical Units, RCH
9:30 – 10:00am	SickTok - Adolescent Illness Identity, Privacy, and the Role of the Clinician Elise Burn (Clinical Nurse Consultant) – Children's Health Queensland
10:00 – 10:30am	Hearing from Nurses: What's complex about Complex Care? Niamh Murray (Clinical Nurse Consultant) – RCH
10:30 – 11:00am	Clinical complexities in suction management - who is the 'expert'? Remy Trusler (Registered Nurse) – RCH
11:00 – 11:30am	Death on route to compassionate extubation location. Is it a failure? Jessie Rowe (Clinical Nurse Specialist) - RCH
11:30 – 12:15pm	BREAK
12:15 – 1:15PM	Session 10: Will AI Put Ethics Out of a Job? Chair: Prof Clare Delany, Department of Medical Education, University of Melbourne Peering into the black box; can and should AI attempt moral deliberation & ethical theory translation in place of clinical ethics groups? Dan Mason (General Paediatrician) – RCH Panel: Prof John McMillan (Bioethics Centre, University of Otago) and A/Prof Ros McDougall (University of Melbourne)
1:15 – 1:30PM	Prizes & Closing Prof John Massie