

THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP & BIOGRAPHIES (August 2016 to Present)



Members		Category
Prof Agnes Bankier (Chair)	Chairperson	(a)
Mary Preen	Community representative	(b)
David Scanlon	Community representative	(b)
Simon Joyce	Community representative	(b)
Mr Mike O'Brien	Medical Professional (Surgeon)	(c)
Dr Matt Sabin (Deputy Chair)	Medical Professional (Paediatrician)	(c)
Allison Lamb	Nurse	(c)
Dr Trisha Prentice	Medical Professional (Intensivist)	(c)
Robert Huntington	Pastoral Care	(d)
Tracey English	Pastoral Care	(d)
David Robertson	Lawyer	(e)
Danielle Webb	Lawyer	(e)
Dr Lesley Bretherton (Deputy Chair)	Allied Health with research experience	(f)
Dr Marc Seal	Allied Health with research experience	(f)
Dr Christos Symeonides	Paediatrician with research experience	(f)
Kay Hynes	Pharmacist (Chair, Drug Trial Subcommittee)	
Dr Nick Mills	Chief Resident Medical officer (or delegate)	
Attendees		
Kelly Hoffman	Director, Research Ethics & Governance (Acting)	
Prof Andrew Davidson	Director, Melbourne Children's Trial Centre	
Dr Monique Baldwin	Research Ethics Manager	
Sophie Gatenby	Senior Ethics Officer (Secretariat)	

The Royal Children's Hospital Ethics in Human Research Committee is constituted and complies with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007).

Signed: 

Alexandra Robertson (Director, Research Ethics & Governance)

Professor Agnes Bankier MBBS (Hon) FRACP (Chair)

Agnes Bankier is the Chair of the RCH Human Research Ethics Committee. She is a recently retired Clinical Geneticist, past Director of the Victorian Clinical Genetic Services and has worked on this campus for more than 30 years. Agnes has had a long time interest in ethics and genetic education and held various leadership roles in the Human Genetic Society of Australasia, including being its President and now the Honorary Archivist.

Associate Professor Matthew Sabin MBBS (Hons) BSc(Hons) MRCPCH FRACP PhD (Deputy Chair)

Associate Professor Matt Sabin trained at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in London (UK). Following membership to the UK Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, he began specialist training in paediatric endocrinology and diabetes and undertook a PhD in the area of childhood obesity and diabetes. In 2006, he moved to work at The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) in Melbourne where he continued his specialist training and gained membership to the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. He commenced work as a Consultant Paediatric Endocrinologist in 2010, became Director of Endocrinology and Diabetes in 2015, and Chief of Medicine in 2016. Matt is also an Honorary Principal Fellow of the University of Melbourne and a Senior Research Fellow at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute. Matt has significantly contributed to the Melbourne Children's Campus in the three important areas of clinical service, research and education. He has established The RCH Weight Management Service, which is the largest specialist service for obese children in Australasia. Matt is a Council member of the Australasian Paediatric Endocrine Group, Deputy Editor of 'Clinical Obesity' and is an examiner for undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as an examiner for the clinical examinations of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. Matt has published over 80 research papers – many in leading international journals.

Associate Professor Lesley Bretherton BSc MSc MA PHD (Deputy Chair)

Lesley Bretherton is Co-ordinator of Clinical Psychology (RCH Mental Health) and Clinical Psychology professional lead at RCH. She has been a consultant Clinical Psychologist at the Children's Court Clinic, Department of Justice since 1990. She is an Associate Professor, University of Melbourne (Melbourne School of psychological Sciences and Paediatrics), and supervises provisional psychologists on placement at RCH as part of their clinical psychology postgraduate program as well as research Masters/PhD students. She undertook study leave with Professor Dorothy Bishop at the University of Oxford and is a reviewer of research project grants and manuscripts for a variety of journals and for the NHMRC. Her current research interests are in Fragile X: The Free FX Study: Developing new tests for fragile X and chromosome 15 imprinting disorders: Aiming to improve outcomes for children and their families through earlier diagnosis; The Early Language Victoria Study, a prospective, population-based study of child language development from 8 months of age to 13 years; and the Cool Little Kids Project – a community based preschool anxiety prevention project.

Mary Preen

Mary Preen is an experienced consultant, strategic and business planner, mentor, coach and board member whose background includes working as an executive in the private, non-profit and government sectors. Her post-graduate qualifications include Management and Executive Coaching through the University of Melbourne and the Macquarie Graduate School of Management. Mary is a member of the International Coaching Federation (ICF) and draws on her wide experience from current and previously held positions on a range of private, non-profit and government boards and advisory bodies. She now runs her own consultancy which includes a focus on coaching, ethics, strategy and continuous improvement for individuals and organisations in both private and public sectors. She has worked as a voluntary parent advocate and community educator as well as in young people's career and life development and brings her own experience as a parent of young patient at the Royal Children's Hospital to her HREC role.

David Scanlon

David Scanlon is currently employed as a Senior IT Analyst in the finance industry but has also worked in the fitness industry, the sports media industry and has plenty of experience in HR Management, Event, Change, and Project Management. David was a School Councillor at a Primary School with 600 children for eleven years; where he sat on many committees and assisted in the classroom. David is a current member of the Football Federation of Victoria Tribunal and Appeals Board, a member of the Animal Ethics Committees at MCRI and WEHI, a member of the CCC Tissue Bank Access and Oversight Committee, a staff Union Representative and sits on the Local and National Enterprise Committees. Also an advocate for people's rights, for people to be able to make their own choices, and have informed choices, David has been a Layperson on the RCH HREC since March 2009 where he enjoys debating the ethical line. Most importantly, David is a father to two great children.

Simon Joyce

Simon Joyce is an experienced Banking and Finance professional having worked in various management positions across Australia and the UK over the past 10 years specialising in Credit Risk. Simon's work has also seen him liaise closely with Government Regulators and Legal Counsel on delicate client matters subject to public interest with potential reputational damage at stake. Simon has a Bachelor of Commerce from The University of Melbourne and an MBA from Melbourne Business School. Growing up on a farm Simon has maintained an active interest in the agricultural sector and is also involved in community sports playing cricket and umpiring club football. As a diabetic Simon brings his experience as a patient to the committee along with his close family involvement as a busy uncle with 17 nieces and nephews.

Mr Mike O'Brien

Mike O'Brien is a Paediatric Urologist at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. He went to medical school at University College Cork and completed his adult general surgical training in Cork before starting a PhD research. Mike then moved to the UK to undergo training in Paediatric Surgery working at Great Ormond Street and Hammersmith Hospitals in London, University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff, Bristol Children's Hospital. After working for a time as a Consultant Paediatric Urologist in Birmingham, Mike moved to Australia to work at the RCH. Mike has a special interest in the surgical treatment of hypospadias and the diagnosis and management, both medical and surgical of those with voiding dysfunction. He is particularly interested in the application of new and emerging technologies to the delivery and treatment of children with urological conditions especially those who live in remote parts of Victoria.

Allison Lamb

Allison Lamb is a Clinical Nurse Consultant and the Clinical Trials Manager in the Children's Cancer Centre at RCH. She manages the clinical research portfolio of the Children's Cancer centre which consists of approximately 80 research studies and is the Associate Director for cancer for the Melbourne Children's Trial Centre. Allison has many years of experience working as a research nurse on phase 1-4 clinical trials. She has co-authored several ASCO poster presentations and contributed to an ASCO oral plenary session. She is very supportive of research education and has presented at various lectures on clinical research including presenting the GCP component of the Specialist Certificate in Clinical Research Oncology at the University of Melbourne. Allison is interested in early phase clinical trials as well as research that is aimed at improving outcomes for paediatric oncology patients.

Dr Trisha Prentice

Dr Trisha Prentice has specialised in neonatology with a special interest in bioethics. She has completed a Masters in Bioethics at Monash University and is currently undertaking a PhD examining the Moral Distress of healthcare professionals caring for Extremely Low Gestational Age Neonates within neonatal intensive care units. Her interests include decision-making around the edges of viability, the subjectivity of the 'best interest' principle and variations in attitudes and practices of caregivers and society toward extremely preterm neonates.

David Robertson

David Robertson is a Queen's Counsel practising mainly in commercial law, banking, finance, commercial and consumer credit, securities and trusts. He is also a member of The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a Senior Honorary Fellow and Part-Time Lecturer in Finance Law at the University of Melbourne. He was appointed to the RCH Human Research Ethics Committee in 2004.

Danielle Webb

Danielle graduated from Griffith University in Queensland with a Bachelor of Law (Honours) in 2009. Danielle started her legal career practising exclusively in health and aged care law. She provided advice to clients on areas including withholding and withdrawing life sustaining treatment, understanding advance health care directives, guardianship disputes and the legal issues surrounding consent to treatment. Danielle also provided advice to aged care providers on legal compliance and governance, reviewed policies and procedures and conducted investigations of suspicious deaths. Danielle moved to Perth in June 2012 and worked for an international law firm practicing in the areas of insurance law, medical liability, coronial inquests and disciplinary proceedings. She represented a range of national and international clients on a variety of disputes from straightforward claims to more complex multi-party disputes. Danielle is passionate about legal and ethical issues within the health industry and is currently undertaking her Masters in Law majoring in health law.

Robert Huntington

Robert Huntington is the Head of Keilor Campus at Overnewton Anglican Community College, where he has overseen all aspects of the school life of 1,400 students and 200 staff members since 2002. He has a pivotal role in the College's pastoral care structure and liaises closely with the College psychologist and his team of counsellors regarding critical student and family pastoral issues. Along with a Masters Degree in School Leadership, Rob has a Science Degree from the University of Melbourne, including an Honours year in the Department of Zoology, where he developed a strong understanding of the principles and processes of ethical conduct in animal experimentation. As a teacher of Senior Biology, he has widespread experience of the discussion of biotechnological issues from a humanist, scientific and religious perspective. Rob is married with 3 children.

Tracey English

Tracey English is The Salvation Army's State co-ordinator for chaplaincy in Victoria, and has worked as a Salvation Army officer (minister) for the last 30 years. During this time she has been involved in parish work, teaching pastoral care at The Salvation Army theological college, writing and editing Salvation Army publications, and at one stage was The Salvation Army chaplain to the Royal Children's Hospital. For the last six years Tracey has been working in the area of chaplaincy. She has a Masters Degree in Counselling and a Bachelor of Social Sciences (Pastoral Counselling/Psychology). She is the mum of three grown up children.

Dr Marc Seal

Marc Seal is the Group Leader of the Developmental Imaging research group Murdoch Childrens Research Institute. He has a joint appointment as a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Paediatrics, The University of Melbourne. Dr Seal is currently involved in a range of ongoing clinical studies of neurodevelopment and supervises a multidisciplinary team of clinicians, MRI technologists and neuroscientists.

Dr Christos Symeonides

Christos Symeonides is a general and developmental paediatrician and child health researcher working at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne and Murdoch Childrens Research Centre. He has undergraduate degrees in Neuroscience and in Medicine from the University of Edinburgh, and completed his specialist paediatric

training in Australia in 2012. Dr Symeonides is currently in the final year of a PhD program through the University of Melbourne, and combines research with clinical work at the Royal Children's Hospital, and supervision of students through the University of Melbourne Department of Paediatrics and Deakin University School of Psychology. His research expertise is in the area of neurodevelopmental epidemiology and interests include early biological determinants of healthy child brain development, and the evaluation and development of assessment tools to better understand early trajectories in learning and mental health. Dr Symeonides' research is funded by the NHMRC, the Shepherd Foundation and the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute.

Kay Hynes

After training at the Adelaide Children's Hospital, Kay has gained experience in many areas of hospital pharmacy in Australia and overseas. Until late 1998, Kay held the position of Clinical Trials Manager in the Pharmacy at Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre where she was instrumental in developing and coordinating a nationally recognised Investigational Drugs Service. Kay's involvement with clinical trials has extended outside the hospital where she has made numerous submissions on behalf of hospital pharmacy to an extensive range of government reviews affecting the practice of clinical trials and ethics committees in Australia. She has been involved with many committees, presented papers and convened seminars in these areas. Her experience in this area is well utilised by the RCH Drug Trial Subcommittee, of which she is Chair, the RCH Ethics in Human Research Committee and the many staff involved with clinical drug trials in the hospital. Kay is also jointly responsible for the Drug Information Centre which provides information on paediatric medication and related issues to hospital staff, external health care professionals and the general public.