

The Royal Children's Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee Membership & Biographies (2022)



Members	NHMRC Category	
Prof Robyn Langham	Chairperson	(a)
David Gerrard	Community representative	(b)
Simon Joyce	Community representative	(b)
Mary Scopas	Community representative	(b)
Priscilla Seyfort	Community representative	(b)
Kelly Griffith	Community representative	(b)
Kaya Gardiner	Nurse	(c)
A/Prof Jane Munro	Medical Professional	(c)
A/Prof Ed Oakley	Medical Professional	(c)
Prof David Amor	Medical Professional	(c)
Dr Peter Mahar	Medical Professional	(c)
Mr Daniel Wilks	Surgical Professional	(c)
Rabbi Yaakov Glasman	Pastoral Care	(d)
Doug Shaw	Pastoral Care	(d)
David Robertson QC	Lawyer	(e)
Danielle Corden	Lawyer	(e)
Dr Zeffie Poulakis (Deputy Chair)	Researcher (Allied Health)	(f)
Dr Laila Ibrahim	Researcher (Medical)	(f)
Dr Jonathan Payne	Researcher (Medical)	(f)
A/Prof Rachel Conyers	Researcher (Medical)	(f)
Dr Claire Von Mollendorf	Researcher	(f)
Ken Knight	Researcher	(f)
Donna Legge	Chair, Drug Trial Subcommittee	Other

Attendees

Sophie Gatenby	Research Ethics Manager
Margarete Kleinschmidt	Research Ethics & Governance Officer (HREC)
Deeptika Chauhan	Research Ethics & Governance Officer (DTS)

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) and all updates.

Signed



Robyn Langham (Chairperson)

Member Biographies

Professor Robyn Langham (Chair)

Professor Langham is an adult nephrologist and clinician researcher, and has spent much of her career in public hospital and university roles, as Director of the Renal Unit at St Vincent's in Melbourne, and then as the Head of School of Rural Health at Monash University. As a researcher, she has worked in translational research part of the team successful in the development of novel anti-inflammatory and anti-fibrotic agents. A member of the Therapeutic Goods Administration Advisory Committee on Medicines, and a past Chair of the St Vincent's HREC, she brings a novel breadth to the world of paediatric clinical research."

David Gerrard

David Gerrard is a finance professional and senior executive having worked in the health industry, not-for-profit sector and currently for a provider of primary health care. He has a Bachelor of Business (Accounting) and an MBA from Monash University. David is involved in community sports, umpiring lacrosse after a long playing career, and is a member of a cycling club. David has a daughter and son who both work in the health service industry.

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 15 years. 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. As a diabetic Simon brings his experience as a patient to the committee along with his close family involvement as a busy father.

Mary Scopas

Mary Scopas has held executive roles in the public and private sectors. Over her career she has worked in strategy, marketing and finance in the not-for-profit, telecommunications, government, superannuation and consultancy sectors. Mary has a Bachelor of Business (Accounting), a Graduate Diploma in Applied Information Systems, a Graduate Diploma in Law and Master in Legal Studies (majoring in International Human Rights Law) and is a member of the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand. She has undertaken many voluntary and pro-bono roles and is the mother of a young daughter.

Ms Priscilla Seyforth

Priscilla has always had a passion for the wellbeing and interests of children and has a background in children's services as a practitioner, policy analyst and advisor. She has a particular interest in optimising the wellbeing of children from disadvantaged and vulnerable backgrounds, having worked as a policy advisor to the Victorian Commissioner for Children and Young People, and served as a Commissioner of the Victorian Multicultural Commission. Priscilla has a PhD from the University of Melbourne, and now serves on not-for-profit Boards who champion these interests. Priscilla has 4 adult children.

Ms Kelly Griffith

Kelly is an experienced company director, lawyer and corporate affairs professional. She has particular expertise in the healthcare industry (biopharmaceutical, mental health, patient advocacy, primary care and public health), medical and scientific research, the creative arts industries, financial services, public/government administration and social justice.

Kaya Gardiner

Kaya Gardiner is a Clinical Nurse Consultant for Research & Trials at RCH, with more than 15-years of experience in paediatrics and research. She specialised in emergency medicine at RCH, completing both her Graduate Certificate in Paediatric Nursing (QUT) and Graduate Diploma in Emergency Nursing (UoM). Her research career has included completing a Masters in Public Health and Tropical Medicine (JCU), coordinating national and international clinical trials in infectious diseases and paediatric emergency medicine. She has published in peer reviewed journals in both of these speciality areas.

Associate Professor Jane Munro MBBS (Hons), FRACP, MPH, MHSM

A/Prof Jane Munro is a paediatric rheumatologist at the Royal Children's Hospital and lead of rheumatology research at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. She was Head of Rheumatology for nearly ten years and stepped down in 2020. In 2021/2022 she was the senior medical adviser in the Office of the Deputy Chief Health Officer, COVID19 Division at Department of Health. She co-founded Pandemic Kindness Movement during the pandemic. Jane is passionate about improving healthcare worker wellbeing and believes in building community, storytelling, spreading kindness and the need for health systems change.

Professor Ed Oakley M.B.B.S, FACEM

Ed Oakley is a paediatric emergency physician and Chief of Critical Care at The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, Clinical Professor with the University of Melbourne, and an Honorary research fellow at MCRI. His research interests include providing evidence for emergency care of children, incorporating best care into clinical practice in emergency departments, and system monitoring to highlight variation in care and ensure sustainable change. He is a researcher in the Paediatric Emergency Medicine Centre of Research Excellence in Australia, which has research capacity building and fostering the next generation of researchers as a core goal. His research is conducted through the Paediatric Research in Emergency Departments International Collaborative. He holds appointments to the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine Council of Advocacy, Practice and Partnership; Events Advisory Committee; Foundation Advisory Committee; Quality and Patient Safety Committee; Research Committee; Clinical Trials Network executive and the Trainee Research Advisory Panel.

Prof David Amor

David trained in paediatrics and genetics at the Royal Children's Hospital before completing a PhD in Chromosome Biology at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. In 2016 he was appointed to the Galli Chair in Developmental Medicine at the University of Melbourne, prior to which he was Director of Victorian Clinical Genetics Services. His current research focuses on the genetics of intellectual disability, the translation of new genetic technologies into clinical practice and the identification of genes for rare syndromes.

Dr Patrick Mahar

Dr Patrick Mahar (OAM) is an adult and paediatric dermatologist. He currently works at the Royal Children's Hospital with the Burns Unit and the Department of Dermatology. He is the current Medical Director of the Skin Health Institute in Melbourne. He is an MBA graduate from Melbourne Business School and holds a Doctor of Philosophy evaluating clinical outcomes of burn and burn-like skin diseases and a Doctor of Medical Science examining standards of professional care in medical practice in Victoria. He is a lawyer admitted to the Supreme Court of Victoria, and former director of medical indemnity provider MDA National and the Australian & New Zealand Burns Association. His clinical interests include biologic and novel agents for inflammatory skin disease, as well as optimising paediatric burn scar outcomes using energy-based devices.

Mr Daniel Wilks

Daniel is a UK qualified Consultant Plastic Surgeon who works full-time as a paediatric plastic surgeon at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. He also holds honorary appointments at The University of

Melbourne, Department of Paediatrics and Murdoch Children's Research Institute. He specialises in surgery of the hand, nerve surgery, reconstruction, transplantation, and microsurgery.

Daniel is involved in a range of research activities and has a strong interest in surgical innovation. Prior to moving to Australia, he established the only licenced UK centre for upper limb transplantation – a novel technique to reconstruct absent hands available in only a small number of international centres.

Rabbi Yakoov Glasman

Yaakov Glasman is the Senior Rabbi and Pastoral Carer of the St Kilda Hebrew Congregation and was formerly Rabbi of the North Eastern Jewish Centre. Yaakov earned his Rabbinic Ordination in 2001 from the Rabbinical College of America and completed his Master's Degree in Hebrew Letters in 2003. He is currently studying for his Master's Degree in Counselling at Monash University. Yaakov served as President of the Rabbinical Council of Victoria from 2009 until 2012 and is currently President of the Rabbinical Association of Australasia. He has a keen interest in Interfaith dialogue and presents to a wide variety of audiences on a range of social, ethical, communal and religious issues. Yaakov has a keen interest in politics and is an avid Collingwood supporter.

Mr Douglas Shaw

Doug is a graduate of a Bachelor Arts (Double Major in Accredited Psychology and Philosophy), with four years' experience in Community and Human services management roles across multiple CSO's inclusive of both large-scale state-wide programs, and intensive speciality services. Prior to working in CSO management, he worked as an undergraduate academic teaching Psychological Science, Philosophy, Sociology, Community and Human Services and, Literature.

David Robertson

David Robertson is a Queen's Counsel practising mainly in commercial law and equity including banking, finance, commercial and consumer credit, securities and trusts. He is also a Fellow 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 Corden

Danielle is lawyer practising in the area of medical defence litigation. She has been practising in the areas of health law, risk management and compliance in the healthcare industry, insurance law, medical negligence and coroner's inquests for over 10 years in Queensland, Western Australia and most recently Victoria. During her career, she has acted for hospitals as well as corporate entities operating hospitals, insurers, private health organisations, and medical practitioners. Danielle is passionate about legal and ethical issues within the healthy industry and completed a Masters in Law majoring in Health Law.

Dr Zeffie Poulakis

Zeffie Poulakis is a clinical psychologist who commenced a research career by joining the Victorian Infant Hearing Screening Program (VIHSP) at its inception in 1992. Since that time Zeffie has engaged in child health research, health service management, and clinical work with paediatric populations. Zeffie is currently the Director of the Victorian Infant Hearing Screening Program at the Royal Children's Hospital's Centre for Community Child Health, a senior clinical psychologist with the Royal Children's Hospital's Department of Adolescent Medicine and Department of Neurology, and a research officer with the Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

Dr Laila Ibrahim

Laila Ibrahim is a Consultant Paediatrician in General Medicine at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne (RCH), Clinician Scientist-fellow at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) and Honorary Lecturer at the University of Melbourne (UoM). Her main research interest and vision is in avoiding unnecessary hospitalisation in children. For her PhD, she conducted a randomised controlled trial (RCT) of home versus hospital intravenous antibiotics in children and developed a clinical scoring system to determine which children with cellulitis should be treated with intravenous antibiotics, both of which had an immediate translation into clinical practice and incorporated into national and international

clinical guidelines. She leads single site and multi-site research studies, answering research questions relevant to paediatric clinical care.

Dr Jonathan Payne

Associate Professor Jonathan Payne is co-group leader of the Brain and Mind Research Group at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, a senior clinical neuropsychologist at the Royal Children's Hospital and an Honorary Principal Fellow in the Department of Paediatrics, University of Melbourne. His research aims to increase understanding of the neurobiological mechanisms underlying complex neurodevelopmental disorders by studying the cognitive, behavioural, and neurobiological phenotypes that arise in monogenetic syndromes.

A/Prof Rachel Conyers

A/Prof Rachel Conyers has a track record as a leader in both clinical paediatric oncology and childhood cancer late effects research. She is internationally recognised as the Principal Investigator of the Australian Cardio-Oncology Registry and Biobank – a multi-institute national project, spanning 13 tertiary adult and paediatric institutes. This project is centred on identifying risk attributes, whether this be genomic, imaging, proteomic or metabolomic, towards cardiac late effects of cancer therapy.

In addition, she is a chief investigator of the Cardiac Toxicity Task Force for the Children's Oncology Group. This international task force is in place to regularly curate and investigate the current literature and incorporate into the Children's Oncology Group Late Effects Guidelines, used for follow up of late effects in both the adult and paediatric sectors world-wide.

A/Prof Conyers is also the Cardiac PI of the Ponte De Legno Working Group (Europe) who recently ran an international Delphi consensus on the unacceptable toxicities attributable to acute lymphoblastic leukaemia therapy, from which pharmacogenomic predisposition can be focussed (published in *The Lancet*). A/Prof Conyers' track record in research is demonstrated by attaining > \$2.5 million of competitive grant funding focussed primarily on pharmacogenomic predisposition and cardiac toxicity in paediatric cancer survivors. She has published 61 papers in her career, with > 1000 citations. A/Prof Conyers is a regular NHMRC reviewer and is on the scientific advisory committee and gene therapy committee for Maddie Riewoldt's Vision, a pioneering philanthropic organisation raising research funds for Bone Marrow Failure Syndromes.

Dr Claire Von Mollendorf

Dr Claire von Mollendorf is a medical epidemiologist currently working as a senior research officer in the New Vaccines and Asia-Pacific Research Groups at the Murdoch Children's Research Unit (MCRI). She has been with MCRI since 2017 and predominantly manages surveillance programmes in Mongolia. She also provides support for other group projects in the Asia-Pacific Region. Prior to this she worked in different research areas, including women's health, HIV and pneumococcal research, in South Africa. Her passion and involvement in research has spanned over a 17 year period and included adults and children, some vulnerable groups and ranged from clinical trials to observational studies.

Dr von Mollendorf graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, completed a BscMedSchHons in Reproductive Biology from the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa and a Master of Science in Epidemiology (Distance learning) through the University of London (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine). Her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Public Health at the University of the Witwatersrand explored the impact of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine introduction in South Africa on the epidemiology of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. She has a joint appointment as a Senior Fellow within the Department of Paediatrics, University of Melbourne. She has co-supervised different levels of undergraduate and postgraduate students and has published as an author and co-author on pneumococcal disease and other topics in peer reviewed journals.

Ken Knight

Ken is a knowledge translation (KT), engagement and research impact specialist with over a decade's experience leading KT, engagement and research impact programs in health and government. Ken

currently leads an award-winning, multifaceted program to accelerate the application of knowledge and enhance the impact of research across the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI). He developed the inaugural Melbourne Children's Knowledge Translation and Impact training program and Chairs the MCRI Impact Working Group. Ken conducts research on KT and impact in health and medical research, and partners with researchers and programs to facilitate their stakeholder engagement and impact planning and practice. He is an Honorary Fellow in the Department of Paediatrics at The University of Melbourne, where he also teaches KT and implementation across the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences.

Donna Legge

Donna is a pharmacist managing the Clinical Trials Pharmacy service at the RCH. The Clinical Trials Pharmacy offers researchers guidance on medication management in the context of clinical trials as well as day to day management of many types of open drug trials. Prior to taking this position she has worked at the Royal Women's Hospital, The Victorian College of Pharmacy and in many clinical areas within the RCH; including 6 years as an oncology pharmacist at the RCH. Donna has been involved in many committees at the RCH, has a background as a research chemist and is currently the chair of the RCH Drug Trial Subcommittee.