

# The Royal Children's Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee Membership & Biographies (2020)



## Members

Prof Agnes Bankier OAM (Chair)	Chairperson	(a)
Rose Cincotta	Community representative	(b)
David Gerrard	Community representative	(b)
Simon Joyce	Community representative	(b)
Mary Scopas	Community representative	(b)
Kaya Gardiner	Nurse	(c)
A/Prof Jane Munro	Medical Professional	(c)
A/Prof Ed Oakley	Medical Professional	(c)
Robert Huntington	Pastoral Care	(d)
Tracey English	Pastoral Care	(d)
Danielle Corden	Lawyer	(e)
David Robertson QC	Lawyer	(e)
Dr Zeffie Poulakis	Allied Health with research experience	(f)
Dr Marc Seal	Allied Health with research experience	(f)
Dr Claire Con Mollendorf	Researcher	(f)
Donna Legge	Chair, Drug Trial Subcommittee	Other

## Attendees

Nitya Phillipson	Director, Research Ethics & Governance
Emma Land	HREC Manager
Karen Sosa	Research Ethics & Governance Officer (HREC)

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.

### **Professor Agnes Bankier OAM, 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 40 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.

### **Rose Cincotta**

Rose Cincotta has a Masters of Education (Deakin University) and a Diploma of Teaching (Victoria University). Rose was a Primary School Teacher, involved in every aspect of teaching for over 10 Years. She can now be found driving through Melbourne CBD and surrounding suburbs as she is currently employed as a Tram Driver with Yarra Trams. Rose's greatest achievement would undoubtedly be her 4 terrific (young Adult) children.

### **David Gerrard**

David Gerrard is a finance professional and senior executive having worked in the health industry and currently in the non-for-profit sector. 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 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.

### **Mary Scopas**

Mary Scopas is currently employed as a Marketing Manager in the not-for-profit sector. Over her career Mary has held long-term executive level roles in the public and private sectors including publicly listed companies. She has worked across a variety of industries including telecommunications, government and superannuation in strategy, finance, marketing and product development. Mary has also worked as a management consultant providing advice at executive and board level. Mary has a Bachelor of Business (Accounting) and a Graduate Diploma in Applied Information Systems from RMIT University and is a member of the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand. Mary also has a Graduate Diploma in Law from Monash University specialising in Human Rights Law. She has undertaken many voluntary and pro-bono roles and is the mother of a young daughter.

### **Kaya Gardiner**

Kaya Gardiner is a paediatric nurse with more than a decade's experience. She specialised in emergency medicine at RCH, completing both her Graduate Diploma in Paediatric Nursing (QUT) and Graduate Certificate in Emergency Nursing (UoM). Her research career has included completing a Masters in Public Health and Tropical Medicine (JCU), coordinating national and international clinical studies for the Emergency Research Group (MCRI) through the ANZ PREDICT network and since 2013 managing the research of the Infectious Disease & Microbiology Group (MCRI). She has published in peer reviewed journals in both of these specialty areas.

### **Associate Professor Jane Munro M.B.B.S. (Hons), F.R.A.C.P., MPH.**

Associate Professor Jane Munro is a Paediatric Rheumatologist with a special interest in Pain Medicine. Jane is the Head of the Rheumatology Unit at RCH and Group Leader of the Rheumatology research group at the MCRI here she is leading the Australian Arthritis and Autoimmune Biobank Collaborative ([www.a3bc.com.au](http://www.a3bc.com.au)). She has a Master in Public Health & a Master in Health Services Management. Jane is undertaking research in Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis, childhood rheumatic diseases and paediatric pain management. In 2004, Jane was awarded the Jack Brockhoff Churchill Trust

Fellowship to study paediatric pain medicine. She then undertook an NHMRC National Institute of Clinical Studies Fellowship studying quality improvement and procedural pain management. Jane is a Council member for the Clinician's Council of the Victorian Government. Jane has a career long interest in clinical quality improvement and organisational change, leadership and keeping the humanity in healthcare. She is a strong advocate for gender equity in medicine. Jane is passionate about improving clinician wellbeing. The best bit of Jane's job is working with the wonderful Rheumatology multidisciplinary clinical and research teams.

### **Associate 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 Associate 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 the lead researcher in the Paediatric Emergency Medicine Centre of Research Excellence in Australia, and with 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, Research Committee and Clinical Trials Network executive.

### **Danielle Corden**

Danielle is a 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 healthcare industry and completed a Masters in Law majoring in Health Law.

### **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 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.

### **Tracey English**

Tracey English is The Salvation Army's Chaplaincy team leader for court and prison chaplains working in and around the Melbourne CBD and a chaplaincy trainer. She has worked as a Salvation Army officer (minister) for more than 30 years, during which 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 nine 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.

### **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.

### **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 Marc Seal**

Marc Seal is the Group Leader of the Developmental Imaging research group Murdoch Children's 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 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 BscMedScHons 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.

### **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.