

# Melbourne Children's General Practice Paediatric Update

4 August, 2018



## Dr Anthea Rhodes



Dr Anthea Rhodes is a developmental and behavioural paediatrician based at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne and also practising with Your Community Health in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. Anthea has a masters in medical education and has been involved in a number of research projects across the fields of health service delivery, immigrant health practice and health professional education. Much of her current research is focused on understanding the role of patient and parent health literacy in health outcomes. Anthea has been the Director of the RCH National Child Health Poll since its first release in December 2015, and is passionate about bringing the public voice to national discussion on child health.

## Dr Margie Danchin



Dr Margie Danchin is a senior research fellow at the MCRI and a consultant paediatrician at the Royal Children's Hospital, Department of Paediatrics. She has extensive expertise in vaccine research focused on clinical trials, vaccine safety and vaccine social science. Her primary research focus has shifted to developing new interventions to improve vaccine confidence and uptake amongst different populations and in different settings, including pregnancy, primary care, for high risk children and in developing country settings. She aims to provide a solid evidence base to inform vaccine policy in Australia to support the least restrictive vaccine mandates that will still ensure high vaccine coverage for Australian children. Margie is now a trusted and public face of vaccine confidence and acceptance in Australia with a prominent role in the media. She has international collaborations with leading researchers in the area, is invited to speak at national and international conferences and has published widely.

## Dr Scott Parsons



Having failed as a professional footballer/cyclist/surfer Scott embarked on GP training and decided to sub-specialise in paediatrics due to maturity issues. He was the principal GP and owner of an 8 doctor practice on the Sunshine Coast for 15 years but decided to move to Melbourne to enhance his prospects in the AFL draft. In addition to his clinical work he is currently writing paediatric HealthPathways. He is the founder developer and writer of [childhealth.com.au](http://childhealth.com.au).

## Dr Joanne Harrison



Dr Joanne Harrison is a Paediatric Respiratory Physician at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne where she is Cystic Fibrosis Centre Director. Jo undertook the majority of her training in Glasgow, UK but also spent time in London, Vancouver, Sydney and Melbourne. She has a passion for providing high quality care to children and their families. She is also an enthusiastic teacher and is currently completing a Masters in Clinical Education through Melbourne University. Jo holds an honorary appointment as a Research Fellow at Murdoch Children's Research Institute; her research interest include preschool lung function testing and novel lung function techniques such as the Forced Oscillation and Multiple Breath Washout Techniques.



### **Dr Joanne Smart**

Dr Joanne Smart is a Paediatric Allergist and Immunologist who has been involved in the care of children with allergic and immune disease disorders since 1998. She is the Director of the Department of Allergy and Immunology at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne and her expertise and special interests are in the areas of clinical allergy, severe atopic dermatitis, food allergy, anaphylaxis, allergic rhinitis, asthma and immunodeficiency conditions.



### **Dr Zoe McCallum**

Dr Zoe McCallum is a paediatrician with over 20 years of experience working in the area of clinical nutrition and developmental paediatrics. Her clinical work encompasses child obesity through to intestinal failure. She coordinates the RCH Weight Management service, focussing on obesity as well as the Clinical Nutrition service which addresses complex failure to thrive and runs the Home parenteral nutrition service. She has a passion for nutritional assessment and anything to do with food!



### **Professor Frank Oberklaid**

Professor Frank Oberklaid AM, MD, FRACP is the Foundation Director at the Royal Children's Hospital, Centre for Community Child Health, Co-Group Leader of Child Health Policy, Equity and Translation at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, and a Honorary Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne. Professor Oberklaid is an internationally recognised researcher, author, lecturer and consultant, and has written two books and over 200 scientific publications. His work has been acknowledged in the form of a number of prestigious awards, and many invited international lectureships and visiting professorships. He is Chair of the Victorian Children's Council, which advises the Premier and Ministers on child health policy, and chairs or is a member of several important national policy committees.



### **Professor Susan Sawyer**

Professor Susan Sawyer holds the Chair of Adolescent Health at the University of Melbourne and is Director of the Centre for Adolescent Health at the Royal Children's Hospital. A paediatrician by training, her clinical and research interests relate to quality health care for adolescents, including those with chronic physical illness and mental disorders. She has a particular interest in eating disorders and somatoform disorders. She has published over 250 peer review publications, 40 book chapters and a textbook on adolescent health and medicine. She has frequent advisory roles with the UN community including World Health Organisation, UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank.



### **Associate Professor Lena Sancic**

Associate Professor Lena Sancic (MBBS, PhD, FRACGP, DipRANZCOG) is Acting Head Department General Practice, Director of Teaching and Learning, Chair of the Victorian Practice Based Research Network and co-lead of the Department's Children and Young People in Primary Care Research Stream, University of Melbourne. Lena's research and teaching focuses on the potential of primary care to improve young people's health by re-orientating toward a preventive approach to risk-taking behaviour, mental health, and abuse experience through screening and responding in general practice. More recently she has been researching the potential of promoting young people's health and access to care in educational settings. This links with her current role as the Victorian government's medical advisor on the design and implementation of a school-based health service (SBHS) program (2015-2019). Lena also works clinically in a youth drop in centre for sexual and reproductive health.



### **Associate Professor Michelle Telfer**

Associate Professor Michelle Telfer (MBBS Hons. FRACP) is a Paediatrician and Adolescent Medicine Specialist. She is currently the Head of Department of Adolescent Medicine at The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Melbourne. She is also the Director of the RCH Gender Service, being instrumental in the expansion of the service with rising demand for trans-medicine in children and adolescents over the past six years. In 2015, The RCH Gender Service was awarded the Minister for Mental Health's Award for excellence in consumer leadership and advocacy at the Victorian Public Healthcare Awards. In addition to improving medical and mental health services for the transgender population, Michelle played a major role in successfully advocating for legal reform, with transgender young people now able to access hormone and surgical treatment without the need for approval by the Family Court of Australia.



### **Helen Enright**

Helen Enright is the Curriculum program lead of the *Enhancing Medical Education* RCH Foundation grant and Learning and Teaching Co-ordinator at the Department of Paediatrics. She is an educationalist who has a background in curriculum design and clinical communication teaching and has worked for eight years at RCH in Medical Education. Helen is a clinical communication lecturer who has taught communication skills in undergraduate, and postgraduate programs at the University of Melbourne and to paediatric trainees. Her research interest involves learning and teaching in hospital settings, communication skills training, feedback, intercultural communication and academic writing skills development.



### **Dr Amy Gray**

Dr Amy Gray is a General Paediatrician and Director of Medical Education at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. She has an ongoing position with the University of Melbourne in medical education and international child health. Dr Gray completed a PhD examining the impact of implementing clinical guidelines on the quality of hospital care in Lao PDR, and the contextual factors which influenced change. Her ongoing research both in Australia and overseas is focused on the impact of educational interventions for doctors, their capacity and on the care they deliver to patients.



### **Dr Clara Low-Decarie**

MD, FRCPC 2015 (Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada)  
Dr Clara Low-Decarie completed a doctorate of medicine (MD) at University of Montreal in Montreal, Canada. She underwent general paediatric training with honors at Mother and Child University Hospital Center Sainte-Justine in Montreal and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC). She is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Clinical Ethics at University of Montreal. Her research interests are the ethical dilemmas surrounding child maltreatment screening, reporting and management. In February 2018, she began a year long fellowship with the Victorian Forensic Paediatric Medical Service at The Royal Children's Hospital and Monash Medical Centre.



### **Dr Suzi Riess**

MBBS (Hons), BMedSc (Hons), FRACP (2017)  
Dr Suzi Riess completed medicine and an undergraduate research degree at Monash University. She undertook specialist paediatric training through the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne and is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP), as well as a current board member for the Neurodevelopmental and Behavioural Paediatric Society of Australasia (NBPSA). Her research interests include health systems research, health economics, understanding and improving low value health care practices and management of unsettled infants. In 2018, she began a year long fellowship with the Victorian Forensic Paediatric Medical Service at The Royal Children's Hospital and Monash Medical Centre.



### **Dr Christos Symeonides**

Dr Christos Symeonides studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and has worked as a paediatric doctor both in Scotland and Australia. He completed his specialist paediatric training as a General Paediatrician in Melbourne in 2013, and is a foundation member of the Neurodevelopmental and Behavioural Paediatric Society of Australasia (NBPSA). His main clinical appointment is at the Royal Children's Hospital, where he is a member of Senior Medical Staff at the Centre for Community Child Health and consults within the Behaviour Clinic and Encopresis (soiling) Clinic. His work within the Hospital involves teaching and supervision of paediatric doctors who are completing specialist training in developmental and behavioural paediatrics. He also consults in private practice in East Brunswick. Christos's research interests are in childhood learning and neurodevelopment, and the common developmental disorders of childhood. He has an undergraduate Honours degree in Neuroscience from the University of Edinburgh and is in his final year of a PhD with the University of Melbourne and Murdoch Children's Research Institute.