



Renal Society of Australasia



Speaker Bios

Quality Improvement in kidney care is a team sport. Every member of the unit from dialysis nurses to the head of unit play an important role. The workshop organisers believe a multidisciplinary approach is the best way to tackle this important topic. Therefore in the spirit of equality and collegiality we have decided not to use professional titles during the workshop. If you wish to read about the extraordinary achievements and qualifications of our speakers please read below.

Dr Lisa Jeffs

Dr Lisa Jeffs is a nephrologist at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth and a Clinical Senior Lecturer UWA Medical School, Internal Medicine. She is the current chair of the ANZSN Quality Improvement (Sub-committee). Dr Jeffs is pleased to have worked collaboratively with the committee and RSA to bring this workshop to fruition.

Lenny Jacoby

Bachelor of Nursing, Edith Cowan University, WA; Masters of Nurse Practitioner, Flinders University, SA, Vice President Renal Society of Australasia

Lenny first entered the world of renal nursing as a graduate RN in 2006 where she discovered the joy and challenges of CKD, from peritoneal dialysis to transplantation through to end-of-life care. At 26 years, she became one of the youngest Clinical Nurse Specialists on the renal ward.

Lenny discovered renal nursing on her first nursing rotation as a graduate RN in 2006. While she has worked in all areas of renal including dialysis, transplant and end of life care, her main passion is working together with patients and health professional to slow the progression of CKD. In her role as NP, she works closely with her nephrologists to optimise CKD care; prepares patients for dialysis and transplant; and supports patients and their families with end-of-life decisions.

Dr Jeneita Bell (Atlanta, USA)

Jeneita Bell is the Deputy Chief for Post-acute Care in the Surveillance Branch of the National Center for Emerging Zoonotic Infectious Disease, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion. She is a physician and medical epidemiologist trained in general preventive medicine and public health. Since completing CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service fellowship, she has worked in various centers at CDC informing the design of surveillance data collection to elucidate the epidemiology of public health events and identify strategies for prevention. In her current role, Dr. Bell established the Post-acute Care Team and provides operational oversight to more than 40 personnel for the collection of data

concerning infection events among dialysis patients, long-term care residents, and healthcare personnel. The data collected by this team has directly informed COVID-19 vaccination guidance and emergency response activities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prof Kevan Polkinghorne (Victoria)

Prof Polkinghorne is a full-time nephrologist at Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne and Adjunct Professor at Monash University. He completed his specialist nephrology training in 2001 and was awarded a PhD in clinical research/epidemiology in 2006. His research interests include clinical epidemiology of CKD and dialysis particularly haemodialysis practice and clinical trials. He has authored over 250 peer reviewed journal publications and 6 book chapters.

Prof David Johnson (Queensland)

David Johnson is full-time Director of the Metro South Kidney and Transplant Service (MSKATS) and Medical Director of the Queensland Kidney Transplant Service (QKTS) at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Professor of Medicine and Professor of Population Health at University of Queensland, and Director of the Centre for Kidney Disease Research in Brisbane, Australia. He has a number of international leadership responsibilities, including Past President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN), Past President of the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis (ISPD, 2018-2020), Past Councillor of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN, 2013-2019), Co-Chair of the ISN Global Kidney Health Atlas (ISN GKHA), Co-Chair of the ISPD Guidelines on Peritonitis Prevention and Treatment, Co-Chair of the Global PDOPPS Steering Committee, Chair of SONG-PD and member of the ISN-ACT, ISN Research and ISN Monitor groups. He is currently a chair or member of 11 national and 7 international guideline groups including Co-Chair of ISPD Peritonitis Guidelines. He has influenced policy and practice through his leadership as Deputy Chair of the Australian Better Evidence And Translation in Chronic Kidney Disease (BEAT-CKD) program, Deputy Chair of the Australasian Kidney Trials Network (AKTN), Chair of the Primary Healthcare Education Advisory Committee to Kidney Health Australia (PEAK), Co-Chair of the Australasian Creatinine and eGFR Consensus Working Party, Co-Chair of the Australasian Proteinuria Consensus Working Party, Member and Past-Chair of the ANZDATA Registry Peritoneal Dialysis Working Group, and Past-Chair of the Queensland Statewide Renal Clinical Network.

A/Prof Dr Nick Gray (Queensland)

Clinical Director of Medical Services, Sunshine Coast University Hospital

Nick is currently Clinical Director of Medical Services at Sunshine Coast University Hospital and was previously Director of Renal Medicine for 14 years. He has an Adjunct Associate Professor appointment at University of the Sunshine Coast. He is Chair of the Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry (ANZDATA) Advisory Committee and has previously been Chair of multiple Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology and RACP committees. He has led the development and implementation of quality indicators in renal medicine for Australia and New Zealand. Research interests, where he has over 70 publications, include disadvantaged populations with kidney disease, caregivers, haemodialysis and vascular access.

Dr Paul Secombe

BMBS(Hons) MCLinSc FCICM (NT)

Dr Paul Secombe is an Intensive Care Consultant at the Alice Springs Hospital in the Central Australia Health Service, Northern Territory (NT) and Director of ANZICS CORE Adult Patient Database. He is also a Specialist Clinician, Organ Donation Specialist (Medical) with DonateLife NT, and is a Fellow of and a Supervisor of Training with the College of Intensive Care Medicine (CICM). Dr Secombe is an Adjunct Lecturer in both the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University and the School of Medicine at Flinders University. Dr Secombe was the Northern Territory Clinical Educator of the Year in 2017. His research foci include functional outcomes in critically ill patients particularly in remote areas, critically ill obese patients, and acute kidney injury.

Prof Katie Flanagan (Tas)

Professor Flanagan is Director of Infectious Diseases at Launceston General Hospital, Director of the Tasmanian Vaccine Trial Centre, Clinical Professor at the University of Tasmania and Adjunct Professor at RMIT University. Katie is a member of ATAGI and Immediate Past-President of the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases. Katie undertook her undergraduate and specialist medical training in Oxford and London. She did her PhD at Oxford studying natural immunity to malaria. She worked as Head of Infant Immunology at the MRC Research Unit in The Gambia for seven years before relocating to Australia in 2011. She has led multiple clinical trials of novel and licensed vaccines in Africa, Europe and Australia. Her current research focuses on systems vaccinology and the role of biological sex in response to vaccination.

Prof Claire Rickard (Queensland)

School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work - University of Queensland (uq.edu.au)

Dr Claire Rickard is an Australian National Health and Medical Council (NHMRC) Leadership Fellow (Level 2) and Conjoint Professor of Infection Prevention and Vascular Access with University of Queensland's School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work, and Metro North Health's Herston Infectious Diseases Institute. Claire's vision is complication-free vascular access devices and infusion therapy, across healthcare settings. After specializing as an ICU nurse, and completing a PhD in infection prevention, she established the Alliance for Vascular Access Teaching and Research (AVATARgroup.org.au), has completed 45 randomised controlled trials and 300+ publications, including 3 first-authored trials in The Lancet. Recognised by the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, American Academy of Nursing, and the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame, she also enjoys hanging with her teens and choir singing.

Christie Harrod (NSW)

Clinical Nurse Educator Renal Services Illawarra Health and Pauling Byrne Clinical Nurse Consultant, Vascular Access Nurse Illawarra Health (NSW)

Christie Harrod has 10 years of extensive experience as a specialised renal registered nurse. Her current role is the renal Nurse Educator and a Vascular Access Nurse for the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District. She holds a master's degree in the speciality

area of Renal. Christie has an interest in safety and quality, focusing on improving outcomes for haemodialysis vascular access. She is a health literacy ambassador she uses her knowledge of health literacy to partner with consumers to equip them with the skills required for self-management of their condition. Christie is an active member of the RSA and a member of the ACI renal network executive committee with the aim to improve the delivery of renal healthcare.

Dr Karen Patterson (NSW)

PhD, M.Midwifery (Research), GDipAdultEd, RM, RN FACHSM, FISQua, Expert Panel ISQua
Director, Capability and Culture, Clinical Excellence Commission

Having now passed the 40-year career mark in Health care, I have been privileged to have worked in metro, regional and rural health settings, and held a range of clinical, management, policy, executive, academic & research roles. In 2019, I joined the Clinical Excellence Commission executive leadership team. One of the pillar agencies of the NSW health system, the CEC has two broad areas of responsibility, including setting standards for safety, and monitoring clinical safety and quality processes, and improving performance of individuals, teams, and systems in prioritising safety. The Capability and Culture Directorate, is organised into three portfolios, that serve to optimise safety systems within and across NSW Health: Safety System Capability, Safety System Leadership & Culture & Safety System Research, Evaluation & Knowledge Optimisation.

Beyond my employed roles, I am privileged to be able to contribute to health leadership and healthier communities through being a Board Director for the Australasian College of Health Service Management (ACHSM). I am an ACHSM Fellow, an International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua) Fellow, an ISQua Expert Panel member and recently appointed on the WHO, Patient Safety Consultant register. In 2021 I joined the Mudgee Health Service, Health Council, as a community member. I am also a board member for a social enterprise cooperative. My cup is full.

Vinish Vasudevan (New Zealand)

Vinish is a Clinical Physiologist with over 20 years of experience in Renal Nursing. He has had a varied and international career before settling in New Zealand in 2011. His passion is providing patient-centered care with a focus on quality improvement. Vinish has been involved in various quality improvement projects within his service. Currently, he is serving as HD educator in Te Whatu Ora Waitematā.

Dr Matthew Lyburn

Matthew is a nephrology advanced trainee who trained in Cairns, Far North Queensland

Associate Professor Rathika Krishnasamy (Qld)

A/Prof Krishnasamy is the Director of Nephrology at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and Associate Professor for the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Queensland. She is the current President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology. She also continues to serve on several committees for the advancement of kidney care including as member and immediate past-Chair of the Caring of Australians and New Zealanders with

Kidney Impairment (CARI) Guidelines Steering Committee, Clinical Trialist at Australasian Kidney Trials Network (AKTN), Haemodialysis Working Group member for the AKTN and ANZDATA Registry. Her research interests span across pragmatic trials, reducing socioeconomic burden, cardiovascular disease burden and bone mineral disorders in patients with kidney disease.

Dr Amanda Mather (NSW)

Dr Amanda Mather is currently the head of department of renal medicine at Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney. She is a Nephrologist and Obstetric Medicine Physician and oversees the hypertension service with a special interest in primary hyperaldosteronism. She is the current chair of the PQC committee for the ANZSN. Amanda completed her medical degree at University of New South Wales and her PhD at the University of Sydney. She has a strong interest in medical education and her clinical research interests include clinical outcomes in high risk pregnancies, hypertension and chronic kidney disease.