

Office for Research e-Newsletter November 2024



Western Health

Office for Research [Website Link](#) and [SharePoint](#)

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the November edition of the OfR e-News. Much has happened since the last edition. We've had a very successful Research Week, many notable journal publications, awarded more Arlene Wake Fellowships, some of our esteemed colleagues have been successful in MRFF grants and other awards, and we have also launched a few additional research policies and procedures.



To challenge our thinking and for a little amusement we are introducing a Riddle Time which will afford the first correct responder with a waiver of their ethics fee for either a Quality Assurance/Minimal Risk Research (QA/MRR) or Low Risk (LR) research project. All answers must be submitted to research@wh.org.au and the winner will be advised via email and formally announced in the next newsletter.

What does a person love more than life, hate more than death or mortal strife; that which contented people desire; the poor have, the rich require; the miser spends, the spendthrift saves, and all people carry to their graves?

As we are keen to make the e-News engaging and relevant to you we welcome your suggestions and content contribution for future editions. Please send your suggestions, riddles or announcements to research@wh.org.au for our consideration.

Our next e-News edition is due for release in February/March 2025.

2024 Research Week Success



We have launched a successful Research Week this year with a program of events showcasing inspirational research and best care initiatives across the entire organisation.

We take this opportunity to thank our researchers and staff for their contribution to the 2024 Research Week program. We also extend a BIG THANK YOU to our generous sponsors for their support of research at Western Health and would like to acknowledge our session keynote speakers for their time and effort in making Research Week the successful.

It is anticipated that Research Week 2025 will be held from Oct 13-17.

Arlene Wake Fellowships 2024

We are pleased to announce that three Arlene Wake Chronic Disease Fellowships (AWCDF) were awarded at the Closing Ceremony of Research Week this year. The fellowships will commence in 2025 and will bring the total number of current AWCDF to eight.

Good luck to all fellowship winners as you embark on your research journey and we look forward to updating our readers on your progress.



The 2025 recipients of the AWCDF are:

Dr Kimberley Chan - *Beating for Two - Pregnancy and the postpartum period, myocardial remodelling and exercise.*

Katherine Baudinette - *Data driven health care - Using routine measures of frailty and function to improve outcomes for patients with chronic disease via an implementation science approach.*

Dr Hannah Wallace – *Future Health Today Implementation*

MRFF Grants Success

Allied Health- Physiotherapy under the leadership of Prof Cathy Said have been successful in securing or being collaborators on a number of MRFF grants involving WH staff and national collaborators.

- 2023 Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission: “***Digital rehabilitation for enhancing health and independence in older people***”. Awarded: \$2,949,625.90
Principal Investigators: Prof Cathy Said and Dina Pogrebnoy
- 2023 Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission: “**Mind Care Digital: Improving access to dementia prevention in CALD communities**” Awarded approximately: \$3,000,000
Chief Investigator: Prof Cathy Said

Congratulations to Prof Cathy Said for this great achievement and we cannot wait to hear about your research outcome!

Special Mentions

Kevin McCaul Prize

Congratulations to registrar Divya Iyer has been awarded the 2024 National Kevin McCaul Prize from the Australian Society of Anaesthetists (ASA) for her work “Ergometrine and coronary artery vasospasm in pregnant and recently pregnant patients – A narrative review and case report”.

This prize was instituted in 1978 by the ASA and is awarded to the highest ranked application for a research project, publishable critical review/essay on any aspect of anaesthesia, pain relief, physiology, or pharmacology relevant to the female reproductive system. It is open to ASA members who are Trainee Members or specialists within 2 years of obtaining their higher qualification in anaesthesia.

Study Coordinator Award by Breast Cancer Trials (BCT) Australia

This award acknowledges outstanding commitment to BCT's research program by a study coordinator at a participating institution.

The 2024 recipient is Ms Lisa Wilkinson. Lisa has been a member of BCT 1996 and has over 25 years of experience as a Clinical Trials Coordinator involving a range of cancer types.

Well done Lisa on this great achievement!

Biostatistics Service Support

As research activity at WH increases, so does the demand for biostatistical support. As this is a finite resource, we need to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to support all researchers at WH. To this end we are excited to introduce some additional biostatistical support platforms at Western Health which will provide access to biostatistical guidance and resources.

Biostatistics Q&A Live

We are excited to introduce our monthly one-hour biostatistical ***Q&A Live sessions, which will be held online on the last Thursday of every month at 2.00pm.*** The next session will be held on the 28th of November at 2pm. These webinars are designed to help researchers with any questions they may have regarding their statistical aspects of their research.

You can log in and ask questions live or send your inquiries ahead of time to our support email (statisticalsupport@wh.org.au), and we'll address them during the session. This is a great opportunity to receive expert guidance and enhance your research outcomes.

You can sign in to attend the session using **[Biostats Q&A Live Webinar](#)**. See you there.

Biostatistics Support Toolkit

Unlock the power of data with the Biostatistics Toolkit, a comprehensive resource designed to empower researchers

in conducting their own statistical analyses. We are keen to ensure that all researchers at Western Health have access to essential biostatistical resources which can be applied to projects that do not require complex statistical methodologies and analysis.

This powerful **[Toolkit](#)** provides a selection of essential resources, including textbooks, guides, and tools that cover a wide range of statistical methods and techniques. Whether you're just starting or looking to deepen your understanding, the toolkit offers the knowledge and support you need to confidently perform your analyses and enhance the quality of your research.

For any requests for biostatistical support please complete and submit the **[WH Biostatistical Support Form](#)**.

New PPGs & SOPs Update



We have recently developed and uploaded to **[PROMPT](#)** following new research procedures to support our researchers:

NEW Research Risk Register Procedure

This procedure describes how the office or/with relevant stakeholders in clinical trials identify, capture and monitor research risks.

Contact us

(03) 8395 8070
research@wh.org.au

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We welcome you at Western Health



NEW WH as Study Sponsor for a Clinical Trial Procedure

This procedure is for WH staff undertaking research who seek WH sponsorship for an investigated initiated clinical research or trial. It describes what the Office for Research will implement to determine the capacity of WH to as a study sponsor.

Updated Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders Procedure

This procedure has had a minor revision to better reflect the nature of the document content and the information provided in the overview statement.

Updated SOPs – Good Clinical Practice

We have revised all trials related SOPs to support our researchers in conducting clinical trials at WH.

Contact Office for Research

We are keen to ensure that we are in a better position to facilitate your research ethics and governance requirements. We appreciate that ethics submissions and governance requirements can seem to be challenging at times, we therefore encourage you to contact the Office for Research and discuss your project research requirements early in the project cycle.

Ethics and Governance submission Closing Dates



The Office for Research will close for business from 12PM Monday 23 December 2024 and reopen Monday 06 January 2025.

Closing dates for new submissions:

- QA/MRR: Friday 22 November
- Low Risk: Friday 22 November
- SSA Governance: Friday 29 November
- Post Approval & Honorary Appointment: Friday 13 December

All new submissions will reopen on Monday 27 January 2025.

ALL urgent & commercial submissions can be submitted at any time but please note these reviews may take longer than usual.

Researchers are asked to contact our office in person, telephone 03 8395 8070 or email ethics@wh.org.au to ensure that urgent matters are brought to the attention of the appropriate team member so they can be reviewed and actioned in a timely manner.



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