



NSW CVRN – OHMR Grants Workshop

NSW Health Cardiovascular Research Capacity Program

Senior and Early-Mid Career Researcher Grants 2024

Thursday, 9 May 2024

9:30am: Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Kate McGregor

**Director Finance, Infrastructure and Performance
Office for Health and Medical Research**

9:35am: Welcome from NSW CVRN



Prof Andrew Boyle

Chair, NSW CVRN Executive Committee

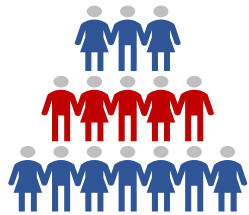
Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine

The University of Newcastle

NSW CVRN: Power of Collaboration



Member Profile



628 Members
75% EMCRs
25% Seniors



■ Biomedical ■ Clinical ■ Public Health



Housekeeping Announcements

- Room has microphones for online participants to hear discussion
- Workshop will be recorded and available on OHMR's website
- Online participants: your microphone is muted. Please use Teams chat to ask questions
- In-person participants: submit questions via QR code or raise hand during Q&A time



QR Code for Q&A

9:40am: 2024 Cardiovascular Senior and EMC Researcher Grants



Cathy Kellick

**Principal Policy Officer for Research Grants
Office for Health and Medical Research**

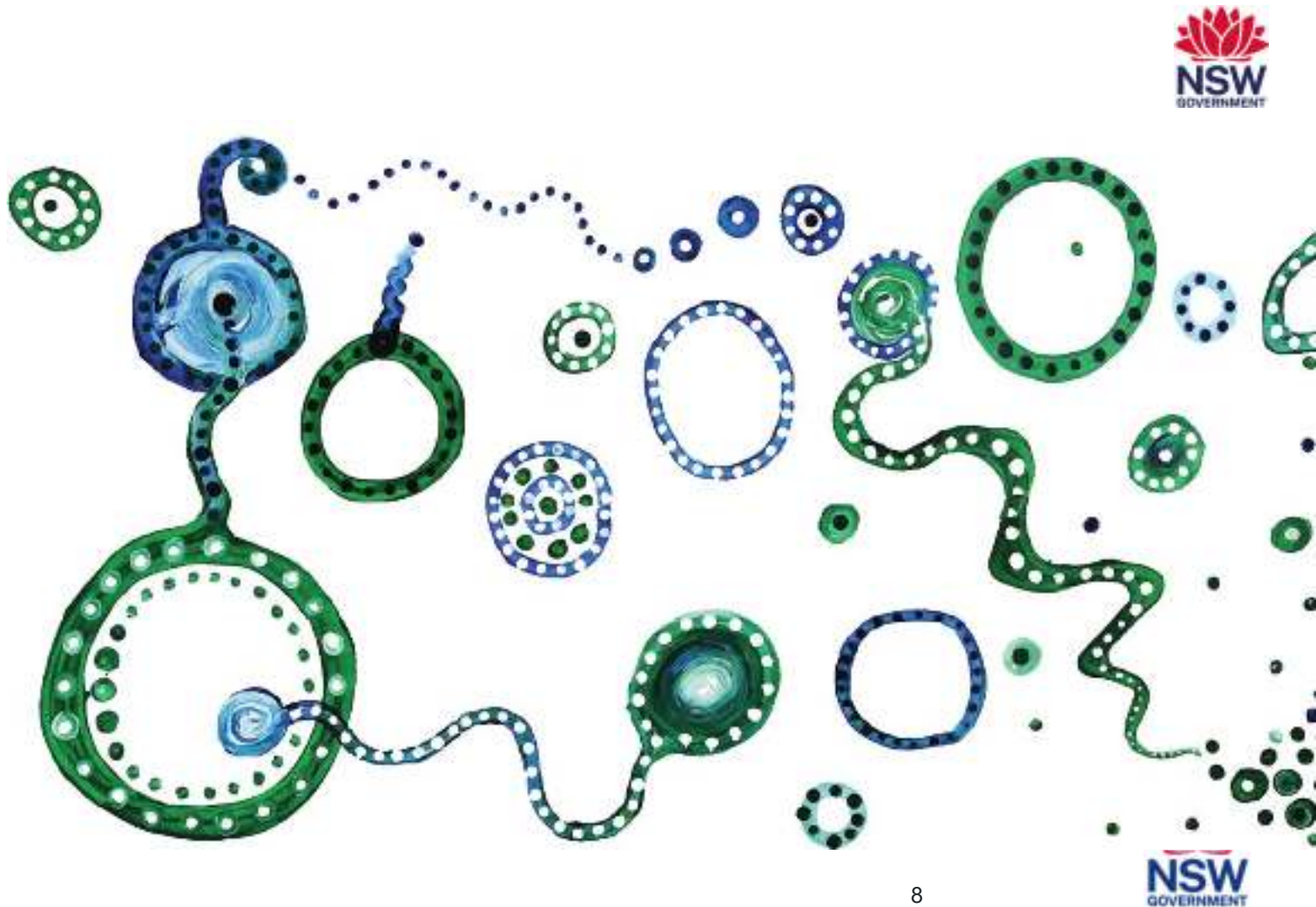
Office for Health and Medical Research

Cardiovascular Senior and EMC Researcher Grants 2024

Cathy Kellick, Principal Policy Officer Research Grants



- We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we work on.
- We pay our respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal peoples here today.



Presentation Outline

Office for Health and Medical Research

- Snapshot

Senior and EMC Grants 2024

- Objectives
- Selection criteria
- Broader considerations
- Process and timeline
- Questions?

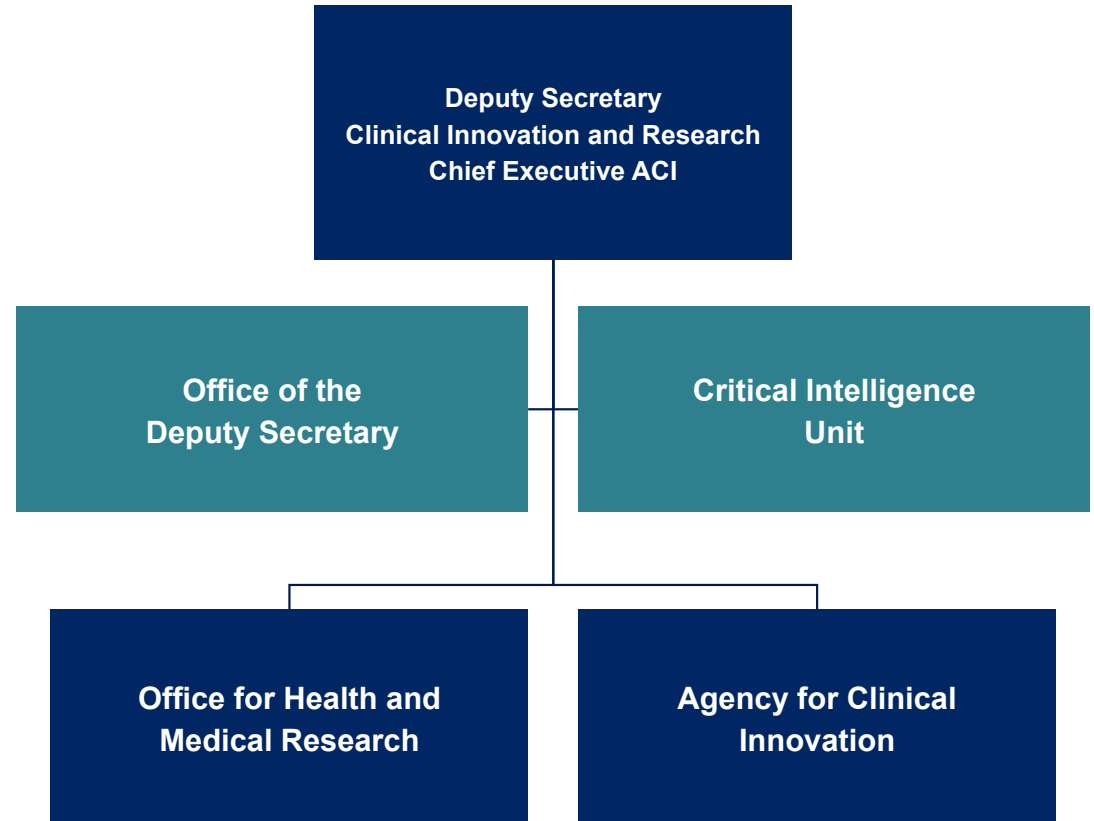
Office for Health and Medical Research



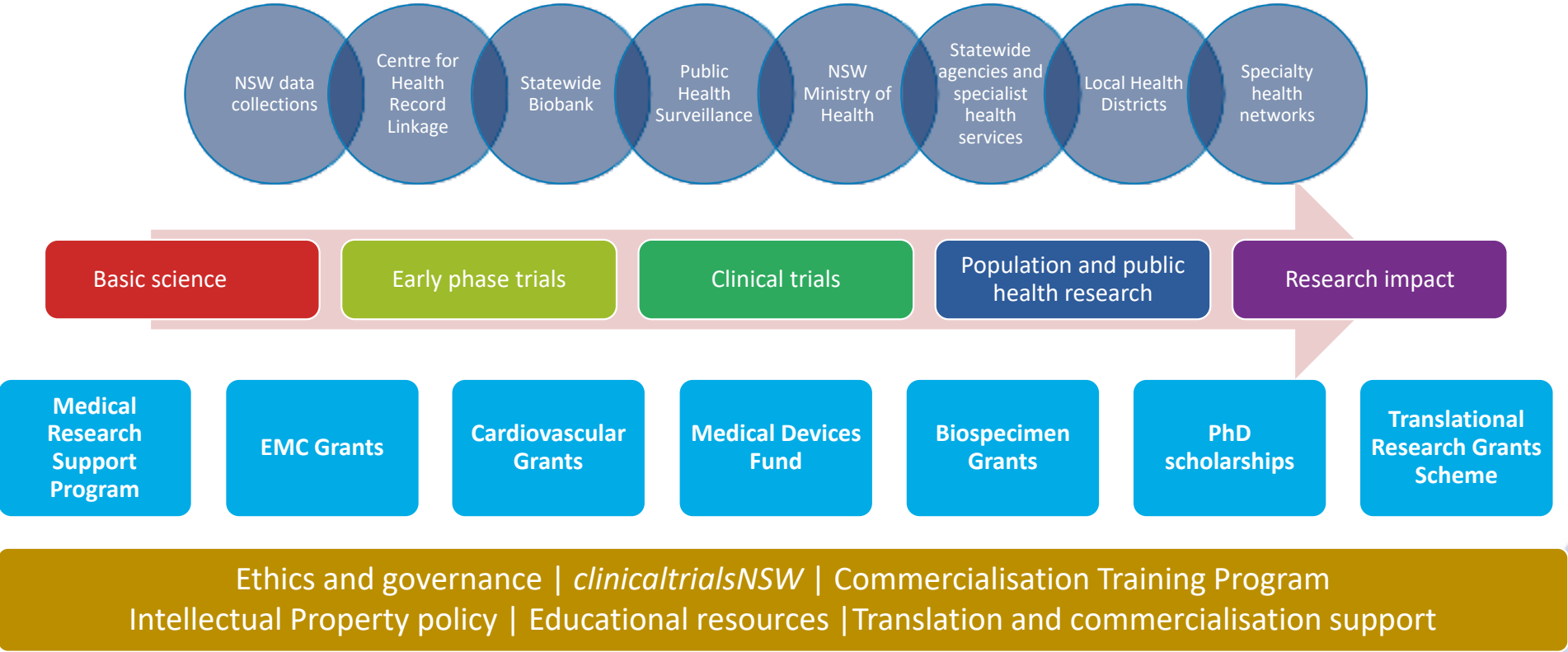
Clinical Innovation and Research Division



- Integrating the work of the Office for Health and Medical Research and of the Agency for Clinical Innovation
- Leadership role in the development of public sector funded research and innovation programs
- Coordinating innovation development, commercialisation and translation activities
- Providing overarching leadership across the continuum of the innovation and research ecosystem in the state
- Bringing a clinician and consumer voice closer to decision-making to support stronger and more effective relationships



NSW Health and Medical Research Ecosystem



Cardiovascular Research Capacity Program

June 2018: NSW Government announces \$150 million investment in cardiovascular research over 10 years

1. Fund research excellence
2. Attract and retain high quality researchers in NSW
3. Build research capacity
4. Increase national and international competitiveness of NSW research
5. Support a competitive position for federal research funding



Cardiovascular Research funded to June 2023

Grant Type	Number funded	Amount
Senior Scientists/ Senior Researchers	33	\$24.5 million
Clinician scientists	10	\$7.5 million
Early-Mid Career Researchers	42	\$22.0 million
Research Leaders*	2	\$2.5 million
Elite Postdocs	6	\$5.0 million
Investigator Development	11	\$1.0 million
Synergy Seeding	2	\$0.5 million
Collaborative Grants	9	\$9.0 million
Total	105	\$72.5 million

*Impacted by COVID-19

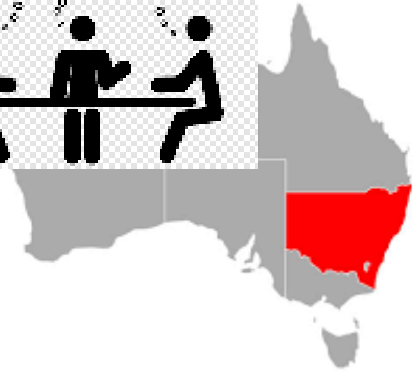
Senior and EMC Researcher Grants 2024



60%



Objectives



What areas of research can be included?

The term cardiovascular is used to encompass all diseases and conditions of the heart and blood vessels, including but not limited to:

- coronary heart disease
- stroke
- heart failure
- vascular disease and vascular health
- cardiovascular complications of diabetes and obesity
- major independent risk factors for cardiovascular disease
- rheumatic heart disease
- congenital heart disease.



Types of Research

- Basic Science
- Clinical Medicine and Science
- Health Services research
- Public Health research

Grants also support:

- data science research and
- research towards the development of novel therapeutics



Research



Three-year duration
Senior Researcher Grants:
\$750,000
EMC Researcher Grants -
\$450,000
(+\$300,000 top ranked)





40%

Selection Criteria



20%



40%





**NSW Cardiovascular
Research Network**

Broader strategic considerations



Medical Research Future Fund
Cardiovascular Health Mission
Roadmap



Skill development

- Clinical quality improvement
- Mentoring
- Training
- Collaborations e.g. research groups, policy agencies
- Roles in networks, advisory or governance groups
- Leadership roles and capacity development



EMCs assessed with applicants at similar career stage

<p>PhD</p> <p>a. Date conferred (or expected)</p> <p>b. University name</p>	
<p>Early-Mid Career Researcher Grant ONLY</p> <p>Which category best describes your career stage?</p> <p>Note: If you have experienced significant career disruption, your nominated career stage may be different to the length of time since your PhD was conferred. Please select the category in which you wish to be considered during the review process. You must provide evidence of career disruption at Section B5. NSW Health reserves the right to determine your career category based on the evidence provided.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Up to 2 years post-PhD</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3 - 7 years post-PhD</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 8 - 15 years post-PhD</p>

Application tips

- Read the guidelines
- Check eligibility criteria
- Stick to word and page limits
- Spell and grammar check
- Write for a general audience
- Understand your field
- Sell your research
- Arrange early informal peer reviews
- Speak to OHMR



Timeline – Key Dates

Applications Open	8 April 2024
Senior and EMC Workshop	9 May 2024
Pitching Sessions - online	15-29 May
Applications close	1 July 2024
Applicants notified of outcomes	By 31 October 2024





Questions?

- Are there awarded grant applications available for current applicants to look at?
- Can a biostatistician apply as a Chief Investigator?
- How can we strengthen career development plan and program logic?
- What is the minimum FTE that should be spent on the proposed project?
- What category are you in if you are 7.5 years post PhD? (3-7 or 8-15)
- Are there any priority research topics?



Office of



10:00am: Session 1: Building your team

Chair: **Dr Isabella Tan**, The George Institute for Global Health



Building your team, including consumers

Dr Nicola Straiton

**Senior Research Fellow, Nursing Research
Institute, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney**



Building your team, including consumers

Dr Nicola Straiton

Senior Research Fellow (Implementation Science)

Nursing Research Institute, St Vincent's Health Network and Australian Catholic University

@NicStraiton

E: nicola.straiton@acu.edu.au

Under the stewardship of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

Research friends assemble!



Wait!!!!

Plan the build

- Read the grant guidelines and review section on application form
- Map out a potential team
 - Who do you need based on your level of experience as a researcher?
 - What expertise do you need based on the design of the study?
 - Who will give your application that something extra?
 - Diverse and inclusive
- Which members need contacting first based on their role, time for consideration or engagement process?

C7. Proposed project team – including role of applicant

Provide a list of the proposed project team members and their respective roles, adding a new row for each additional team member. Note the Applicant should be included in this table.

#	Name	Position in organisation (includes employee for selected members)	Role in team	Time on Project
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Add				

C8. Project Governance to support translation (max 200 words)

Describe the governance structure for your project, for example: Steering Committee membership. How will you engage with research partners and other stakeholders who will take the research to the next step on the translation pathway?

Plan the build

Frailty response in aortic stenosis patients undergoing transcatheter aortic valve implantation: a pilot, cluster randomised trial (FRAIL-AS Response Trial)

Your needs	The research needs
Senior Career Researcher / Triallist	Implementation scientists
Consumers	CVD clinicians (all disciplines)
Clinical and/or Academic Partners e.g. LHD executives	Frailty specialists
Operational and administrative support	Dietician
National and international colleagues	Statistician
	Health economist
	Research specialists e.g. quantitative, qualitative – process eval.

Who else? Key policymakers e.g. NSW ACI Frailty CoP / Industry / Patient and Carer Groups?

May not need to join the team – could be consulted or champions of your research?

Planning for consumer involvement

Consumer involvement is recommended in all types of research from basic science to knowledge translation

BJPsych The British Journal of Psychiatry 2019; 215: 381-386. doi: 10.1192/bjp.2018.218

Impact of patient involvement in mental health research: longitudinal study
Liam Ervik and Ti Wyles

In 374 mental health studies:

associated patient involvement than others. Studies that involved patients to a greater extent were more likely to have achieved recruitment targets ($\chi^2 = 4.58, P < 0.05$), defined as reaching at least 90% of the target.

Results
Patient involvement increased over time although in some

Declaration of interest
None.

- **Who do you want to be involved?**
 - Patients and carers
- **Do they need to have a specific lived experience?**
 - people who have had a heart attack in the last 12 months
 - have booked a GP appointment online before
- **Planning resources:**
<https://involvementtoolkit.clinicaltrialsalliance.org.au/toolkit/planning/how-to-involve/>

>4 times more likely to recruit to target

Connecting with consumers



Help Shape Our Heart Valve Disease And Frailty Research

What is this research about?
We are trying to develop better ways to care for frail people with heart valve disease who are undergoing surgery, and we want to hear your opinions.

Who do you want to be involved?
People who have experience of frailty and heart valve disease, or those who have cared for someone with these conditions.

What will happen if I get involved?

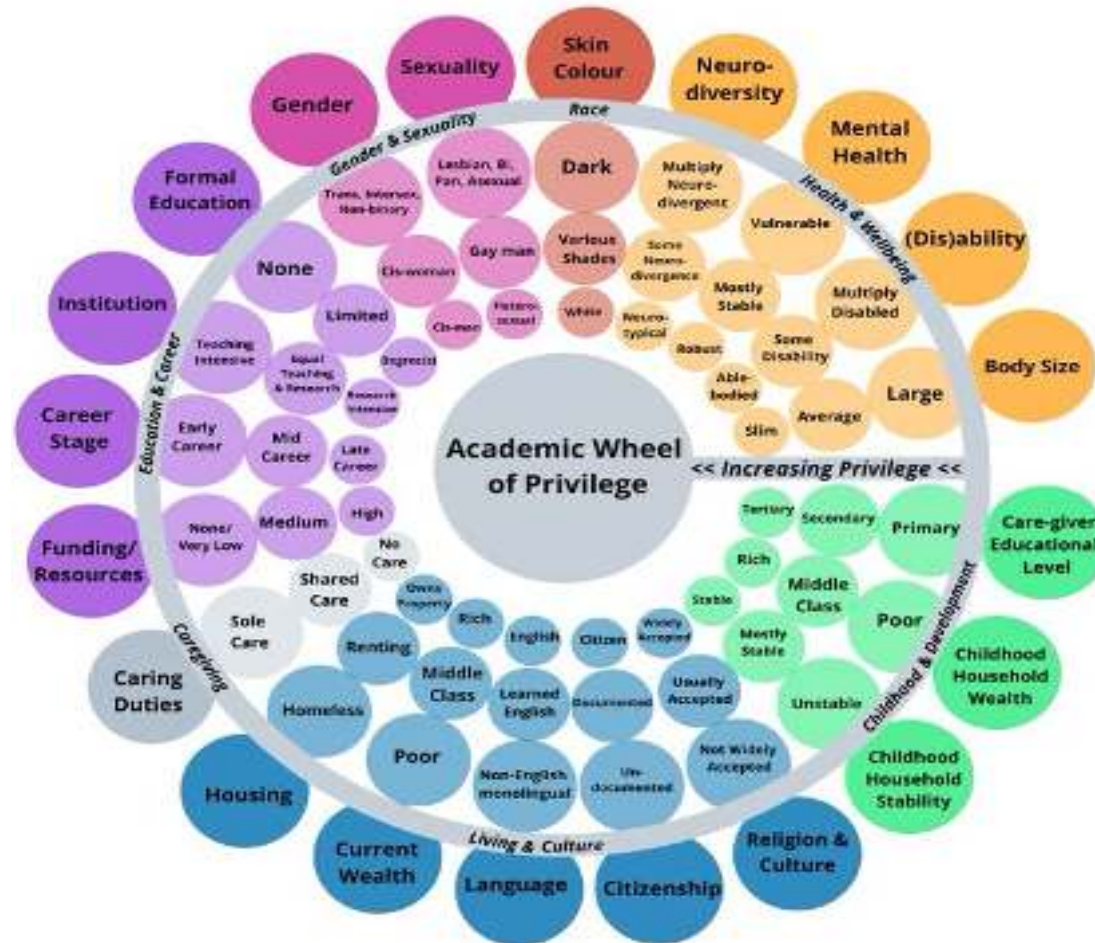
- We will contact you to explain the research project, and discuss your potential involvement.
- We are keen to understand your thoughts about how best to design this study so people can take part.
- We will reimburse you for your time.

How do I get involved?
Either email Nicola Straiton at nicola.straiton@acu.edu.au or call 02 8382 4024 to discuss.



- **People with the health condition in the clinical settings** in which you or colleagues work
- **Connect with patient support groups:**
 - Hearts4heart
- **Partner with dedicated consumer groups:**
 - ANZACT
 - The George Institute CVD group
 - SPHERE or SHP
 - Health Consumers NSW
 - Local Hospital Consumer Panel
- **Add to notice boards, community boards** e.g. shopping centre or online (with permission)

Diverse, inclusive and equitable teams



10:00am: Session 1: Building your team

Chair: **Dr Isabella Tan**, The George Institute for Global Health



Translational impact and building CI teams

Dr Ashish Misra

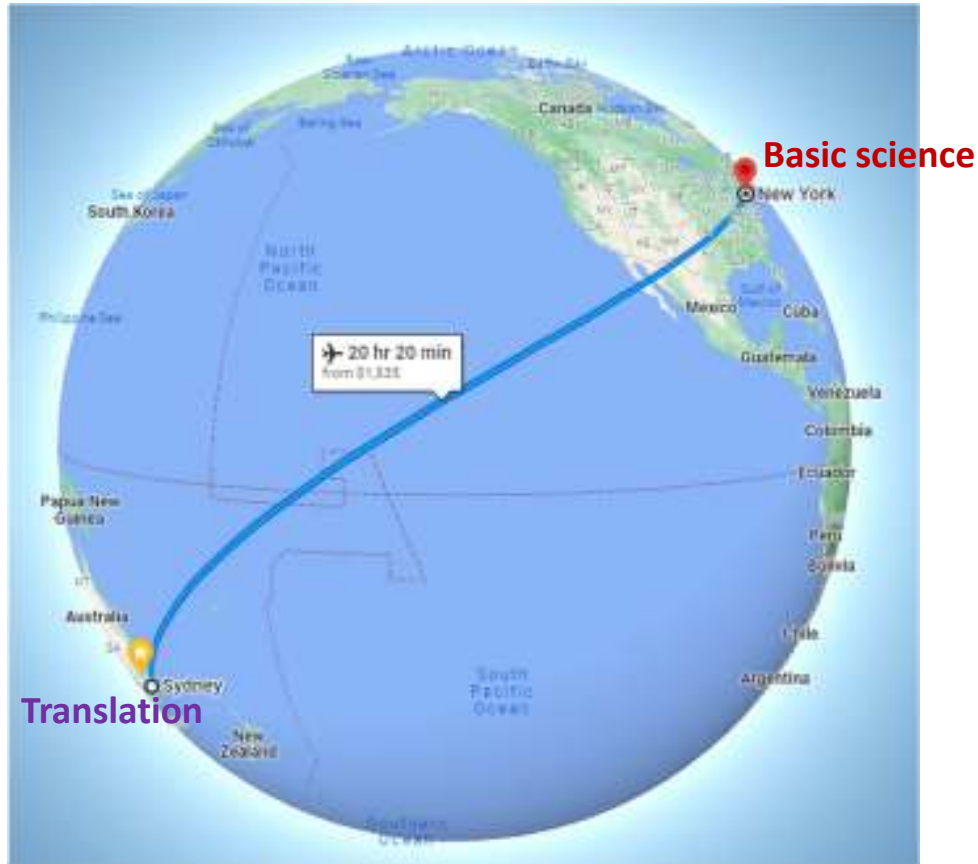
**Atherosclerosis and Vascular Remodelling Unit
Leader, Heart Research Institute**

Translational impact and building CI teams

Dr Ashish Misra, Atherosclerosis and Vascular Remodelling
Heart Research Institute (HRI)



Basic science to translation





Yale Cardiovascular Research Center (YCVRC)



The Yale Cardiovascular Research Center (YCVRC) houses investigators (undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral trainees and faculty members) interested in basic and translational research. Major research themes include developmental and cell biology, signaling, genetics, cardiomyocyte biology and stem cells. The Center has its own zebrafish facility as well as an extensive array of core facilities.



@Yale:

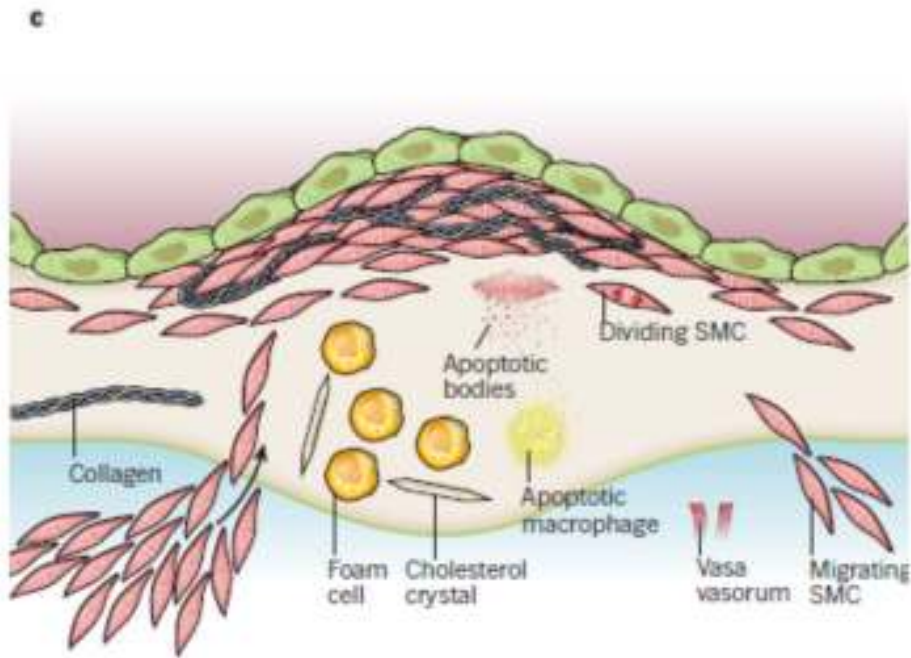
- Learning basic science without worrying too much about its translational impact
- Interested in basic cell biology of cardiovascular disease
- Impactful findings published in respectable journals



@Yale:

- Refining knowledge

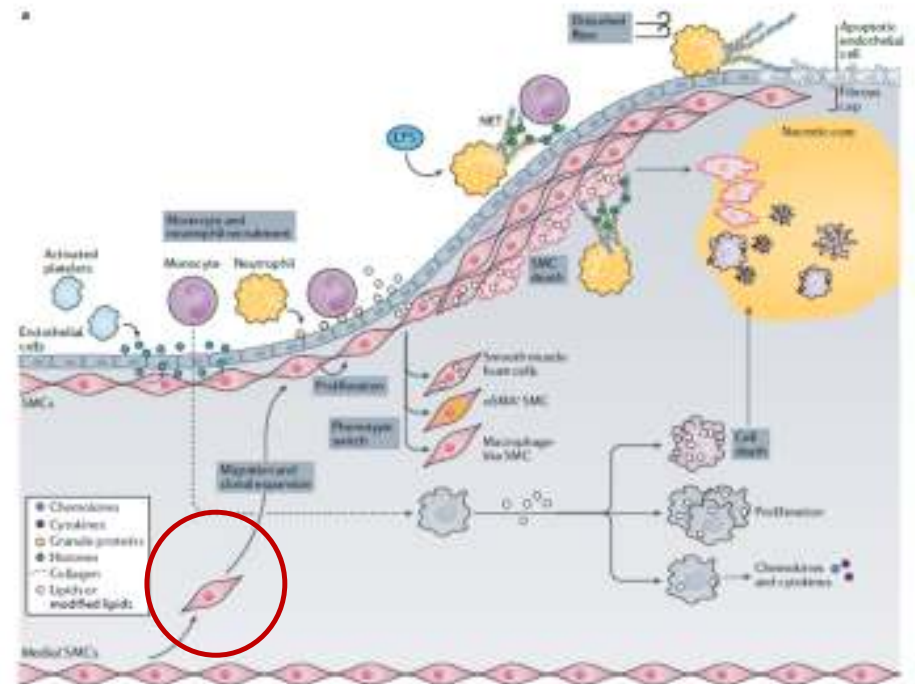
2011



Peter Libby¹, Paul M Ridker^{1,2} & Göran K. Hansson³

2021

REVIEWS



Oliver Soehnlein^{1,2,3,4} and Peter Libby^{1,4}



Novel vascular smooth muscle cell progenitors in development and disease

Project Number

5R35HL150766-02

Contact PI/Project Leader

GREIF, DANIEL

Awardee Organization

YALE UNIVERSITY

** Only NIH, CDC and FDA funding data*

Project Number	Sub	Principal Investigator(s)/ Project Leader(s)	Organization	Fiscal Year	Admin IC	Funding IC	FY Total Cost by IC
Novel vascular smooth muscle cell progenitors in development and disease							
5R35HL150766-04		 GREIF, DANIEL 	YALE UNIVERSITY	2023	NHLBI	NHLBI	\$1,003,982
Novel vascular smooth muscle cell progenitors in development and disease							
5R35HL150766-03		 GREIF, DANIEL 	YALE UNIVERSITY	2022	NHLBI	NHLBI	\$1,003,982
Novel vascular smooth muscle cell progenitors in development and disease							
5R35HL150766-02		 GREIF, DANIEL 	YALE UNIVERSITY	2021	NHLBI	NHLBI	\$1,003,982
Novel vascular smooth muscle cell progenitors in development and disease							
1R35HL150766-01		 GREIF, DANIEL 	YALE UNIVERSITY	2020	NHLBI	NHLBI	\$1,003,144



Moving to Sydney

@HRI

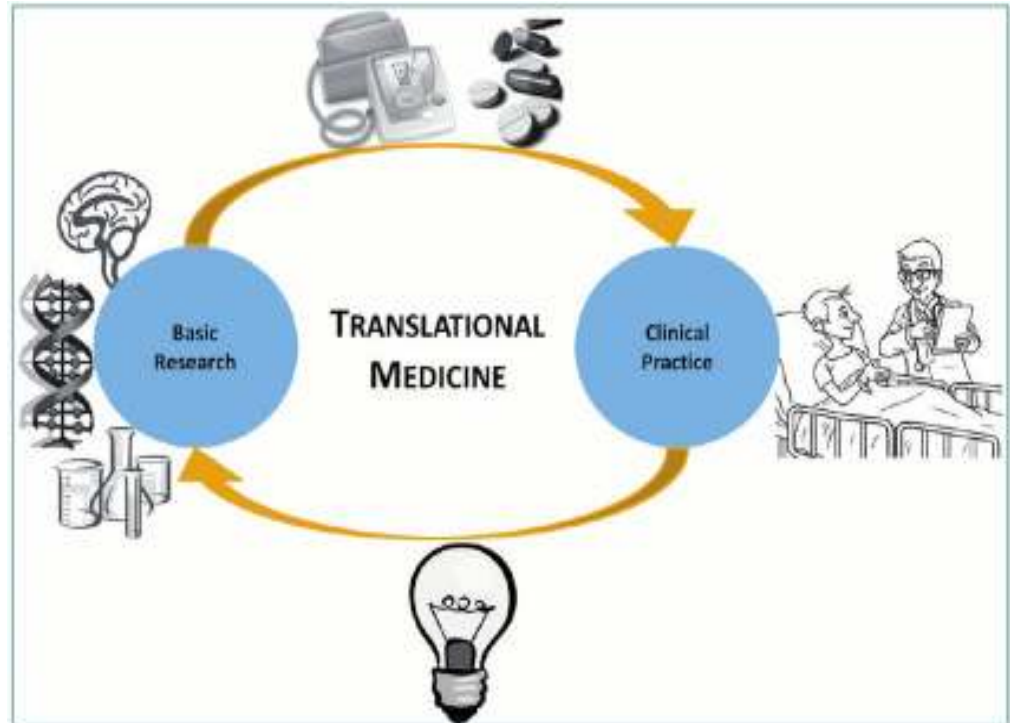


A screenshot of the Heart Research Institute (HRI) website. The header includes navigation links: Heart Research Institute, About, Our Research, News, Health, Stories, Join Us, Contact, a search icon, and a 'Give' button with a heart icon. The main content area features the HRI logo (a red heart with a white location pin) and the text: "Today's research, tomorrow's cure for heart disease." Below this is a circular image of a scientist in a lab coat and safety glasses. At the bottom, there are two columns of text: "Every 18 minutes, one Australian dies from cardiovascular disease." and "HRI conducts groundbreaking research to prevent death and suffering from conditions like heart attack and stroke. Help us fight the world's biggest killer."



Failures in securing grants:

-Applied for grants on the similar ideas and not funded



Before we start writing grants:

-Critical thinking about the pathway of how basic science findings can be translated into clinic?

- **Changing approach-**

- Instead of targeting clonality, better to target outcome of clonality

- Write ideas on more established phenomenon like plaque cell phenotypes.

- Experiments can be performed both on murine models as well as on human disease samples

What resources do we need to show the **significance** of basic science research in clinic?

- **Building a team with clinicians**

- Finding mutual interests and modify project according to clinical need

- Example: working on colchicine in Australia is a privilege

- Reaching out to clinicians and discuss the clinical problem and issues



Choosing the best possible disease model to mimic clinical condition

- Once we establish a clinical problem and clinical team, think about best possible disease model
- **No animal models are perfect, and they come with flaws.**
 - Plaques in mouse models do not rupture and produce only stable plaques
 - Using TS model that produces plaques in mouse that resembles human plaques
- **Invent new models (may be risky for EMCRs)**
 - Take help from existing models and modify them according to project-specific needs.
 - Collaborate with investigators who have been already using these models to building your team
 - Include junior researchers who may be skilled in the technique or may learn the technique
- **Think about including more than one model to justify your hypothesis**
 - Such as including fresh human plaque culture apart from using TS model
 - Each disease models may have own strength and weakness
 - Think about logistics how samples will be procured and processed, include junior clinicians in your team.



Thank You

10:00am: Session 1: Building your team

Chair: **Dr Isabella Tan**, The George Institute for Global Health



Track record tips and building your team

Dr Niamh Chapman

**Senior Research Fellow, the University of Sydney,
Heart Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow**

Track Record Tips and Building Your Team

Dr Niamh Chapman
Senior Research Fellow | University of Sydney



B2. Research, clinical and industry experience and collaborations

List all current and previous research, clinical and industry appointment(s)/position(s) held during the past 10 years.

- **Be comprehensive.**
- *Through this role I represented >2,500 students across 6 different departments as a trustee on the Students Union, at the School Learning and Teaching committee, and was the university lead student representative at the Academic Quality and Standards Committee, Equity and Diversity Committee. 2014 – 2016.*

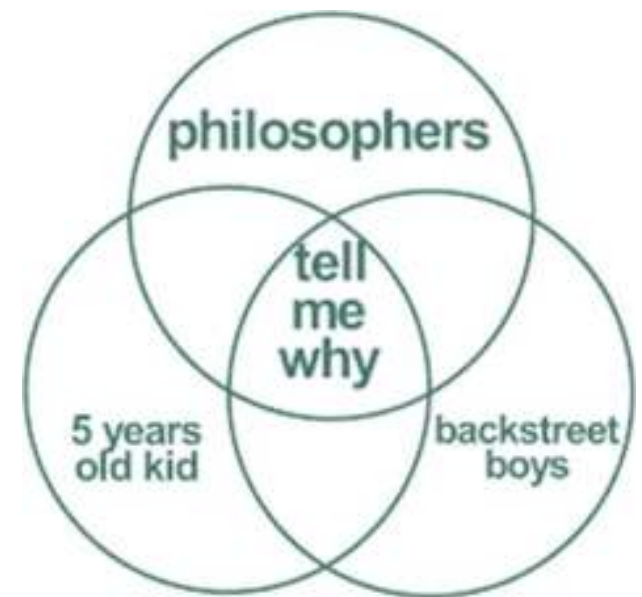
B3.2 Provide an explanation of why
these publications have been selected

✓ **Summary statement of quality and contribution.** *“These publications demonstrate emerging leadership with evidence of national (47%) and international (40%) collaboration and 27% top 10% viewed publications worldwide (scival).”*



Tell me why...

- ✓ **Punchy statement for each paper. “#5-8.**
This body of work demonstrated the feasibility of collecting risk factor information, including BP measurement, at pathology services and the provided pilot data to secure a NHMRC partnership grant for a state-wide RCT [Grant 1170815].”
- ✓ **Select work that aligns to your proposal.**



B3.3 Nominate your **5-10 best**, or most relevant, research **outputs**, such as non-journal publications, reports, patents or conference presentations from the past five years

Variety is the spice of life.

- ✓ Non-traditional articles
- ✓ Speaker invitations
- ✓ Invited attendee.



Selected EMCR representative at Science Meets Parliament, HBPRCA select one student attendee to attend based on a competitive EOI process, fees paid (\$3,000), to develop policy and advocacy skills.

#3-4. *I was invited to deliver these presentations [...] I spoke about the use of digital technology to improve BP measurement for primary care from my experience with the IDEAL study. My knowledge in this area is informing aspects of my current research proposal.*

B3.5 Provide examples of *translation and impact through your research* career (300 words)

My findings that a standalone multimedia consent process [...] has been used to receive an Australian-first approval to use electronic consent with linkage to MBS/PBS data. The findings have been used by other studies (n=3) ...



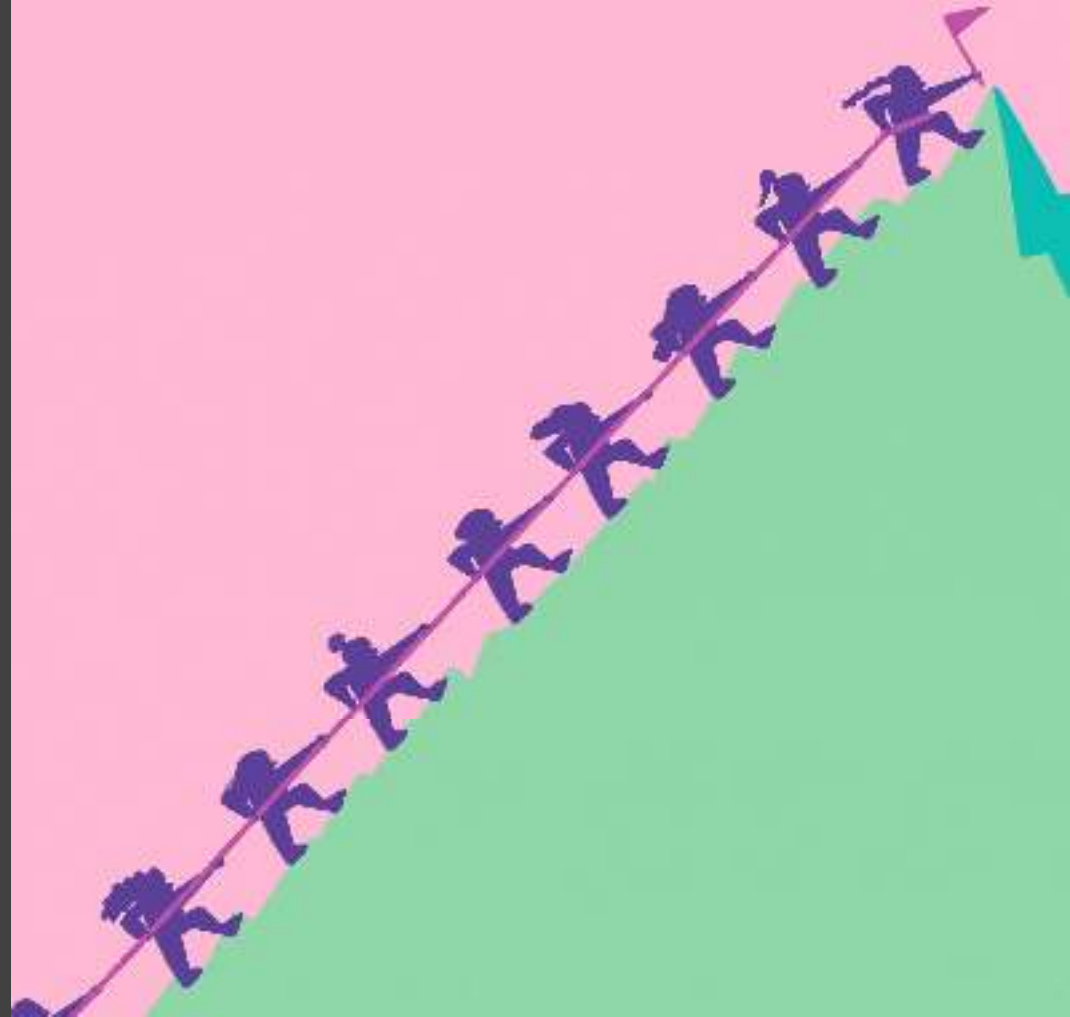
From little things...

My research has led to establishment of a co-design program with consumer advisors (n=6) and partner organisations that is developing a BP Toolkit to provide a standardised approach to delivering information/education that meets end-user needs.



Building YOUR team

Where to start?



Collaboration is key.

- ✓ Start early, engage your team in your idea
- ✓ Think about gaps and identify people
 - Publications
 - University database
 - Research office
 - Word of mouth
- ✓ Demonstrate some track record



Your Team



BALANCE
Career stages



EXPERTISE
Skills, methods



DEVELOP
Learn, adapt,
collaborate.



NETWORKS
Industry, priority
areas.



INTERACT
Governance,
management

How will you work together?

- List experience/expertise
- EMCR and Senior, how will they interact?
- Use and adapt examples of where you have observed good governance/leadership



The team's vast experience will guide overall management to support feasibility of the proposed research and development of CIA Chapman and EMCR CIs as emerging research leaders.

Project governance structure:

- Steering Committee chaired by CIA Chapman, CIs from each research stream, partners representatives and two consumer advisors to monitor progress.
- Consumer Advisory Group
- Research Working Groups: RCT, process evaluation, health economics.
- Pharmacy Engagement Group with pharmacy representatives, CIs, and partner. The team includes 7 CIs with experience undertaking research in pharmacy.

The proposed governance structure is modelled on a Tasmania-wide cluster-RCT funded by NHMRC partnership grant that included >20 investigators, 6 major health service and industry partners where CIA Chapman played a significant leadership role.

**What if it does
work out exactly
how you imagined
it or greater?
Entertain that
thought.**

Idil Ahmed

Enjoy the process

Think big

Work hard and back yourself

Niamh.Chapman@sydney.edu.au

10:00am: Session 1: Building your team

Chair: **Dr Isabella Tan**, The George Institute for Global Health

Questions for Speakers

Dr Nicola Straiton

Dr Ashish Misra

Dr Niamh Chapman



Raise your hand or submit via Teams chat or QR Code above



NSW CVRN – OHMR Grants Workshop

Morning tea break

Back at 11:00am