



**RESEARCH WEEK**  
20-24 OCTOBER 2025  
**INSPIRED RESEARCHERS**  
Northern Health



OCTOBER 2025  
**ABSTRACT  
BOOK**

Northern Health

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Northern Health acknowledges the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our health services are built, the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung People.

We acknowledge the waterways, the land, the sky and all who inhabit this place we call – Country.

We pay respect and acknowledge their ancestors and Elders, past, present and future, we recognise those who continue to protect and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.



Mandy Nicholson | Traditional Owner of the Wurundjeri, Dja Dja Wurrung and Ngurai Illam Wurrung, performed the smoking ceremony at the opening of the new Inpatient Psychiatric Unit at Northern Hospital.

## Our Vision

Creating a healthier future by working together, innovating and delivering great care.

Our vision conveys our aspiration to lead health care and innovation for our community, drawing on the commitment and contributions of all our staff.

## Our Values

Our values are integral to the culture of care, team work and collaboration at Northern Health.

Northern Health re-commits to the values of **Safe, Kind and Together** in our approach to patient care, and to each other.



**Safe**

We provide safe, trusted care for our patients. We are inclusive and culturally safe, celebrating the diversity of our staff and community.



**Kind**

We treat everyone with kindness, respect and empathy. We provide patient-centred and compassionate care.



**Together**

We work together with our staff, patients, consumers and health system partners.

## Our Strategic Directions

These six directions have been developed in response to strategic issues identified in consultations with key stakeholders.

The directions are focused on addressing priorities for safety, sustainability, growth and innovation. They reflect our best assessment of opportunities and challenges in our current and future environment.

These directions will guide Executive and Board decisions and priorities over coming years, provide clarity of purpose for teams across Northern Health and enable progress to be measured and assessed.

**1**

Collaborate to deliver safe, efficient, effective and sustainable care in all our services



**2**

Demonstrate our commitment to the wellbeing of our valued workforce



**3**

Renew and strengthen our infrastructure, systems, tools and processes for financial sustainability and growth



**4**

Innovate to shape the future of health care in Victoria



**5**

Partner to keep people well and deliver the best possible care locally



**6**

Drive research and education to deliver excellent care and develop the next generation of clinicians and health care leaders





# FOREWORD



**Professor Prahlad Ho**  
Chief Medical Officer  
Chair, Research Executive Committee



**Associate Professor Justine Ellis**  
Research Operations Manager,  
Research Development and  
Governance Unit



**Associate Professor Mayur Garg**  
Acting Director of Research

## Welcome to Northern Health Research Week 2025!

The theme for this year is 'Healthcare 2050' as we envisage the future and the important role that Northern Health research will play in advancing clinical care for the people of Melbourne's North and beyond.

Research Week provides a whole-of-organisation opportunity to not only look forward, but to also reflect on the breadth and depth of research already being undertaken by our talented staff and students. We acknowledge, and celebrate with, our university partners - La Trobe University, RMIT University, and The University of Melbourne, and thank them for their ongoing support of this key Northern Health event.

2025 has been another year of strong growth and transformation for research at Northern Health, marked by an impressive 21% increase in abstract submissions for Research Week 2025, compared to 2024.

Highlights of the year include the launch of the Equity Diversity and Inclusion Research Partnership with La Trobe University in March 2025. The partnership will establish a collaborative research hub dedicated to enhancing health equity and diversity research, specifically addressing the needs of one of Victoria's most diverse and rapidly growing regions. The collaboration will also provide new career development opportunities for staff and students from both La Trobe University and Northern Health, helping to cultivate a stronger and more skilled workforce for the future.

There has also been remarkable progress of the Clinical Translational Research Partnership with RMIT University, established in May 2024. Already the partnership has delivered impressive outcomes including significant external funding, and has seen the appointment of a joint Professor of Translational Research, appointment of a joint postdoctoral fellow and research assistant, and commencement of the first of several PhD candidates.

Research Week 2025 will celebrate these achievements and more, bringing together national leaders and our own expert researchers to share knowledge, spark ideas, and inspire future discoveries.

## Highlights for Research Week include:

- An opening session including our Chief Executive, Ms Debra Bourne, highlighting research at Northern Health.
- Keynote addresses from internationally recognised researchers including:
  - o Professor Vassilis Kostakos (University of Melbourne) - A human-centred approach to digital health.
  - o Professor James Boyd (Latrobe University) - Health Research in the Digital Age.
  - o Distinguished Professor Vasso Apostolopoulos AM (RMIT University) - Bench to Bedside: Translating Cancer Vaccine Research into the Clinic.
  - o Associate Professor Sam Forster (Hudson Institute of Medical Research) - Making Microbiome-Based Medicines a Reality.
- Showcasing Northern Health researchers through oral presentations of the top-ranked abstract submissions, and a series of poster sessions throughout the week in the Northern Hospital Epping entrance foyer.

The week will conclude with a celebration of research excellence, including presentations from recent recipients of competitive grants, a lively Great Debate on the topic "Robots will replace clinicians by 2050" and an awards ceremony for best poster, people's choice poster, and best abstract oral presentations including the 2025 Peter Brooks Research Award.

Research Week 2025 promises to be an inspiring and insightful event, offering opportunities for researchers at all stages of their career to connect, share, and celebrate the remarkable work being undertaken at Northern Health.

We look forward to your participation as we showcase the impact of research in shaping better care for our community and more broadly outcomes in healthcare.



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# RESEARCH WEEK PROGRAM

**Monday, 20th October 2025**

**LECTURE SESSION 1: GRAND OPENING AND KEYNOTE**

NCHER Lecture Theatre 1 (and via Teams)

**12.30pm – 1.40pm**

Chair: **Associate Professor Mayur Garg**



Official Opening: **Debra Bourne**  
Chief Executive, Northern Health



Welcome to Research Week 2025: **Associate Professor Mayur Garg**  
Acting Director of Research, Northern Health



# RESEARCH WEEK PROGRAM

**Monday, 20th October 2025** cont'd

## LECTURE SESSION 1: GRAND OPENING AND KEYNOTE

NCHER Lecture Theatre 1 (and via Teams)



**Keynote: Professor Vassilis Kostakos**

### *A human-centred approach to digital health*

#### **Synopsis:**

In this talk I will present some of the work that we carried out with Northern Health since 2017, and then talk about some of the more recent developments. The talk is an exploration of how various technologies can help us understand people and their behaviour. I believe this is an important way to look at technology: not just as a solution to a problem, but as a set of breadcrumbs that can help us understand who we are and what we do. In the work we have done at Northern Health we show ways to understand and improve the operations of a hospital. In more recent work, I will describe how we can begin to gain deeper insights on our behaviour through the use of sensing combined with Large Language Models. What if you had a digital version of a hospital and you could ask it questions?

#### **Bio:**

Vassilis Kostakos is a Computer Scientist who works in the fields of human-computer interaction and ubiquitous computing. His research focuses on how to use sensor data to understand people's behaviour, and how to develop everyday technologies that better understand and better respond to humans. He has previously worked at the University of Oulu (Finland), Carnegie Mellon University (USA), the University of Madeira (Portugal), and the University of Bath (UK). He is a Marie Curie Fellow, a fellow of the Academy of Finland Distinguished Professor Programs, and a SIGCHI Academy member.



# RESEARCH WEEK PROGRAM

**Monday, 20th October 2025** cont'd

## REFRESHMENTS AND NETWORKING

NCHER Level 1 Atrium

1.40pm

## POSTER SESSION 1

Foyer - Northern Hospital, Epping.

3.00pm – 4.00pm (displayed all day)

*Authors of posters will be in attendance to answer any questions regarding their research*

**Abstract #7:** A local review of the use of fresh frozen plasma and extended life plasma

**Abstract #21:** Colorectal Cancer Outcomes at the Northern Hospital: A Retrospective Review 2016 – 2021

**Abstract #38:** What is the correct duration of antimicrobials in infected, obstructed nephrolithiasis?

**Abstract #41:** When not to test JAK2: real-world JAK2 mutation testing for the investigation of erythrocytosis

**Abstract #44:** Malnutrition Point Prevalence Study 2025

**Abstract #55:** Pre-operative Diagnosis of Idiopathic Myointimal Hyperplasia of Mesenteric Veins via TAMIS Biopsy

**Abstract #57:** Palliative care and quality of end-of-life: evidence from a Victorian public hospital

**Abstract #61:** Can Weekly Telephone Support Prolong Breastfeeding Duration in Mothers at High Risk of Early Cessation?

**Abstract #94:** Co-design an Acupuncture Protocol for Acute Pain in Emergency Departments

*Note: Posters on display may be subject to change*



# RESEARCH WEEK PROGRAM

**Tuesday, 21st October 2025**

## LECTURE SESSION 2: HEALTH RESEARCH IN THE DIGITAL AGE

NCHER Lecture Theatre 1 (and via Teams)

**10.30am – 12.00pm**

**Chairs: Professor Adam Semciw & Associate Professor Rebecca Jessup**



**Keynote: Professor James Boyd**

### *Health Research in the Digital Age*

#### **Synopsis:**

The presentation explains the transformation of healthcare driven by digital technology. The presentation highlights the move from a traditional, hospital-based care model to a more consumer-led, digitally connected one, outlining drivers such as technological advancements and demographic changes. The presentation also identifies a range of digital health solutions, discusses the opportunities and challenges of this shift, with a significant focus on health equity and the potential for a digital divide, and highlights the importance of digital data for population-level health research. It concludes by showcasing various research examples and educational programs in the field of digital health.

#### **Bio:**

Professor James Boyd is the inaugural Chair of Digital Health at La Trobe University. With over 25 years of experience using large, linked population-based health datasets, he has led research that informs health service monitoring, evaluation, and innovation. A pioneer in developing Privacy-preserving Record Linkage (PPRL) methodology, Professor Boyd's work has advanced public health insights, improved healthcare delivery, and supported the development of digital health solutions. Over the past decade, he has focused on building digital technology platforms to enable virtual care and remote monitoring, including supporting the establishment of a virtual emergency department model during the COVID-19 pandemic that has since been scaled to a state-wide service.

*The keynote presentation will be followed by a panel discussion featuring **Professor Adam Semciw, Associate Professor Rebecca Jessup, Dr Loren Sher, Dr Jennie Hutton and Mr Tom Collins** - who will share insights on equity lessons from the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department.*



# RESEARCH WEEK PROGRAM

**Tuesday, 21st October 2025 cont'd**

## **LIGHT LUNCH AND NETWORKING**

**NCHER Level 1 Atrium**

**12.00pm – 12.30pm**

## **LECTURE SESSION 3: ALLIED HEALTH – STEPPING INTO RESEARCH**

**NCHER Lecture Theatre 1 (and via Teams)**

**1.00pm - 2.00pm**

**Chairs: Emily Farrugia and Professor Adam Semciw**

*This session will showcase Northern Health allied health clinicians who participated in the **Stepping into Research Program** and successfully completed systematic reviews.*



### **Simone LeBel**

**Topic:** *The Effect of Early Outpatient Physiotherapy on Outcomes Following Lower Limb Arthroplasty: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.*

#### **Bio:**

Simône LeBel is a senior physiotherapist working across outpatients and the elective orthopaedic screening clinic. With a focus on research, Simone completed the Stepping Into Research program in 2024, resulting in a publication in Wiley journal alongside her mentors and co-authors Dr David Snowdon, Dr Matthew King and Professor Adam Semciw.



### **Monika Sekulov**

**Topic:** *Allied health training and education for parents of high-risk infants; impact on*

#### **Bio:**

Monika is a paediatric speech pathologist with strong interests in research and completed the Stepping Into Research program in 2024 and is currently preparing her systematic review for publication.



# RESEARCH WEEK PROGRAM

**Tuesday, 21st October 2025 cont'd**

## LECTURE SESSION 3: ALLIED HEALTH – STEPPING INTO RESEARCH

NCHER Lecture Theatre 1 (and via Teams)

*This session will showcase Northern Health allied health clinicians who participated in the **Stepping into Research Program** and successfully completed systematic reviews.*



### Rebecca Turnbull

**Topic:** *Implementation of home-based HIIT in adults with cardiac disease: a systematic review using the RE-AIM framework.*

**Bio:**

Rebecca is a Senior Exercise Physiologist working in the Community Therapy Service at Bundoora Centre. She completed the Stepping Into Research program in 2023 and since then, has been working on her publication with her research team – Dylan Perera, Dr Hazel Heng and Dr Adam Semciw. Rebecca's systematic review has just been accepted for publication in the European Journal of Physiotherapy. She holds particular interests in cardiovascular disease and how exercise programs are delivered to achieve optimal outcomes for patients.



### Jonathon Citroen

**Topic:** *The effect of physiotherapy contact in the Emergency Department on hospital re-presentations: A systematic review and meta-regression.*

**Bio:**

Jonathon is a secondary contact physiotherapist who has worked in the ED at the Northern Hospital for just over four years. With the growing interest in physiotherapy and advanced practice physiotherapy in the ED, Jonathon joined the Stepping into Research Program last year to contribute to the expanding body of evidence demonstrating the benefits of physiotherapists in this setting. Jonathon's research focuses on highlighting not only the value of advanced practice physiotherapy but also the role of secondary contact physiotherapy in improving patient outcomes when presenting to the ED.



# RESEARCH WEEK PROGRAM

**Tuesday, 21st October 2025** cont'd

## POSTER SESSION 2

Foyer - Northern Hospital, Epping.

2.30pm – 3.30pm (displayed all day)

*Authors of posters will be in attendance to answer any questions regarding their research*

**Abstract #1:** Mental Health Nurses burnout and implications upon recovery-orientated care within the inpatient mental health services

**Abstract #5:** The effect of early post-operative outpatient physiotherapy on outcomes following lower limb arthroplasty: a systematic review and meta-analysis

**Abstract #11:** Historical analysis of initial post-caesarean analgesia: Intravenous vs per rectal

**Abstract #19:** Plasmin generation assay in predicting arterial thrombotic outcome in patients with chronic kidney disease

**Abstract #52:** Bidirectional Associations Between Patient Activation and Engagement in Digital Care Pathways

**Abstract #69:** A hepatology home-based care program improves readmissions and mortality in recently hospitalised patients with cirrhosis

**Abstract #77:** Barriers and enablers to evidence-based care for laparotomy wounds: A scoping review

**Abstract #91:** Swabs to Withhold Irrigation and Promote Surgical Efficiency: A prospective pilot study protocol

*Note: Posters on display may be subject to change*



# RESEARCH WEEK PROGRAM

**Wednesday, 22nd October 2025**

## POSTER SESSION 3

Foyer - Northern Hospital, Epping.

**10.00am – 11.00am (displayed all day)**

*Authors of posters will be in attendance to answer any questions regarding their research*

- Abstract #4:** Perioperative Outcomes in Smokers Undergoing Major Surgery: A Retrospective Audit at Northern Health
- Abstract #12:** Improving sexual and reproductive health of those with serious mental illness: scoping review
- Abstract #33:** A Cross Comparison of Jaundice Measurement Techniques in the Neonatal Unit
- Abstract #42:** Utility of Repeat B-type Natriuretic Peptides in Inpatients
- Abstract #66:** Trends in pleural disease admitted to Victorian public hospitals: An accumulating challenge
- Abstract #75:** User experience of a person-centred, ambulatory model of care for the management of malignant pleural effusion
- Abstract #74:** High rates of oral 5-aminosalicylic acid co-prescription with advanced therapy in patients with ulcerative colitis
- Abstract #76:** Healthcare expense in patients with acute severe ulcerative colitis (ASUC) is driven by initial length of stay and need for rescue therapy
- Abstract #96:** Timely administration of Enoxaparin following caesarean section for VTE prevention: A retrospective audit

*Note: Posters on display may be subject to change*



# RESEARCH WEEK PROGRAM

**Wednesday, 22nd October 2025** cont'd

## LECTURE SESSION 4: RESEARCH GRAND ROUND – TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

NCHER Lecture Theatre 1 (and via Teams)

**12.00pm – 1.00pm**

Chair: **Professor Shekhar Kumta**



**Keynote: Distinguished Professor Vasso Apostolopoulos AM**

***From Bench to Bedside: Translating Cancer Vaccine Research into the Clinic***

### Synopsis:

The field of vaccinology has undergone a remarkable transformation, evolving from traditional live-attenuated and inactivated vaccines to protein- and peptide-based formulations, whole-tumour vaccines, and, most recently, mRNA-based platforms. These innovations have not only revolutionised infectious disease prevention but are now driving a new era in cancer. Cancer vaccines represent one of the most promising frontiers, aiming to stimulate the immune system against markers expressed on cancer cells. This presentation will highlight the latest breakthroughs in cancer vaccines, personalised cancer vaccines and combination approaches to include immune checkpoint inhibitors and other immunomodulators. Finally, my personal expertise in cancer vaccine development in the last 30 years, from biomarker discovery to vaccine development to human clinical trials and what have been our learnings will be presented. Collectively, all these perspectives will illustrate how cancer vaccines are redefining immunotherapy and moving us closer to precision, durable, and widely applicable cancer treatments.

### Bio:

***Distinguished Professor Vasso Apostolopoulos AM***

Vasso is Head of the Healthy Lifespan and Chronic Diseases Program at RMIT University. Her expertise spans immunology, x-ray crystallography, medicinal chemistry, cellular biology, biomarker discovery, and translational research. She focuses on improving health and longevity through vaccine and drug development, discovery of bioactive compounds for chronic diseases, and AI-driven healthcare solutions. Her work addresses cancer, autoimmunity, infectious diseases, pandemic preparedness, metabolic disorders, and drug addiction, while promoting lifestyle interventions. With over 520 publications, 20 patents, and supervision of 70+ students, Vasso ranks among the top 0.13% of researchers globally and is a sought-after speaker.



# RESEARCH WEEK PROGRAM

**Wednesday, 22nd October 2025** cont'd

## LIGHT LUNCH AND NETWORKING

NCHER Level 1 Atrium

1.00pm

## LECTURE SESSION 5: BEST ABSTRACT ORAL PRESENTATIONS SESSION A

NCHER Lecture Theatre 1 (and via Teams)

2.00pm – 3.15pm

Chair: **Associate Professor Justine Ellis**

**Abstract #78:** Partnering with the community to co-design abortion care in Melbourne's north

Presenter: **Eleanor Johnson**

**Abstract #43:** Early Infliximab therapy is associated with reduced length of stay in acute severe ulcerative colitis

Presenter: **Dr Calvin Xu**

**Abstract #46:** Real-world outcomes in early stage resected pancreatic cancer. Can we do better?

Presenter: **Tao Ouyang**

**Abstract #62:** Impact of limited English proficiency on cognitive enhancer prescription rates

Presenter: **Dr Eva Stachnik**

**Abstract #73:** Association of Acute Kidney Injury with Non-Home Discharge in Critically Ill Elderly Patients: A retrospective study

Presenter: **Junzhe Zhu**

**Abstract #92:** Delirium risk prediction from routinely collected electronic health records: model development and internal validation

Presenter: **Dr Swapna Gokhale PhD**



# RESEARCH WEEK PROGRAM

**Thursday, 23rd October 2025**

## LECTURE SESSION 6: MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS

Northern Hospital, Ground Floor, Main Hospital Lecture Theatre (and via Teams)

**8.00am – 9.00am**

Chair: **Associate Professor Craig Aboltins**



**Keynote: Dr Katharine See**

### ***Outcomes for Impact: Redesigning Healthcare Around What Matters Most***

#### **Synopsis:**

Healthcare is at a tipping point. Traditional models built around activity and volume are no longer enough to deliver meaningful results for people or health systems. This presentation explores how Northern Health's "Outcomes for Impact" strategy is transforming care by focusing on what matters most - measuring outcomes that reflect real lives, using data to guide decisions, and redesigning services to deliver person-centred value. Through case studies in asthma care, virtual cardiac rehabilitation, and paediatric tonsillectomy, it will show how outcomes-driven innovation can improve equity, experience, and effectiveness, while shaping the future of healthcare across Victoria and beyond.

#### **Bio:**

Dr Katharine See is the Chief Health Outcomes Officer and Director of Respiratory Medicine at Northern Health where she leads the Clinical Leadership, Effectiveness and Outcomes team. She is responsible for implementing outcomes collection via digital care pathways, redesigning clinical models of care by enhancing multidisciplinary collaboration, and implementing new technologies all aimed at achieving better outcomes for individuals and better health for populations. Katharine is passionate about driving change towards value-based health care and healthcare reform. She believes digital health will help to deliver the outcomes that matter most of patients and communities.



# RESEARCH WEEK PROGRAM

**Thursday, 23rd October 2025** cont'd

## LECTURE SESSION 7: BEST ABSTRACT ORAL PRESENTATIONS SESSION B

NCHER Lecture Theatre 1 (and via Teams)

**10.00am – 11.15am**

Chair: **Dr Tilini Gunatillake**

**Abstract #24:** The Impact of Socio-economic Status on Outcomes following ICU admission in Australia: A Linked-Database Study

Presenter: **Dr Sing Tan**

**Abstract #3:** Pre-operative fasting times and the incidence of regurgitation and aspiration – a single-network retrospective data analysis

Presenter: **Ella Francis**

**Abstract #15:** Large Bore Mechanical Thrombectomy for Intermediate-High Risk Pulmonary Embolism: Northern Health Experience

Presenter: **Dr Roy Kingsley Wong**

**Abstract #64:** Fibrinogen Spectral Analysis via FTIR and Multivariate Analyses for Enhanced Risk Stratification in Venous Thromboembolism

Presenter: **Dr Sanjana Prasad**

**Abstract #67:** Tracking a growing burden: trends in admissions for malignant pleural disease in Victoria

Presenter: **Dr Victor Duong**

**Abstract #85:** Evaluating the Appropriateness of Proton Pump Inhibitor Prescribing in General Medical Inpatients

Presenter: **Hirusha Liyanage Kananke**



# RESEARCH WEEK PROGRAM

**Thursday, 23rd October 2025** cont'd

## POSTER SESSION 4

Foyer - Northern Hospital, Epping.

1.00pm – 2.00pm (displayed all day)

*Authors of posters will be in attendance to answer any questions regarding their research*

**Abstract #13:** Balancing safety and efficiency: Outcomes of a low-risk pulmonary embolism discharge pathway

**Abstract #16:** Cirrhosis severity correlates with reduced fibrin generation and enhanced fibrinolysis

**Abstract #17:** Impact of ABO blood group on global coagulation assays

**Abstract #27:** Neurodevelopmental Outcomes and Associated Risk Factors in Moderate to Late Preterm Infants: A Retrospective Study

**Abstract #45:** A Retrospective Review of Neonatal Bilious Vomiting in a Non-Tertiary Neonatal Unit

**Abstract #56:** Comparing Neuraxial Opioid Techniques for Caesarean Section Analgesia: A Northern Health Study

**Abstract #68:** Does ERAS affect opiate use and outcomes in arthroplasty?

**Abstract #93:** From Lipid Extraction to Analysis: Clinical Potential of Vibrational Spectroscopy for Lipid Profiling in Plasma

**Abstract #95:** Patient experiences of Medical Obstetrics at Home (MOAH) care at Northern Health: A qualitative study

*Note: Posters on display may be subject to change*

## LECTURE SESSION 8: SURGICAL RESEARCH FORUM

Northern Hospital, Ground Floor, Main Hospital Lecture Theatre (and via Teams)

5.30pm - 7.00pm

Chair: **Associate Professor Russell Hodgson**

*A showcase of surgical research being undertaken at Northern Health*



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**Friday, 24th October 2025**

**LECTURE SESSION 9: NORTHERN HEALTH FOUNDATION RESEARCH BREAKFAST | FUTURE-FOCUSED**

**NCHER Conference Room 3.1 (and via Teams)**

**8.00am – 10.30am**

**Chair: Associate Professor Mayur Garg**



## *Introduction to the Northern Health Foundation*

**Pina Di Donato**

**Executive Director of Foundation & Public Affairs, Northern Health**

**Keynote: Associate Professor Sam Forster**

## *Making Microbiome-Based Medicines a Reality*

### **Synopsis:**

Microbiome-based medicines hold enormous potential for transforming human health, yet that promise has not yet been fully realised. Less than a decade ago, we developed key methods to grow the majority of bacteria that naturally inhabit the human gut, a key advance in the design of rationally targeted therapies. The focus has now shifted from generic probiotics to therapies composed of key health-associated species identified through sampling directly at the site of disease rather than from faecal material. Current research centres on identifying the right combination of bacteria for the right patient or cohort at the right time and producing these reproducibly and at scale. Together, these advances are laying the foundation for microbiome therapeutics that are precise, effective and ready for clinical application.

### **Bio:**

Associate Professor Sam Forster is a CSL Centenary Fellow and Research Group Leader at the Hudson Institute of Medical Research and Co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer of BiomeBank. His academic research is dedicated to developing precise, technology-driven approaches to modulate the human microbiome. This research spans the creation of advanced tools to characterize microbiome changes across a spectrum of conditions including Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Irritable Bowel Syndrome and early-life disorders with specific focus on how factors such as diet, antibiotics, phage and microbial composition influence community structure and resilience. This integrated knowledge underpins the development of next-generation microbiome-based medicines.



# RESEARCH WEEK PROGRAM

**Friday, 24th October 2025** cont'd

## CLINICAL TRANSLATION PARTNERSHIP

9.10am - 9.40am

Hear from *Professor Prahlad Ho, Professor Catherine Itsiopoulos and Professor Shekhar Kumta* as they present about the Clinical Translation Partnership.

## 5-minute Funding Celebration

9.40am - 10.05am

*Rapid-fire presentations from Northern Health Chief Investigators on successful competitive research grants.*

- **Professor Adam Semciw**

Musculoskeletal Wellness Program: A virtual pre-operative program to support older adults through joint replacement surgery

- **Dr Katharine See**

Embedding AI in Cardiac Point-of-Care Ultrasound: A path to improved efficiency and person-centred outcomes

- **Dr Loren Sher**

Transforming the delivery of acute cardiac care: Getting the right patient, the right care, at the right time and place

- **Dr Sanjeevan Muruganandan**

A) Implementation Research to Improve Outcomes in Primary Spontaneous Pneumothorax (iIMPROVE PSP)

B) Evaluation of a digital health model of care for the management of adults with symptomatic malignant pleural effusion



# RESEARCH WEEK PROGRAM

**Friday, 24th October 2025** cont'd

## NETWORKING AND REFRESHMENTS

10.05am - 10.30am

## THE GREAT DEBATE

10.30am - 11.15am

Moderated by: **Associate Professor Mayur Garg**

**Back by popular demand!** Join us for one of the most entertaining and thought-provoking highlights of Research Week 2025 – **The Great Debate**.

*This year, two teams of leading clinicians, researchers, and academics will go head-to-head, arguing for and against a provocative research question guaranteed to spark lively discussion and laughter.*

**Great Debate Topic: Robots will replace clinicians by 2050.**

### **Affirmative Team**

*Professor Don Campbell*

*Dr Russell Hodgson*

*Dr Karen Barclay*

### **Negative Team**

*Ravinder Kumar*

*Associate Professor Rebecca Jessup*

*Professor Shekhar Kumta*



# RESEARCH WEEK PROGRAM

**Friday, 24th October 2025** cont'd

## AWARDS CEREMONY

**11.15am - 11.30am**

Chair: **Professor Prahlad Ho**

*Join us as we announce the award recipients for the best poster and oral presentations and celebrate the great work being done by Northern Health researchers.*

*Awards will be presented by **Professor Prahlad Ho** (Chair of Research Executive Committee and Chief Medical Officer) and **Chris Harding** (Director of the Northern Health Foundation).*

## WRAP-UP & CLOSE

**11.30-11.45am**

*Please join us for the formal closing of Research Week Northern Health for 2025.*