



RESEARCH WEEK

20-24 OCTOBER 2025

INSPIRED RESEARCHERS

Northern Health

HEALTHCARE 2050



Thank you to our generous sponsors

Monday, 20th October 2025 – Day 1

Lecture Session 1: Grand Opening and Keynote (NCHER Lecture Theatre 1 & via Teams)

Chair: A/Prof Mayur Garg

12.30-12.40pm

Ms Debra Bourne (Chief Executive, Northern Health)
A/Prof Mayur Garg (Acting Director of Research, Northern Health)
Title: Welcome to Research Week 2025

12.40 – 1.40pm

Keynote: Professor Vassilis Kostakos (School of Computing and Human Information Systems, University of Melbourne)
Title: A human-centred approach to digital health

1.40pm

Refreshments & Networking (NCHER L1 Atrium)

Poster Session 1: (Main Foyer TNH Epping) (Posters mounted at 9am, removed at 5pm)

3.00-4.00pm

Poster authors in attendance to answer questions about 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 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

Tuesday, 21st October 2025 – Day 2

**Lecture Session 2: Health Research in the Digital Age (NCHER Lecture Theatre 1 & via Teams)
(With La Trobe University)**

Chairs: Prof Adam Semciw & A/Prof Rebecca Jessup

10.30am - 12.00pm	Keynote: Professor James Boyd (La Trobe University) Title: Health Research in the Digital Age <i>The keynote presentation will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Professor Adam Semciw, A/Prof 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.</i>
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12.00	Light Lunch & Networking (NCHER L1 Atrium)
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Lecture Session 3: Allied Health - Stepping Into Research (NCHER Lecture Theatre 1 & via Teams)

Chairs: Emily Farrugia and Prof Adam Semciw

1.00 – 2.00pm	Speakers: • Simone LeBel - The Effect of Early Outpatient Physiotherapy on Outcomes Following Lower Limb Arthroplasty: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. • Monika Sekulov - Allied health training and education for parents of high-risk infants; impact on the parenting role and infant developmental outcomes. • Rebecca Turnbull - Implementation of home-based HIIT in adults with cardiac disease: a systematic review using the RE-AIM framework. • Jonathon Citroen - The effect of physiotherapy contact in the Emergency Department on hospital re-presentations: A systematic review and meta-regression.
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Poster Session 2: (Main Foyer TNH Epping) (Posters mounted at 9am, removed at 5pm)

2.30-3.30pm	Poster authors in attendance to answer questions about 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
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Poster Session 3: (Main Foyer TNH Epping) (Posters mounted at 9am, removed at 5pm)

10.00-11.00am	Poster authors in attendance to answer questions about 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
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Lecture session 4: Research Grand Round – Translational Research (NCHER Lecture Theatre 1 & via Teams)
Chair: Prof Shekhar Kumta

12.00-1.00pm	Speaker: Distinguished Professor Vasso Apostolopoulos AM (RMIT University) Title: From Bench to Bedside: Translating Cancer Vaccine Research into the Clinic
1.00pm	Light Lunch & networking (NCHER L1 Atrium)

Lecture Session 5: Best Abstract Oral Presentations Session A (NCHER Lecture Theatre 1 & via Teams)
Chair: A/Prof Justine Ellis

2.00-3.15pm	Oral presentations from the authors of the top-ranked abstract submissions • 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: Mr 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
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Thursday, 23rd October 2025 – Day 4

Lecture Session 6: Medical Grand Round (Main Hospital Lecture Theatre & via Teams)

Chair: A/Prof Craig Aboltins

8.00-9.00am

Keynote: Dr Katharine See (Clinical Leadership, Effectiveness and Outcomes (CLEO), Northern Health)

Title: Outcomes for Impact: Redesigning Healthcare Around What Matters Most

Lecture Session 7: Best Abstract Oral Presentations Session B (NCHER Lecture Theatre 1 & [via Teams](#))

Chair: Dr Tilini Gunatillake

10.00 - 11.15am

Oral presentations from the authors of the top-ranked abstract submissions

- **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:** Miss 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

Poster Session 4: (Main Foyer TNH Epping) (Posters mounted at 9am, removed at 5pm)

1.00-2.00pm

Poster authors in attendance to answer questions about 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

Lecture Session 8: Surgical Research Forum (Main Hospital Lecture Theatre & via Teams)

Chair: A/Prof Russell Hodgson

5.30pm –
7.00pm

A showcase of surgical research being undertaken at Northern Health

Friday, 24th October 2025 – Day 5

Lecture Session 9: Northern Health Foundation Research Breakfast: Future-Focused

(NCHER Conference Rm 3.1 & via Teams)

Chair: A/Prof Mayur Garg

7.45am	Breakfast buffet sponsored by NH Foundation
8.00 – 8.05am	Introduction to the Northern Health Foundation Speaker: Pina Di Donato (Executive Director, Public Affairs and Foundation)
8.05 – 9.05am	Keynote: A/Prof Sam Forster (Hudson Institute of Medical Research) Title: Making Microbiome-Based Medicines a Reality
9.05-9.10am	Short refreshment break
9.10 – 9.40am	Clinical Translation Partnership Speakers: • Prof Prahlad Ho (CMO, Northern Health) • Prof Catherine Itsiopoulos (DVC, STEM College, RMIT University) • Prof Shekhar Kumta (Translational Medicine, RMIT University & Northern Health) • Prof Ricky O'Brien (Deputy Dean, Research & Innovation from the School of Health and Biomedical Sciences, RMIT)
9.40 – 10.05am	'5-minute Funding' Celebration: Rapid-fire presentations from Northern Health Chief Investigators on recent successful nationally competitive research grants. • Prof 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
10.05 - 10.30am	Networking & refreshments
The Great Debate (NCHER Conference Rm 3.1 & via Teams) Moderator: A/Prof Mayur Garg	
10.30 -11.15am	'Robots will replace clinicians by 2050' Affirmative Team: Don Campbell, Russell Hodgson, Karen Barclay Negative Team: Ravinder Kumar, Rebecca Jessup, Shekhar Kumta
Awards Ceremony, Wrap Up & Close Chair: Prof Prahlad Ho	
11.15 - 11.30am	Awards Ceremony Awards presented by Prof Prahlad Ho (CMO) and Chris Harding (Director, NH Foundation) Best Poster Awards, People's Choice Poster (including digital posters) and Best Oral Presentation awards including the Peter Brooks Research Award.
11.30 - 11.45am	Wrap up & Close