

RESEARCH DIGEST ISSUE #38



June 15th 2026

Monthly Edition: Researcher Spotlight

Meet Vicky Kartsogiannis!

Tell us about your background.

I have since been working as a Research Coordinator in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery for almost 10 years now and have been fortunate to be involved in a vast array of different studies: from sponsored Clinical Trials to Investigator-initiated clinical studies to national registries to conducting basic Quality Assurance (QA) audits.



What's your day-to-day life as an orthopedic surgery research coordinator?

My day-to-day schedule can vary widely depending on the anticipated deadlines or specific study requirements or Outpatient Clinic schedules. It can include...patient recruitment, study management, data collection, and collaboration.

What do you envision or hope to see in the future for this department's clinical trials or research pathway?

I hope to see us continue to integrate digital health initiatives. Furthermore, I look forward to our department capitalising on the recent Clinical Research Translation Partnership to translate technological advances into clinical practice for Melbourne's growing northern corridor.

What is the kind of projects one can expect going into orthopaedic surgery research?

Randomised controlled trials, joint arthropathy studies, patient-reported outcomes.

Can you give any advice for someone new who might be interested in going down this pathway or working in this field of research?

My main advice would be to be adaptable, show initiative, and maintain rigorous attention to detail.

Clinical research is highly collaborative, so your communication skills with clinicians, colleagues and patients are just as important as your technical knowledge.

How do you find the research culture to be in both your department and Northern Health as a whole?

The research culture at Northern Health is highly innovative and collaborative. It's an incredibly supportive environment for both new and established researchers. The support for career development and cross-department collaboration makes it a rewarding place to work.

The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery has had a long-standing involvement in research activities for a number of years. The opportunities are endless. All you need is to have a strong desire and commitment to advancing evidence-based care.

Northern Health Research Hub

The **Research Hub** is your one-stop shop for everything you need to plan, start, and successfully complete research at Northern Health.

Designed to support staff at every stage of the research journey, the Hub brings together practical guidance, tools, and resources in one easy-to-navigate place. Whether you are new to research or building on existing experience, you'll find helpful content across key areas.

The Research Hub has been created to simplify processes, build confidence, and connect you with the support you need to turn ideas into impactful research.



👉 Visit the **Research Hub** today and take the next step in your research journey.

Log into LMS - search for the “Research Hub” course and dive in!

More Information

The MACH Track future leaders' program is now taking application for its 2027 cohort

A structured, mentored, fully funded career development pathway for health practitioners pursuing research training



Applications close: 03rd August 2026 (9am, AEST)

[More Information](#)

Webinar

Australia's National Health and Medical Research Strategy

The National Health and Medical Research Strategy 2026–2036 sets out a 10-year vision for strengthening Australia's health and medical research system and improving outcomes for the community.

Join our upcoming public webinar for an overview of the Strategy. This session will walk through the key themes, priorities and opportunities identified in the Strategy, and what they mean for the sector.

Date & Time: Friday 26 June 2026 from 10:00AM–12:00PM AEST.

[More Information](#)

Grants Opportunities

National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health: Innovation Seed Funding Grants

These grants support practical projects that improve how care is delivered for people with intellectual disability.

Funding is available for up to two project, with each project able to receive up to \$100,000.

Applications close: Monday 13 July 2026

[More information](#)



Monthly NCTGF Nudge

NCTGF Nudge: Workforce Roles & Training (Action 1.20)

Workforce capability is central to delivering safe, high-quality, and compliant research. Under Action 1.20 of the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework (NCTGF), health services are expected to ensure that all staff involved in research have clearly defined roles, appropriate qualifications, and access to training relevant to their responsibilities.

A well-supported research workforce strengthens study quality, participant safety, and regulatory compliance.

This includes ensuring that delegated responsibilities are documented appropriately, training records are maintained, and staff remain current with mandatory and role-specific education requirements such as Good Clinical Practice (GCP).

Embedding workforce planning and training into routine research operations also supports continuity across studies and helps sites prepare for audits, monitoring activities, and accreditation requirements.

Check Your Readiness

- Are research roles and responsibilities clearly documented for all study staff?
- Are delegation and training records current and appropriately filed?
- Have all team members completed required research and GCP training?
- Is there a process to identify and address ongoing workforce training needs?
- Would your site be able to demonstrate workforce compliance if reviewed today?

Nudge to Action

Take 10–15 minutes this week to review your study team training and delegation documentation. Identify any expired or missing training records and ensure workforce responsibilities remain current and clearly documented.

- Workforce Roles & Training resources available on the intranet: Templates for NH Researchers
- Research training resources available on the LMS Research Hub: [Link here](#)

Reminder: *Maintaining accurate workforce and training documentation is an important part of demonstrating compliance with the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework.*

Northern Health Publications

Publications are selected from strongly Northern Health-led research at the discretion of RDGU Office.

- Draper L, Shukla A, Jagadheesan K, Suleiman M. Community follow-up of mental health consumers discharged from forensic services. *Australas Psychiatry*. 2026 May 29;10398562261453300. doi: 10.1177/10398562261453300. Epub ahead of print. [PMID: 42216251](#).
- Fan WQ, Zhang J, Bourne D, Tran D. A Post Hoc Analysis of Demographic, Socioeconomic, Health and Mental Health Factors Following a Lactation-Consultant-Led Telephone Breastfeeding Support Program. *Nutrients*. 2026 May 18;18(10):1601. doi: 10.3390/nu18101601. [PMID: 42197065](#); PMID: PMC13209951.
- Cai T, Ho P, Wang J. Proteomic Biomarkers in VTE: From Discovery to Clinical Translation. *J Clin Med*. 2026 May 13;15(10):3745. doi: 10.3390/jcm15103745. [PMID: 42194710](#); PMID: PMC13207958.
- Clayton D, Grover S. "Dream Insertion": A Case Report of a Novel Psychotic Symptom in a Male Inpatient With Treatment Resistant Schizophrenia. *Case Rep Psychiatry*. 2026 Jan 16;2026:3048932. doi: 10.1155/crps/3048932. [PMID: 41550547](#); PMID: PMC12811623.
- Subhi R, Burhin M, From permission to pride: a realist synthesis of how to improve emergency care for children in low-income and lower-middle-income countries. *Lancet Glob Health*. June 2026 12. doi:10.1016/j.langlo.2026.103972. [PMID: 42285122](#).

If you would like to feature any items on the Research Digest, [Please contact us](#).

Research Development & Governance Unit

Level 3, Northern Centre for Health Education and Research
185 Cooper Street Epping Vic 3076