

Agenda

Workshop to explore technologies to improve recruitment into clinical trials in Australia

Location: Online (zoom webinar).

Date: Friday, 21st October 2022

Time: 2:00 – 4:30 pm AEDT

AGENDA ITEMS	Time
1. Prof Nik Zeps: Introduction to Clinical Trial Recruitment 1.1. Background and context of the problem 1.2. Current knowledge, and research on technologies for recruitment	2:00 pm – 2:10 pm (10min)
2. Panel Discussion 1 – Technology implementation and utilisation Moderator: Prof Nik Zeps 2.1. Understanding the spectrum of participant recruitment technologies and how they are used across the patient journey in the health system. What are the key opportunities, and practical ways forward for improving patient recruitment with technologies? (25min) 2.2. How can technology achieve better equity and diversity in clinical trials recruitment (10min) 2.3. Consumer perspectives on recruitment technologies (10min) 2.4. Q & A (15min)	2:10 pm – 3:10pm (1hr)
BREAK – 10 mins	3:10 pm – 3:20pm (10min)
3. Panel Discussion 2 – Evaluating technologies and looking forward Moderator: Prof Nik Zeps 3.1. Potential approaches to support widespread implementation of recruitment technologies into the healthcare system, addressing barriers to recruitment technology implementation including policy barriers (20min) 3.2. Evaluation framework for evaluating efficiency of recruitment technologies (KPIs, access, cost/health economic benefit, sustainability etc) (20min) 3.3. Key steps ACTA can take to support recruitment through implementation of innovative technologies, to achieve faster recruitment long-term (20min)	3:20 pm – 4:20pm (1hr)
4. Prof Nik Zeps: Summary of day, next steps (workshop follow-up and set of recommendations for recruitment technologies, sector impact, survey)	4:20pm – 4:30 pm (10min)

ACTA's scoping review will be distributed as a pre-workshop reading material to all attendees.

ACTA Exploring Technologies to Improve Recruitment Workshop Panellists

Workshop facilitator; Prof Nik Zeps



Adjunct Professor Nik Zeps is an experienced Research Director with a demonstrated track record of leadership in clinical trials, biomarker discovery research, medical ethics, and regulatory affairs. He was most recently the Research Director of the largest non-profit healthcare chain in Victoria (Epworth Healthcare). Nik is an Adjunct Professor through the Eastern Health Clinical School of Monash University and is Clinical Research lead for Monash Partners.

He is currently a consultant, through his company Chrysalis Health Group, to several organisations including Movember, the Cancer Council Victoria, the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Queensland Health, the Office for Health and Medical Research NSW, Nepean and Blue Mountains LHD, Sydney Children's Hospitals Network, the University of Sydney, Northern Health, Barwon Health, and Deakin University.

He has held leadership roles in National and International research programs including the NHMRC Research Committee and Australian Health Ethics Committee. In 2017 he was commissioned to co-write the current Australian Clinical Trials Handbook for the TGA and was awarded the NHMRC Ethics Prize in recognition of his contribution to human research ethics in Australia. Nik was a founding Director of the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA) and leads the embedding trials and rapid trial start up initiatives.

Workshop Panellists



Prof Yun-Hee Jeon is Susan and Isaac Wakil Professor of Healthy Ageing, Susan Wakil School of Nursing and Midwifery, the University of Sydney, and Director of StepUp for Dementia Research and StepUp for Ageing Research. She has expertise in dementia and aged care models of care focusing on person centred care, reablement and rehabilitation, and clinical leadership in long-term care settings. She also leads several initiatives for public and patient involvement in research and citizen science.



Dr Helen Kavnoudias BAppSc PGCertIT PhD

Head of The Alfred Radiology Research Unit, Adjunct Senior Lecturer/Senior Research Fellow, Department of Surgery, Monash University, Adjunct Senior Lecturer/Senior Research Fellow, Department of Neuroscience, Monash University

Helen has worked in clinical research for 35 years, beginning with a PhD on Myeloid Leukaemia, followed by a post-doc, academic and teaching role in the Physiology Dept at Melbourne University. For the last 20 years her main role has been conducting investigator initiated and commercial trials in the Radiology Dept at The Alfred. She has a keen interest in 'searchable clinical databases' and has helped inform the Health Informatics Dept at The Alfred on potential solutions for the development of 'cohort discovery tools' to facilitate clinical research.



Dr Brendan Smyth is a nephrologist at St George Hospital, Sydney, and a post-doctoral fellow at the NHRMC Clinical Trials Centre, University of Sydney. He completed a PhD in 2020 investigating randomized controlled trial methods and implementation in haemodialysis and led the development of the International Society of Nephrology Clinical Trials Toolkit. He is an ISN Emerging Leader for 2022-23 and now focuses on symptom management in kidney failure and innovative trial delivery in nephrology.



Ms Christine Zahren has a background in nursing with over 30+ yrs experience in healthcare. She has worked in various areas of health including aged care, acute care, rehabilitation medicine, dermatology specialist clinics, and surgery. Christine has extensive experience as a clinical trial nurse coordinator and spent 5 years managing the Dermatology Clinical Trials Unit at the Skin Health Institute in Victoria. Christine is currently the Business Development Manager for ClinTrial Refer. She joined the team in September 2018 following a merger between her participant recruitment company, 'Clinical Trials Connect'. The move was part of a joint vision to provide a central hub where people could access current clinical trial information. She is passionate about helping advance medical research and ensuring that people have access to medications and new therapies in their development phase.



Prof Bruce Neal is Professor of Medicine at UNSW Sydney and Executive Director of The George Institute Australia. Bruce has broad-based clinical and public health research expertise with a strong focus on the translation of research findings into enhanced care and better policies. He has particular experience in the fields of high blood pressure and diabetes and has played lead roles in multiple large-scale clinical trials. He has helped to design the Join Us research register for Australia with a view to transforming community engagement in medical research.



Jason D. Pole is a Professor in the Centre for Health Services Research (CHSR) The University of Queensland. Jason has a background in epidemiology and health services research with an emphasis in the use of real-world data. Jason is a member of the Queensland Digital Health Centre where he works with a multi-disciplinary team leading and collaborating on a variety of projects. These include analytics for clinical decisions support tools, methods for using real-world data to identify clinical trial participants and semi-autonomous analytic methods for text-based data arising from hospital-based incident reporting systems and patient reported experience and outcome measures. Jason sits on DSMBs for clinical trials largely in the area of paediatric oncology and additionally sits on The Australasian Kidney Trials Network (AKTN) Methodology Working Group.



Nicole Scholes-Robertson, BAppSci (Physiotherapy) is a physiotherapist, a post-doctoral research Fellow at The University of Sydney and a Patient Partner at the Centre for Kidney Research (CKR), with lived experience of peritoneal dialysis and kidney transplantation. Her research focus is on rural/remote patient access to kidney replacement therapy. Her role as patient partner/consumer within the kidney research area is extensive with roles including co-chair Beat-CKD Consumer advisory board, consumer member of the Australasian Kidney Trials network (AKTN) scientific

committee, and she is a CI on the NHMRC funded M-FIT, BEAT-BK and CRE-PACT, and a member SONG-GN steering committee. Nicole is also Consumer Editor for Cochrane Kidney and Transplant.



Dr Stefan Harrer joined IBM Research at the IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, New York, in 2008 where he worked together with Roche 454 on novel DNA-sequencing technologies. In 2015 he founded the Brain-Inspired Computing Research Program of IBM Research Australia. As IBM Senior Technical Staff Member, Global Lead of Epilepsy Research, and Member of the Neuroethics Working Group of the SVP and Director of IBM Research, he co-developed IBM's global technology and ethics strategy in Health AI and Neurotech. In 2021 Stefan was appointed Chief Innovation Officer of Digital Health CRC Ltd., a \$200M incubator and investor in digital health innovation. He is responsible for pre-seed incubation strategy, data & AI deep tech due diligence as well as commercial impact measurement & management due diligence. Stefan holds 71 granted patents in AI, bionanotech and medtech, a PhD in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the Technical University Munich (Munich and Cambridge, MA, USA), and an Honours Master's Degree in Technology Management from the Centre for Digital Technology and Management (Munich and Berkeley, CA, USA).



Dr Janelle Bowden has 20+ years of experience working in and around clinical trial operations in Australia and overseas, for sponsors, sites, and as a consultant. Janelle has a passion for creating more inclusive, accessible trials, and supporting greater consumer participation and involvement in research. Janelle social enterprise, AccessCR, provides clinical trial and consumer engagement services to the research sector (sites, sponsors, other organisations), so as to deliver on its mission to support, build capacity in, connect and advocate for the needs of the community and consumer research workforce (CCReW).



Professor Peter Gibbs is a laboratory head at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and a medical oncologist at the Western Hospital. He co-leads clinical and laboratory research programs, with a personal focus on colorectal biomarker studies and organoid models to better define optimal treatment. He is co-leading multiple randomised studies of ctDNA as a marker of minimal residual disease. He has previously led multiple large phase III clinical trials. He leads an expanding program in clinical registry based research across 8 cancer types, with a recent focus being the development of registry based randomized trials.



Professor Helena Teede AM PhD MBBS, FRACP, FAAHMS, FRANZCOG is the Executive Director of Monash Partners Academic Health Research Translation Centre, Director Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, School of Public Health, Monash University. She is also an NHMRC investigator Fellow, Chair of National AHRA Health Data Committee, and an Endocrinologist Monash Health. Her work includes a focus on data driven healthcare improvement and the Learning Health System, including extracting data as evidence from practice, and utilising data from routine care. Activities here include digital health and innovation.