

PROGRAM

Festschrift for Professor Frank Oberklaid AM

Thursday 21 March 2024

Ella Latham Theatre, The Royal Children's Hospital
50 Flemington Road, Parkville, VIC 3052

8:30am Registration

9:00am Introduction **Prof Sharon Goldfeld**, Director, CCCH



Professor Sharon Goldfeld is a paediatrician and Director at The Royal Children's Hospital's Centre for Community Child Health and Theme Director for Population Health at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. She has a decade of experience in state government as senior policymaker in health and education, including holding the role of Principal Medical Advisor in the Victorian Department of Education and Training. Her unique career has seamlessly straddled research, policy and practice with her cross-sectoral approach ensuring her research is robust and of high policy and practice utility for greater translation success.

9:30am Looking back, moving forward **A/Prof Jill Sewell**

A/Prof Jill Sewell has a longstanding interest in medical ethics, paediatric and other medical education, quality improvement, health policy and service delivery, medical regulation and medical workforce. She was responsible for the Victorian Training Program in Community Child Health for many years and was the inaugural Chair of the Victorian Council and completed a five year term as Clinical Director of the Children's Bioethics Centre.



9:45am Keynote **Naomi Eisenstadt CB**



Naomi Eisenstadt is chair of the NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board. After a long career in the NGO sector, in 1999 Naomi became Director of Sure Start. The Unit was responsible for delivering the Government's commitment to free nursery education places, the national childcare strategy, and Sure Start, a programme aiming to reduce the gap in outcomes between children living in disadvantaged areas and the wider child population. Naomi then spent 3 years heading the Social Exclusion Task Force. Naomi has chaired the Camden Equalities Commission, served as Adviser on poverty for the First Minister of Scotland, and published 2 books. She has recently co-authored with Professor Kathy Sylva, *Transforming Early Childhood: narrowing the gap between children from lower and higher income families*. Naomi is a trustee of the Financial Fairness Trust and the Education Endowment Foundation. She was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Open University in 2002 and in 2005 became a Companion of the Bath.

10:15am Early Childhood development: policy and practice

Chaired by **A/Prof Elisabeth Murphy**, NSW Ministry of Health



A/Prof Elisabeth Murphy is currently the Medical Advisor - Brighter Beginnings: The First 2000 Days of Life, NSW Ministry of Health. She has overseen the implementation of state wide early intervention programs including the NSW-wide screening programs for hearing (SWISH – Statewide Infant Screening – Hearing) and vision (StEPS) and children in Out of Home Care(OOHC); the Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Strategy and the promotion of health checks for improved child development and health in the NSW Personal Health Record. She has worked for many years as the Clinical Director – Child Youth and Family Health in Northern Sydney Local Health District and is the Discipline Health of Child Health at the School of Medicine, University of Notre Dame, Sydney. She is a past recipient of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians Medal and has been recognised as one of the top 50 Public Sector Women for NSW. In 2020 she was nominated as a Finalist for Public Servant of the Year.

Panel members

Hon Jay Weatherill AO, Minderoo Foundation

The Honourable Jay Weatherill AO is the Director of Public Affairs with the Minderoo Foundation and in that capacity leads the Thrive by Five campaign for early childhood reform. Jay was Premier of South Australia for over 6 years and Minister for 16 years in portfolios including Early Childhood. He holds Law and Economics degrees from the University of Adelaide. He is a Industry Professor at the University of South Australia and an Ambassador for Reggio Children. He was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in the 2021 Australia Day Honours list for his work in early childhood development. Jay is also a Graduate of the Company Directors Course and is a Board member for Infrastructure WA and Keystart WA.



Hon Jenny Macklin AC, The University of Melbourne

The Honourable Jenny Macklin AC is an Honorary Enterprise Professor, Social and Political Science at the University of Melbourne. She is the Chair, Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee to Treasurer and Minister for Social Services and chairs two not-for-profit boards, Odyssey House Victoria and the Machado Joseph Disease Foundation. Jenny has previously been a Member of the House of Representatives for 23 years including Minister in the Rudd and Gillard Governments. As Minister, she oversaw the Apology to the Stolen Generations and the Forgotten Australians, funding for Closing the Gap, the introduction of Australia’s first National Paid Parental Leave Scheme and National Disability Insurance Scheme and delivered the largest improvement to pensions.



Michael Traill AM, For Purpose Investment Partners

Michael was the founding CEO of Social Ventures Australia from 2002-14. Prior to this role, Michael spent 15 years as a Co-Founder and Executive Director of Macquarie Bank's private equity arm, Macquarie Direct Investment. Michael chairs Australia's largest charitable foundation, the Paul Ramsay Foundation, is a Director of Australian Retirement Trust, MH Carnegie & Co., Australian Philanthropic Services and Hearts & Minds Investments and was previously Chair of Goodstart Early Learning.



Michael chairs the Federal Government Social Impact Investing Taskforce and is the author 'Jumping Ship - from the world of corporate Australia to the heart of social investment', Winner Ashurst Business Literature Prize 2017.

10:45am - 11:15am Morning tea

11:30am Mental health and health services

Chaired by **Prof Vicki Anderson, Murdoch Children's Research Institute**



Professor Vicki Anderson is a paediatric neuropsychologist, working across clinical, research and academic sectors. She held the position of Director of Psychology Services at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia 2002-2023. She holds executive roles at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, including Director, Clinical Sciences Research and Clinical Lead of the Digital Health program. She is a Professorial Fellow at The University of Melbourne (Psychology & Paediatrics). Her research and clinical interests are in disorders of childhood that impact on the brain, including both developmental and acquired disorders, particularly traumatic brain injury and concussion. Her recent work has focussed on translating her early career findings into clinical practice to optimise child outcomes from acquired brain injury. She is a founding Board member of the International Paediatric Brain Injury Society, a Board member of the International Brain Injury Association, past president of the Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment, and past President of the International Neuropsychological Society.

Panel members

Dr Warren Cann, Parenting Research Centre

Dr Warren Cann is a clinically trained psychologist, and a Principal Advisor at the Parenting Research Centre. Prior to transitioning to this role in 2024, he was the CEO of the Parenting Research Centre for a period of 21 years. Warren is also a member of the Victorian Children's Council; a Board Director of the Raising Children Network and the Parenting and Family Research Alliance; and Honorary Senior Fellow, Social Work, The University of Melbourne.



Dr Simone Darling, Murdoch Children's Research Institute

Dr Simone Darling is a Senior Research Fellow, Social Innovation Lead and Senior Program Manager at Murdoch Children's Research Institute. She has more than a decade of experience leading translational research initiatives across health and education in both clinical and community settings. Simone's research and policy focus has been on building the capacity of primary schools to better support student mental health, changing the language of child mental health, typical and atypical childhood development, and digital health innovation and translation in paediatric care. Simone has extensive experience in applied research, particularly in community facing products and programs to support child health, development, mental health and wellbeing.



Prof Harriet Hiscock, Murdoch Children's Research Institute

Prof Harriet Hiscock is a paediatrician, clinician and researcher with 20 years experience in developing, trialling and translating interventions to reduce the burden of common, high impact conditions. Harriet's work focuses on building models of care to keep children out of hospital and improving equitable access to evidence-based care. Harriet has won state and national awards for her collaborative, translational research including "NHMRC 10 of the Best 2023" for her trials. Key contributions include leadership of 15 randomised controlled trials in allergy, sleep and mental health with effective interventions purchased by international governments, rolled out across child health workforces, and informing content of evidence-based websites. Harriet leads models of integrated GP-paediatrician care designed to keep children out of hospital



Prof Ann Sanson, The University of Melbourne

Prof Ann Sanson's research career has principally focused on understanding the role of child, family and community characteristics in the social and emotional development and wellbeing of children, adolescents and young adults, particularly through large-scale longitudinal studies. She worked on the Australian Temperament Project, started by Prof Frank Oberklaid and the late Prof Margot Prior, from its inception in 1983 and led it for many years. She was the initial Project Director for the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children and later its Principal Scientific Advisor. She was also an advisor to national child longitudinal studies in Ireland, New Zealand and Norway, and was on the Steering Committee for Footprints in Time (the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children) until 2019. For the last decade, Ann's work has shifted towards addressing the current and future impacts of the climate crisis on children and young people, and how they can best be supported in these unprecedented times. She is also Co-founder and Co-chair of Developmental Scientists for Climate Action which aims to support researchers, educators, and practitioners concerned with the impacts of climate change on human development.



Dr Alex Hains, Acting Head of the National Suicide Prevention Office

Alex grew up in Adelaide, but now lives on Dharrawal Country in Wollongong with his wife and three sons. He is currently Acting Head of the National Suicide Prevention Office, where he has led the development of a new National Suicide Prevention Strategy that is expected to be released later this year. In this work, he has led a policy agenda that emphasises compassion, high-quality supports, and a more genuinely preventative approach to suicide. He is also the Executive Director of the National Mental Health Commission, where his work has focused on children, young people and families; the unique needs of priority populations; and embedding lived experience into the mental health and suicide prevention systems.



12:45pm - 1:30pm Lunch

1:30pm Knowledge translation and policy

Chaired by **Prof Emeritus Kim Oates AO**, The University of Sydney



Prof Emeritus Kim Oates started as a resident at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in 1969 and left in 2006 after eight years as Chief Executive. In between, he trained in Boston and London, held various positions at the Children's Hospital including Head Community Paediatrics and Director of Medical Services. He has long-standing clinical and research interests in child development, child behaviour, child abuse and child advocacy. He has received numerous national and international awards and named lectureships, including the Sydney University Alumni Award, the RACP Howard Williams Medal and an honorary doctorate from the University of Western Sydney. As the Children's Hospital CEO, he became interested in patient safety and now teaches nationally and internationally about how we can work more safely to reduce patient harm. He was the founder of the Australian Academy for Emerging Leaders in Patient Safety, is an expert advisor for the International Society for Quality in Healthcare and was elected as one of the 30 founding members of a new International Academy of Quality and Safety. He has taught in Vietnam for the past 14 years leading an Advanced Course in Medical Education and Research aimed at helping develop future health leaders.

Panel members

Dr Nat Kendall-Taylor, FrameWorks Institute

Dr Nat Kendall-Taylor, PhD, is Chief Executive Officer at the FrameWorks Institute, a research think tank in Washington, DC. He leads a multi-disciplinary team in conducting and implementing research on public understanding and framing of social issues. A psychological anthropologist, Nat publishes widely on communications research and lectures frequently. He is Senior Fellow at the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, visiting Professor at the Child Study Center at Yale School of Medicine, and Fellow at the British-American Project.



Mr David Huggins

Mr David Huggins is a respected expert working across the health education interface. He served as a member of the Victorian Children's Council alongside Prof Frank Oberklaid providing expert advice to ministers on policies and services relating to the health, wellbeing, development and safety of children. He has held various roles at the Catholic Education Office including Assistant Director for Student Services and Chairperson for the Special Education Staff Group. David was a board member for not-for-profit organisation OzChild for 8 years.



Prof Peter Procopis, The Children's Hospital Westmead

Peter Procopis is a paediatric neurologist at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. He was a Past President of the Australian College of Paediatrics and a founding Board member of the Academy of Child and Adolescent Health. He has had extensive involvement with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians over the last 40 years. He has also been active in the field of medical regulation.

Prof Anna Sarkadi, Uppsala University

Anna Sarkadi was born in Hungary 1974 and moved to Sweden 1995 where she completed her medical training. She received her PhD in 2001 and was a Post Doctoral researcher at the Centre for Community Child Health in Melbourne 2002-2003. She became Associate Professor in 2010 and established her own research group, Child Health and Parenting in 2012, with Prof Frank Oberklaid and the Centre for Community Child Health as her role models. She became Professor in 2016 and since 2021, she combines that role with leading the central child health services in the region, thus finally achieving her goal of leading a Centre where a combination of research, preventive clinical services, and translational work are performed.



2:40pm - 3:00pm Afternoon break

3:00pm Clinical training and professional development

Chaired by **A/Prof Gehan Roberts**, Royal Children's Hospital



A/Prof Gehan Roberts is a developmental-behavioural paediatrician and holds appointments with The Royal Children's Hospital's Centre for Community Child Health, the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, and The University of Melbourne. Gehan completed his Fellowship in child development at the Boston Children's Hospital. He has a Masters in Public Health from Harvard University and a PhD in the field of child development from The University of Melbourne. Gehan is an Associate Director at the Centre for Community Child Health, leading Clinical Services and the Victorian Training Program in Community Child Health. He is engaged in clinical work, research, clinical supervision and teaching. From 2016 to 2020, Gehan was President of the Australasian Society for Developmental Paediatrics, the peak body for Australasian doctors who care for children with developmental disorders.

Panel members

A/Prof Valerie Sung, The Royal Children's Hospital

A/Prof Valerie Sung is a consultant paediatrician at The Royal Children's Hospital's Centre for Community Child Health and Department of General Medicine. She is Team Leader and Clinician Scientist Fellow at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and Honorary Clinical Associate Professor at The University of Melbourne. Her career vision is to provide the best care to deaf and hard of hearing children as well as families of crying infants, while conducting clinical, quality improvement and population-based research that can change and optimise practice.



Dr Elise D'Abaco, The Royal Children's Hospital

Dr Elise D'Abaco is currently an advanced trainee in general pediatrics and community child health. She has undertaken research, and worked clinically within the Centre for Community Child Health, as both Fellow and Senior Fellow. She is passionate about child health and development, and holds leadership positions within the Australasian Society for Developmental Paediatrics as the current trainee representative and Board Director.



Dr Einat Martonovich-Lantsberg, Paediatric People

Dr Einat Martonovich-Lantsberg is a paediatrician specialist, trained at Schneider Children's Hospital in Israel, and worked as a specialist at the paediatric emergency department and a childcare community clinic. She continued her training at The Royal Children's Hospital, completing one year in the Emergency Department followed by a three-year fellowship at the Centre for Community Child Health. Holding dual paediatric specialist qualifications in both Israel and Australia, she currently works at the Paediatric People clinic and is in the process of setting up a telemedicine encopresis clinic in Israel.



3:30pm - 3:45pm Video messages from International colleagues

3:45pm Special message

Dr Pia Britto, UNICEF



Pia Rebello Britto, Ph.D. is serving as UNICEF Representative to Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) since August 2020. Dr. Britto, a national of the United States of America, and Person of Indian origin, brings extensive experience in international development and early childhood development (ECD) policy and programmes. Prior to taking up her assignment as Representative, Dr. Britto held the position of Global Chief and Senior Advisor of Early Childhood Development at the UNICEF Headquarters in New York since April 2013. Dr. Britto is the recipient of several national and international awards and is widely cited in the media in recognition for her work.

4:00pm Reflections and close

Prof Jim Watterston, The University of Melbourne

From his first job as a teacher in a rural Indigenous classroom in his home state of Western Australia to his appointment as the Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Melbourne, Professor Jim Watterston brings more than 40 years of successful experience across a diverse range of educational roles and sectors. Jim spent his first ten years in the profession as a teacher before being promoted to the position of principal in a range of primary and secondary schools. He then progressed to the role of Regional Director in WA and Victoria before he was appointed as the Deputy Secretary of the Victorian Education Department, and Director General of both the ACT and, most recently, Queensland Departments of Education and Training. Jim was awarded a Doctorate in Education at the University of WA in 2004.



In addition to appointments to many educationally related Boards, Professor Watterston has previously served for six years as the National President for the Australian Council for Education Leaders, and is recognised as an influential advocate for the education sector. His contribution to education has been acknowledged both nationally and internationally with awards from a number of professional bodies and educational institutions including the highly prestigious Order of the Palmes Académiques (Chevalier) by the French Government in 2014 for a distinguished contribution to education.

Prof Frank Oberklaid AM



Prof Sharon Goldfeld

4:45pm Reception

Join us at Synapse on level 5 for canapes and drinks.

Proudly supported by The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation, the Creswick Foundation and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

The Centre for Community Child Health is a department of The Royal Children's Hospital and a research centre of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

