



ACCP Research SYMPOSIUM

Day 2 – Friday 15 July 2022

(please note this schedule is subject to change)

Time (AEST)		
08:00-08:15	Welcome – Day 2	
08:15-08:55	Keynote presenter - Building a research agenda Professor Gerry (Gerald) Fitzgerald, Adjunct Professor School of Public Health and Social Work Queensland University of Technology Location: Lecture Theatre 3 (I Block)	
08:55 – 09:00	Introduction of Research Abstract theme and review guidelines Theme: Profession and Systems Location: Lecture Theatre 3 (I Block)	Introduction of Research Abstract theme and review guidelines Theme: Clinical Location: Lecture Theatre 4 (I Block)
09:00 – 09:20	Navigating the Marginal Zone in the Transition to Professional Paramedic Practice Scott Devenish, Head of Discipline, Paramedicine School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine Australian Catholic University	Use of point-of-care ultrasound by non-physicians to assess respiratory distress in the out-of-hospital environment: A scoping review Jake Donovan, MICA Paramedic, Ambulance Victoria and Teaching Associate, Monash University
09:20 – 09:40	Professional Codes in Healthcare: A Scoping Review Derek Collings-Hughes, Ambulance Paramedic, St John Ambulance WA and Honours Graduate, Monash University Paramedicine Department	A Systematic Review of Tranexamic Acid (TXA) vs Oxytocin for Primary Postpartum Haemorrhage (PPH) in the Out of Hospital Setting Gabrielle Mizzi, Third-year paramedicine student, Western Sydney University
09:40 – 10:00	Acceptability of Australian prehospital care quality indicators: an explanatory sequential mixed methods study Robin Pap, Lecturer in Paramedicine, Western Sydney University	Prehospital administration of antibiotics by paramedics for patients with suspected sepsis – a systematic review Maddison Poynter, Western Sydney University 2021 Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedicine) Graduate
10:00 – 10:20	Paramedic researchers undertaking research outside the scope of paramedicine - a study into vaccine hesitancy in low income countries Belinda Flanagan, Director of Paramedicine, The University of Tasmania	A profile of prehospital acute stroke presentations in Queensland and paramedic diagnostic precision Wayne Loudon, Critical care paramedic
10:20-10:45	Morning Tea	
10:45-11:00	A new era of research publishing in paramedicine - introducing the College's new international research journal Associate Professor Paul Simpson, Editor in Chief of the AJP Location: Lecture Theatre 3 (I Block)	



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11:00 – 11:05	<p>Introduction of Research Abstract theme and review guidelines</p> <p>Theme: Students and educators</p> <p>Location: Lecture Theatre 3 (I Block)</p>	<p>Introduction of Research Abstract theme and review guidelines</p> <p>Theme: Clinical</p> <p>Location: Lecture Theatre 4 (I Block)</p>
11:05 – 11:25	<p>Are paramedic students graduating Australian degrees prepared to manage paediatric patients?</p> <p>Rachel Irvine, Department of Paramedicine, Monash University, Victoria, Australia</p>	<p>Maintaining Asepsis in Paramedic Practice</p> <p>Nigel Barr, Discipline Leader, Paramedic Science, University of the Sunshine Coast</p>
11:25 – 11:45	<p>Postgraduate educational needs of paramedicine educators: an explorative qualitative study</p> <p>Grant Gallagher, Senior Lecturer, College of Medicine & Public Health, Flinders University And Intensive Care Paramedic, SA Ambulance Service</p>	<p>A document analysis of clinical guidelines for the management of obstetric presentations in Australian and New Zealand ambulance services.</p> <p>Belinda Flanagan, Director of Paramedicine, The University of Tasmania</p>
11:45 – 12:05	<p>Attitudes and perceptions of Singaporean paramedics in mentoring trainees: a phenomenological study</p> <p>Ming Xuan Han, Paramedic Trainee, Singapore Civil Defence Force and Final Year Paramedic Student, Monash University</p>	<p>Factors Influencing Medication Errors in the Prehospital Paramedic Environment: A Mixed Method Systematic Review</p> <p>Dennis Walker, Lecturer, Paramedicine School of Health and Medical Sciences University of Southern Queensland</p>
12:05 – 12:25	<p>Paramedic-led Cardiac Arrest Focused Echo (CAFE) in pulseless electrical activity: An education and simulation study</p> <p>Hannah Latta, Critical Care Flight Paramedic Wellington Free Ambulance, Paramedic Ultrasound Lecturer Auckland University of Technology</p>	<p>Using prehospital electronic medical records systems to describe vascular access practices, a case study</p> <p>Matt Mason, Academic Lead, Work Integrated Learning, School of Nursing, Midwifery & Paramedicine, USC</p>
12:25 – 12:55	<p>Panel Discussion: Building a track record to success: making teams and building a strong research profile</p> <p>Jeanine Young, Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine, University of the Sunshine Coast</p> <p>Gerry Fitzgerald, Adjunct Professor School of Public Health and Social Work Queensland University of Technology</p> <p>Linda Ross, Associate Professor Acting Head of Department of Paramedicine, Monash University</p> <p>Host: Tim Andrews</p> <p>Location: Lecture Theatre 3 (I Block)</p>	
12:55 – 13:55	Lunch	
13:55 – 14:00	<p>Introduction of Research Abstract theme and review guidelines</p> <p>Theme: Decision Making and Education</p> <p>Location: Lecture Theatre 3 (I Block)</p>	<p>Introduction of Research Abstract theme and review guidelines</p> <p>Theme: Paramedic Wellbeing and Community Care</p> <p>Location: Lecture Theatre 4 (I Block)</p>



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14:00 – 14:20	<p>Do novice clinical reasoning skills in paramedicine compare to those of expert clinicians? Linda Ross</p>	<p>A Systematic Review of trends in health outcomes for Australian and New Zealand Paramedics Simon Sawyer, Director of Education, Australian Paramedic College</p>
14:20 – 14:40	<p>What influences paramedic clinical decision making? Alannah Morrison, PhD Candidate, USC</p>	<p>Can We Prevent You From Falling Again? The Impact of Paramedic-Led Interventions for Older Adults Who Fall in the Community Kim Harting, Advanced Care Paramedic II, Queensland Ambulance Service</p>
14:40 – 15:00	<p>Australasian College of Paramedicine Research Committee Linda Ross, ACP Research Committee Chair Louise Reynolds, ACP Research Committee Vice-Chair</p> <p>Location: Lecture Theatre 3 (I Block)</p>	
15:00 – 15:30	<p>Panel Discussion: Clinical trials: how do we incorporate these into paramedicine research? The ethics, logistics and barriers Michelle Thomson Jessica Baird Wayne Loudon</p> <p>Location: Lecture Theatre 3 (I Block)</p>	
15:30 – 15:50	<p>Afternoon Tea</p>	
15:30-16:20	<p>Panel Discussion: The future of paramedicine research Paul Simpson, Western Sydney University & Editor in Chief Australasian Journal of Paramedicine Jason Bendall, Director Medical Services & Research and Associate Professor Kelly-Ann Bowles, Director of Research, Monash University. Host: Cameron Gosling</p> <p>Location: Lecture Theatre 3 (I Block)</p>	
16:20-16:40	<p>Awards and Conference Close</p>	



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SESSION OVERVIEWS

Professor Gerry (Gerald) Fitzgerald

Building a research agenda

A key element of the development of a new profession is the acquisition of a body of unique knowledge shared by members of the profession. Critical to this, is the conduct of research that creates new knowledge. The aim of this presentation is to explore how a research agenda may be developed and more importantly, how it may be actioned. It will not occur by accident but rather requires leadership, resilience and persistence.

Scott Devenish

Navigating the Marginal Zone in the Transition to Professional Paramedic Practice

The presentation explores transition to professional paramedic practice. Graduates encountered a marginal zone when leaving the familiarity of the university setting and entering the ambulance service culture, where their values and behaviours needed to be moulded to develop a workplace identity. Understanding historical, social, and political undertones and encountering a professional socialisation process were necessary to form an accurate picture of paramedic practice. Transition to professional paramedic practice is a challenging and difficult experience. The findings confirm the relevance of the theory of marginalisation in the paramedic context and may inform further research into supportive and structured internship processes.

Jake Donovan

Use of point-of-care ultrasound by non-physicians to assess respiratory distress in the out-of-hospital environment: A scoping review

This study utilized a scoping review methodology to map the evidence for the use of POCUS by non-physicians to assess respiratory distress and to gain a broader understanding of the topic. Articles reported moderate to high levels of agreement between paramedics and expert reviewers for scan interpretation in most studies. Paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) have demonstrated the potential feasibility of lung ultrasound in the out-of-hospital environment.



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Derek Collings-Hughes

Professional Codes in Healthcare: A Scoping Review

Professional codes are an important part of the professionalisation of an occupation, they inform the public of what they should expect from a profession and hold members of that profession to an expected standard. This literature review investigated what is currently known internationally in the published literature about the knowledge, awareness and use of professional codes by doctors, nurses and paramedics.

Gabrielle Mizzi

A Systematic Review of Tranexamic Acid (TXA) vs Oxytocin for Primary Postpartum Haemorrhage (PPH) in the Out of Hospital Setting

The presentation will focus on our study which compared the efficacy of tranexamic acid (TXA) and oxytocin in the management of postpartum haemorrhage in the out-of-hospital setting. The study used comparative blood loss, the need for further interventions and maternal/neonatal mortality and morbidity as outcome measures. The study concludes that when compared to no intervention TXA may be more efficacious than oxytocin, however, more research needs to be conducted directly comparing the two drugs in the out-of-hospital setting.

Robin Pap

Acceptability of Australian prehospital care quality indicators: an explanatory sequential mixed methods study

An explanatory sequential mixed methods study design was used to evaluate the acceptability of a predetermined suite of 84 scientifically valid prehospital care quality indicators (QIs) from the provider perspective. Data suggested a positive association between acceptability and other key characteristics of QIs, namely clarity, scientific validity, practicality, and meaningfulness. Outcome type QIs were considered acceptable as long as they remained attributable to prehospital care. To be acceptable, QIs which included time intervals needed to be specific about time-critical interventions. The findings of this study provide insight into the acceptability to prehospital care providers of a proposed suite of QIs.

Maddison Poynter

Prehospital administration of antibiotics by paramedics for patients with suspected sepsis – a systematic review

Sepsis is an increasingly common presentation in the prehospital space. While early administration of antibiotics is said to be associated with improved patient outcomes, the impact of antibiotic administration by paramedics prior to hospital arrival is uncertain. This presentation will discuss the findings from our recent systematic review, which aimed to examine the effect of prehospital administration of antibiotics together with usual care, compared to usual care alone, on mortality outcomes in patients with suspected sepsis.



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Belinda Flanagan

Paramedic researchers undertaking research outside the scope of paramedicine - a study into vaccine hesitancy in low income countries

Belinda will be giving two presentations, the first is about Paramedic researchers undertaking research outside the scope of paramedicine, this will draw on her experience in undertaking research in low-income countries. The second will report on a research collaboration between three universities. The authors undertook a document analysis of clinical guidelines for the management of obstetric presentations in Australian and New Zealand ambulance services. This study reported on the availability of guidelines and if the recommendations were consistent with current evidence-based practice.

Wayne Loudon

A profile of prehospital acute stroke presentations in Queensland and paramedic diagnostic precision

There are limitations to the reliability of clinical assessment in stroke. However, there are areas of potential improvement in stroke identification and system response. An understanding of the profile of stroke patients and paramedics strengths and weaknesses in identifying stroke will allow improvements to be made.

Rachel Irvine

Are paramedic students graduating Australian degrees prepared to manage paediatric patients?

Anecdotally paramedics feel less confident with the paediatric patient group, as in-the-field experience is uncommon, and skills are dependent on limited theoretical and scenario-based education. The aim of this study was to quantify paramedic student preparedness for paediatric patients when introduced to the clinical workforce, through reflection on their bachelor curriculum and clinical placement experiences. As suspected, the study found that student paramedics are not graduating Australian degrees feeling prepared to encounter paediatric emergencies in the clinical workforce.

Belinda Flanagan

A document analysis of clinical guidelines for the management of obstetric presentations in Australian and New Zealand ambulance services.

Belinda will be giving two presentations, the first is about Paramedic researchers undertaking research outside the scope of paramedicine, this will draw on her experience in undertaking research in low-income countries. The second will report on a research collaboration between three universities. The authors undertook a document analysis of clinical guidelines for the management of obstetric presentations in Australian and New Zealand ambulance services. This study reported on the availability of guidelines and if the recommendations were consistent with current evidence-based practice.



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Grant Gallagher

Postgraduate educational needs of paramedicine educators: an explorative qualitative study

Postgraduate courses in clinical education (CE) combine many health disciplines into one course's learning outcomes and content, but also provide opportunity for students to contextualize their learning into their own health discipline. These health disciplines include, but are not exclusive to, medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, physiotherapy which are all primarily in-hospital within a relatively controlled environment. This research study seeks to understand this difference between in-hospital educators and pre-hospital educators, so as to identify if their curriculum needs can be served by just the one postgraduate course, or there needs to be a unique or blended postgraduate course created that serves the profession of paramedicine.

Dennis Walker

Factors Influencing Medication Errors in the Prehospital Paramedic Environment: A Mixed Method Systematic Review

Research on medication errors in paramedic practice is limited, with the majority of medication safety research conducted in hospital settings. The literature shows that medication errors are defined and measured inconsistently, with a lack of effective reporting identified as a significant confounding factor. Prevention of medication errors requires recognition of both contributing and protective factors from the organisational level to procedural elements and patient characteristics. This research identifies the factors influencing medication error through innovative use of a mixed methods systematic review methodology.

Matt Mason

Using prehospital electronic medical records systems to describe vascular access practices, a case study

This presentation will discuss the use of electronic medical records to describe the use of peripheral intravenous catheters and intraosseous devices in the prehospital setting. Accessing national data from the United States of America NEMSIS database and state level data from the Queensland Ambulance Service are presented as examples. The ethical and organisational approvals are considered as are the challenges and supports required for cleaning, analysing and reporting large and complex datasets.



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Simon Sawyer

A Systematic Review of trends in health outcomes for Australian and New Zealand Paramedics

In this presentation Simon will present the results of the first systematic review focused on the health of Australian and New Zealand Paramedics. This review found paramedics demonstrate poor health across several metrics, and that their health is often considerably worse than the general population and that of other health and emergency services. Key outcomes will be discussed along with implications for the future of the paramedic workforce.

Alannah Morrison

What influences paramedic clinical decision making?

This presentation will provide an overview of the current research regarding influences on paramedic clinical decision making. Demonstrating that there are many influences on clinical decision making outside the patient presentation and clinical need.

Kim Harting

Can We Prevent You From Falling Again? The Impact of Paramedic-Led Interventions for Older Adults Who Fall in the Community

This systematic review was undertaken to determine the impact of paramedic-led interventions for older adults who fall in the community. Presentations to emergency services and hospitals for fall-related incidents are increasing each year and are only predicted to further increase as the population ages. Paramedics are in unique positions to provide education and referral programs to patients in the comfort of their own home. This research highlights the expanding scope of paramedics and the integration into the wider health system.

Hannah Latta

Paramedic-led Cardiac Arrest Focused Echo (CAFE) in pulseless electrical activity: An education and simulation study

Patients who suffer an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest with a presenting rhythm of pulseless electrical activity (PEA) may receive inappropriate care when a manual pulse check is used to determine true pulselessness. The Cardiac Arrest Focused Echo (CAFE) exam is completed by an ultrasound paramedic who is supernumerary to standard cardiac arrest proceedings and should not interrupt the flow of CPR. The image acquired is analysed during the CPR cycle and determines the presence of fluid (pericardial effusion and tamponade) and the heart's function (myocardial contraction and valvular opening). This is an education and simulation study examining Paramedic-led Cardiac Arrest Focused Echo (CAFE) in pulseless electrical activity.