



SCHI Sunshine
Coast
Health
Institute

SUNSHINE COAST HEALTH RESEARCH SHOWCASE

12pm–5pm,
Thursday 13 August 2026
Sunshine Coast Health Institute

EVENT PROGRAM

Sunshine
Coast
Health




University of the
Sunshine Coast


Griffith
UNIVERSITY



A special thank-you to Wishlist for their generous contribution of prize funding to this year's research showcase. Wishlist is your local hospital charity, supporting Nambour, Caloundra, Maleny, Gympie and Sunshine Coast University hospitals. Since 1998, they have directed over \$25 million into local healthcare and now into health care research.

Supporting research at Sunshine Coast Health Institute (SCHI) can lead to discoveries that improve medicine and health care for all Queenslanders. We do research in areas like cancer, gut health, and heart, liver and kidney disease and maternity care. You can support lifesaving health and medical research through donations in the QR code below.

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OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

12.00pm **Registration**

12.15pm **Welcome**

12.30pm **Oral presentations**

1.50pm **Keynote presentation**

2.30pm **Posters and networking**

3.00pm **Rapid fire presentations
(3 concurrent sessions)**

4.45pm **Winners announced**

SUNSHINE COAST HEALTH RESEARCH SHOWCASE

Registration
12.00pm-12.15pm SCHI Foyer

Welcome
12.15pm-12.30pm SCHI Auditorium

Oral presentations
12.30pm-1.50pm SCHI Auditorium

The LAMP-LC Study: Unveiling the lung microbiome in Australians with early- and late-stage lung cancer using shotgun metagenomics	A/Prof Bryan Chan	SCHHS, Griffith University, University of the Sunshine Coast, and University of Queensland
Effect of footplate muscle stimulation on walking capacity in people with peripheral artery disease: the FootPAD randomised clinical trial.	Prof Christopher Askew	University of the Sunshine Coast
Community-acquired pneumonia following vaccine preventable respiratory infections: A statewide retrospective cohort study	Dr Rebecca Brereton	SCHSS
Delabelling Penicillin Allergy - Local Stewardship, Global Evidence	Tricia Kilfoyle	SCHSS and University of Queensland
Electronic Medical Records and Administrative Data for Identification of Mortality and Cardiovascular Outcomes for in Clinical Trials: A validation study of a registry-embedded cluster-randomized quality assurance trial	Prof Rathika Krishnasamy	SCHSS, Griffith University, and University of Queensland
Evaluating SWIFTKids: A Standardised Workflow for Paediatric Inter-Hospital Transfers -Safer transfers at what cost?	Dr Clare Thomas	SCHHS, SCHI, and Griffith University
Clinical Presentations and Toxicity Management in a Nurse Practitioner-Led Rural Cancer Care Service	Kacy Ringshaw	SCHSS
Q&A session	All presenters	

Keynote presentation
1.50pm-2.30pm SCHI Auditorium

Building a Healthy Research Ecosystem: Excellence, Automation, Interdisciplinarity, and Public Trust in Changing Times	Prof Alex Broom	University of Sydney
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Poster viewing and networking (afternoon tea provided)
2.30pm-3.00pm SCHI Foyer

Rapid Fire (concurrent sessions) - Session 1
3.00pm-4.40pm SCHI Auditorium

Can research evidence be applied effectively in the real world: A snapshot from SCH involvement in the NHMRC-QARC-UQ Project Implementing Comprehensive High-dose Aphasia Treatment (CHAT) Programs	Julie Scott and Madeline Atlee	SCHSS and University of the Sunshine Coast / SCHSS
A Collaborative Nurse-Led Model of Care for Children in Out-of-Home Care	Elizabeth Harris	SCHSS
'A role you can fill'. Education legitimises allied health and nursing roles in advance care planning: A mixed methods study	Dr Wendy Kinton	SCHSS and University of the Sunshine Coast
Service Evaluation of a Specialist-Supported Cardiology GP With Special Interest (GPSI) Outpatient Model: Feasibility, Acceptability, and Early Clinical Outcomes	Dr Muhammad Hussain	SCHSS
Implementing an ambulatory vascular minor operative procedures (MOPS) clinic integrating podiatry: a patient-reported service evaluation.	Dr Vivienne Moul	SCHSS and Griffith University
Outpatient Non-Attendance in Cardiology Services: Predictors and Opportunities for Service Improvement in SCHHS	Dr Tanish John	SCHSS
The (anti) microbial gaze: surveillance meets resistance	Prof Jennifer Broom	SCHSS and Griffith University
ChildSAFE – Understanding clinician and consumer priorities for implementing a co-designed, evidence-based digital child safety screening tool	Dr Scott Schofield and Dr Nicki Newton	SCHSS, Clinical Excellence Queensland, and Griffith University / SCHSS and University of the Sunshine Coast
Expanding preventive care through a community pharmacist-delivered vaccination service	Kate Bennett	SCHSS and Macquarie University
Saving Legs & Lives Trial – Efficacy of cardiac rehabilitation compared with usual care on walking capacity and quality of life following lower-limb revascularisation for peripheral artery disease	Krist Feka	University of the Sunshine Coast and SCHI
Prognostic value of progression free (PF) status at 6 months on overall survival (OS) in platinum resistant ovarian cancer (PROC)	Dr Omali Pitayarachchi	SCHSS and University of NSW
Implementation and evaluation of unsedated transnasal upper gastrointestinal endoscopy in a regional tertiary setting	Dr Pavandeep Soor	SCHSS
Vaccine effectiveness of XBB.1.5 and JN.1 variant-adapted COVID-19 vaccines against hospitalisation in older Australians	Madisen Roser	SCHSS and University of Queensland
Q&A session	All presenters	

Rapid Fire (concurrent sessions) - Session 2

3.00pm-4.40pm Lecture Theatre 2

Avoiding preventable emergency presentations: outcomes of the Rapid Access Clinic Expansion (RACE) service at a tertiary regional cancer centre	Martina O'Neill and Kacy Ringshaw	SCHSS
Examining advance care planning practices: a descriptive study of ACP Tracker utilisation	Dr Rachel Barr	SCHSS
Optimising Prescribing Practices: Investigating Physician Confidence and Experience in Prophylaxis Against Hepatitis B Reactivation in Patients on Immunosuppressing Agents [React-HepB]	Dr Brooke Colledge	SCHSS
EMOLED Evaluation Study: Assessing Blue Light Therapy in Wound Healing	Dr Nick Tierney	SCHSS
Enhancing Efficiency and Accuracy in Trauma Activation Criteria: A Quality Improvement Initiative at Sunshine Coast University Hospital and Health Service	Dr Elizabeth Morton	SCHSS
From Audit to Continuous Improvement: Multidisciplinary Redesign of the Major Haemorrhage Protocol at Sunshine Coast University Hospital	Dr Daniel Stephenson	SCHSS
Ultraviolet signature mutation testing for the management of metastatic head and neck squamous cell carcinoma of unknown primary site	A/Prof Andrew Dettrick	Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology and University of the Sunshine Coast
Iron deficiency, anaemia, and colorectal cancer detection at colonoscopy: a retrospective cohort study	Dr Dougal Brown and Dr Megan Van Niekerk	SCHSS / SCHSS and Griffith University
Retrospective cohort study of intravenous steroids in acute severe ulcerative colitis	Dr Michael Christmas	SCHSS
Real-world efficacy and safety of nurse practitioner led heart failure therapy titration and optimisation	Nicole New	SCHSS
Later Line Therapies in Extensive-Stage Small-Cell Lung Cancer: Real-World Outcomes From a Multisite Retrospective Cohort Study.	Dr Cassie Turner	SCHSS, Griffith University, and University of Queensland
Understanding and Building Research Culture and Capacity in Womens and Children's Services	Dr Julie Creen	SCHSS, Clinical Excellence Queensland, and University of the Sunshine Coast
Unpaid caring for patients with conservatively managing kidney disease - "doing what I have always done".	A/Prof Alison Craswell	University of the Sunshine Coast
Q&A session	All presenters	

Rapid Fire (concurrent sessions) - Session 3 (novice researchers)

3.00pm-4.40pm MPT 104

Sarcopenia prevalence, dietary intake and financial toxicity in head and neck cancer patients from regional Southeast Queensland up to one-year post-treatment	Kate Kropp	University of the Sunshine Coast
Does blood flow restriction applied during aerobic training enhance the functional and vascular health benefits of cardiac rehabilitation? A randomised controlled efficacy trial	Andrzej (Andrew) Kwintowski	University of the Sunshine Coast
Footprints- An exploratory study of the services accessed by patients who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander with Diabetes-related Foot Disease in the Sunshine Coast region	Carolyn Allen	SCHSS and University of the Sunshine Coast
Exploring Post-Trauma Care and Driving Readiness in Older Adults: A Collaborative Observership with SCUH	Samantha Ellis	University of the Sunshine Coast
Pseudomonas aeruginosa in bronchiectasis: unmasking population diversity and antimicrobial resistance within the Australian context	Kellie Strickland	SCHSS and University of the Sunshine Coast
Establishing a Pre-COVID-19 Baseline for Medically Attended RSV Hospitalisations in Infants Aged <1 Year: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis	Eldho Thomas, Abhinav Tummala and Winston Wang	Griffith University
How SMART is the adaptor? Validity of a novel smart device for measuring respiratory muscle strength; agreement with established point-of-care manometers	Kye Grant	SCHSS and University of Canberra
Utilisation of Healthcare Redesign Methodologies to Develop an Allied Health-Led Carer Coaching Program for Carers of People Receiving Palliative Care in Rural and Regional Queensland	Kelly Buzza	SCHSS
Residential aged care home chart audit	Sehaj Kochhar	Griffith University
Impact of Different Modes of Cardiac Rehabilitation Delivery Practised in Regional, Rural, and Remote Settings on Clinical and Program Outcomes: A Systematic Review	Renuka Dasanayaka	University of the Sunshine Coast
Nursing management of intoxicated persons under involuntary legislation in emergency departments in metropolitan Queensland, Australia; a focused ethnography study.	Simon Llewellyn and Simon Hampshire	SCHSS
Allied health supportive care needs in immunotherapy for head and neck cancer: a qualitative study of staff perspectives	Nicole O'Donnell	SCHSS and University of Queensland
Q&A session	All presenters	

Closing session: Presentation winners and closing remarks

4.45pm-5.00pm SCHI Auditorium

Printed poster presentations

Scoping review of factors that impact neonatal sleep in neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) environments	Dr Bonnie Quigley	University of the Sunshine Coast
Preferences of healthcare providers and at-risk patients for hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) surveillance: a systematic scoping review	Dr Inosha Alwis	Queensland University of Technology
"Ticking boxes, or changing outcomes, or both? What does good Antimicrobial Stewardship look like?" - A Systematic Review	Tricia Kilfoyle	SCHSS
Launch of DISCo: Dietary patterns and nutrition impact symptoms during systemic cancer therapy: A virtual multisite prospective cohort study	Dr Megan Crichton	Queensland University of Technology
Current trends in perioperative analgesia for patients undergoing major colorectal resection at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital	Dr Huw Roberts & Dr Jack Comadira-Meincke	SCHSS
SCOPE study - Stress and Cortisol Observation in Perinatal Environments	Dr Bonnie Quigley	University of the Sunshine Coast
Prevention without prejudice: assessing the evidence of non-pharmacological gestational diabetes mellitus prevention and management and the role of weight-related stigma	Dr Emily Heaney	Griffith University
Gendered Differences in Supervision-Seeking and Self-Efficacy Assessments Among Doctors in Training: A Scoping Review.	Dr Belynda Walsh	SCHHS and Griffith University
What is low value dietetic care in Queensland Health and how do we disinvest?	Sarah Phillips	SCHSS
Real-world outcomes of Gemcitabine/nab-Paclitaxel (GnP) versus modified FOLFIRINOX (mFFX) in Advanced Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma	Dr Cassie Beaven	SCHSS
CT head following a fall for residential aged care home-dwelling older adults	Dr Wendy Kinton	SCHSS
Optimising skin cancer services on the Sunshine Coast	Kate Bennett	SCHSS and Macquarie University
Peripheral Intravenous Catheter Glue in Newborns: Protocol for a Multi-Site Randomised Controlled Trial (PENGUIN Trial)	Dr Roni Cole	SCHHS, University of the Sunshine Coast, and University of Queensland
When to Watch, When to Embolise, When to Operate: Six Years of Splenic Injury Management at SCUH.	Dr Robert Gichuhi and Winston Wang	SCHSS / Griffith University
Feasibility, acceptability and effectiveness of a tailored exercise-based rehabilitation program for Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS): a Queensland Health pilot program	Olivia Powrie	West Moreton HHS and University of Queensland
Right care, right clinician: A CA4-led nutrition clinic	Clare Perrett	SCHSS
Safe Transfers in Real-World Practice: A Mixed-Methods COM-B Evaluation of the SWIFTKids Workflow	Dr Clare Thomas	SCHHS and Griffith University

Printed poster presentations

From Policy to Practice: Multi-Level Determinants of Implementation Readiness for the National Lung Cancer Screening Program in Primary Care	Dr Elaine Halcrow	Griffith University
Health literacy and its role within cardiovascular disease: A primer from a cardiology perspective	Crystal Williamson	SCHSS
Associations between micronutrients and red cell distribution width in adults.	Joshua Hudson	Griffith University
Neo Bloom: Exploring Parent and Staff Experiences to Co-Design a Digital Support Platform for Families in the Neonatal Unit	Dr Rebecca Sichter	SCHSS
Efficacy, Safety, Cost and Antimicrobial Resistance Potential of Long-term Inhaled Colistimethate Sodium in Bronchiectasis: A Real-World Regional Australian Single-Centre Experience	Joshua Brock	SCHSS
Statewide implementation of an aminoglycoside dosing calculator: A quality improvement project across Queensland Hospital and Health Services	Sarah Kingscote	SCHSS
Clinician-led, face-to-face scenario-based transfusion education improves requisite training completion and intern confidence in blood transfusion management.	Judy O'Connor and Leeanne Turner	SCHSS
Rapid and effective clinical trial recruitment in labour and birth care: harnessing the benefit of clinically embedded midwives.	Noni Burke	SCHSS and University of Queensland
Audit of Anaesthetic Modality for Cervical Cerclages in Sunshine Coast University Hospital	Dr James Barrett	SCHSS
Waiting for What? A Point Prevalence Audit of Discharge Barriers at Sunshine Coast Health	Kate Bennett	SCHSS and Macquarie University
Patients experience of adverse events during perioperative care: an integrative review.	Rachelle Taylor	SCHSS
Optimising Nutrition and Dietetics Workforce Capacity in Acute Medical Wards: A Nutrition Assistant-Led Model of Care	Erin Coory	SCHSS
Safe, sustainable, successful: A new antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) model to enhance patient safety, improve outcomes and future-proof the AMS program	Tricia Kilfoyle	SCHSS
What are general practitioners' and registrars' barriers and enablers addressing social determinants of health in primary care practice?	Dr Gaayathri Balakrishnan	Griffith University
From awareness to action: sensory interventions for dementia care	Dr Jodie Wiseman	University of the Sunshine Coast
Optimising subcutaneous ICD follow-up: Clinical utility of monthly compared with six-monthly remote interrogations	Stephen Burrows	SCHSS
From guidelines to practice: evaluating quality care in PSC-IBD	Dr Megan van Niekerk	SCHSS and Griffith University

Printed poster presentations

SKARs - Satisfaction, Knowledge and Anxiety Results of cardiac inpatients, following diagnosis and treatment of acute coronary syndrome (ACS)	Crystal Williamson	SCHSS
Integrating Baseline Patient-Reported Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQOL) and Clinical Variables to Predict Survival in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDAC) Using Machine Learning	Dr Omali Pitiyarachchi	SCHSS and University of NSW
Exploring a team-led approach to clinical practice education for undergraduate occupational therapy students: multiple stakeholder perspectives and experiences	Rhianna Friend and Dr Ben Turner	SCHSS / University of the Sunshine Coast

Digital poster presentations

Trends in venous thromboembolism prophylaxis and VTE occurrence in the intensive care unit at Sunshine Coast University Hospital, a follow-up audit	Dr Tobias Gillanders	SCHSS and Griffith University
Literature-reported toxicities of immune checkpoint inhibitors in head and neck cancer: findings from a scoping review	Nicole O'Donnell	SCHSS and University of Queensland
Lived Experience Advocacy as a Pathway to Youth Mental Health Empowerment and Engagement	Christopher Wainwright	Griffith University
Advancing Intercostal Catheter Safety in Trauma: Outcomes of a Standardised Guideline and Training Program	Dr Lucy Jones	SCHSS
Reducing Emergency Presentation and Length of Stay (LoS) through an Ambulatory Paracentesis Pathway for Malignant Ascites via the Rapid Access Clinic Expansion (RACE)	Martina O'Neill	SCHSS
Reducing the Carbon Footprint in Operating Theatres: A Qualitative Study of Surgeons' Perspectives within Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service	Dr Thanya Pathirana	Griffith University
Exploring long-term recovery needs after major injury: a collaborative, survivor-informed service innovation	Esther Bentley	SCHSS
Clinical Audit: Analgesia in Laparoscopic Hysterectomy	Dr Celest Dines Muntaner	SCHSS

Biographies

Keynote presentation

Prof Alex Broom (University of Sydney)

Building a Healthy Research Ecosystem: Excellence, Automation, Interdisciplinarity, and Public Trust in Changing Times

Alex Broom is a Professor of Sociology and Founding and Co-Director of the Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies at The University of Sydney, a major social science-led, interdisciplinary research platform. He is also Academic Director (SBE) at the Australian Research Council. Recognised as an international leader in sociology, with a specific interest in health and illness, his person-centred research explores how individual experiences intersect with social, political, and economic contexts. Throughout his career, Professor Broom has led or co-led over \$30 million in research projects, including 16 Australian Research Council (ARC) projects and an ARC Future Fellowship.

Oral presentations

A/Prof Bryan Chan (SCHHS, Griffith University, University of the Sunshine Coast, and University of Queensland)

The LAMp-LC Study: Unveiling the lung microbiome in Australians with early- and late-stage lung cancer using shotgun metagenomics

Associate Professor Bryan Chan is a medical oncologist and Oncology Research Lead at Sunshine Coast Health, and Associate Professor at Griffith University and UniSC. His multidisciplinary research aim to improve holistic care, outcomes and equity for patients in regional and rural communities. Bryan is the principal investigator for multiple cancer clinical trials on the Sunshine Coast, reducing the need to travel away from home and supports, to access world-class care. With the LAMp-LC study, he and his team are characterising the lung microbiome in Australians with lung cancer to explore how airway microbes may shape diagnosis, prognosis and treatment response.

Prof Christopher Askew (University of the Sunshine Coast)

Effect of footplate muscle stimulation on walking capacity in people with peripheral artery disease: the FootPAD randomised clinical trial.

Chris is a Professor of Clinical Exercise Physiology at the University of the Sunshine Coast where he leads the VasoActive research group. His team's work is focused on understanding, preventing, and treating exercise intolerance in people with chronic cardiovascular conditions. Chris has worked in the area of peripheral artery disease for more than 25 years and has conducted numerous clinical trials investigating the effects of exercise and other novel rehabilitation interventions, and this work is underpinned by experimental studies of muscle capillary supply, microvascular function and blood flow. He has also led the development of national and international guidelines for the use of exercise therapy in patients with peripheral artery disease.

Dr Rebecca Brereton (SCHSS)

Community-acquired pneumonia following vaccine preventable respiratory infections: A statewide retrospective cohort study

Rebecca is a Public Health Registrar undertaking advanced training in Public Health Medicine with The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP). In her research-based role at the Sunshine Coast Public Health Unit, Rebecca's current research focus is communicable disease surveillance, prevention and control. She is also passionate about teaching, holding the academic title of Lecturer at the School of Medicine and Dentistry, Griffith University.

Tricia Kilfoyle (SCHSS and University of Queensland)

Delabelling Penicillin Allergy - Local Stewardship, Global Evidence

Patricia Kilfoyle is an Advanced Pharmacist-Antimicrobial Stewardship at Sunshine Coast University Hospital in Queensland since 2016. The health service's AMS program is a multidisciplinary team of clinicians utilising sociological research to instruct behavioural change. Prior to this, she spent a decade working in university teaching hospitals in Liverpool, UK including as an Advanced Pharmacist at the Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery. She is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Queensland, hoping to explore the use of behavioural change theory and design thinking implementation science to optimise metrics, outcomes and process measures in evaluating the impact of AMS program effectiveness.

SUNSHINE COAST HEALTH RESEARCH SHOWCASE

Prof Rathika Krishnasamy (SCHSS, Griffith University, and University of Queensland)

Electronic Medical Records and Administrative Data for Identification of Mortality and Cardiovascular Outcomes for in Clinical Trials: A validation study of a registry-embedded cluster-randomized quality assurance trial

Prof Krishnasamy is the Director of Nephrology at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Professor for the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Queensland and Griffith University and Co-Deputy Chair of the Australasian Kidney Trials Network. She is the immediate Past President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology. Her research is in the field of pathways to reduce cardiovascular disease in CKD with expertise in trial operations and platform trials.

Dr Clare Thomas (SCHHS, SCHI, and Griffith University)

Evaluating SWIFTKids: A Standardised Workflow for Paediatric Inter-Hospital Transfers -Safer transfers at what cost?

Dr Clare Thomas is a Consultant Paediatrician and Director of Paediatrics at Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service. She is Chair of the Queensland Paediatric Quality Council and Queensland Clinical Lead for the Australian Paediatric Clinical Practice Guidelines program. Clare has a strong interest in clinical governance, patient safety, and quality improvement in paediatric healthcare. She is currently undertaking a PhD at Griffith University, evaluating SWIFTKids, a standardised paediatric interfacility transfer workflow designed to improve the safety and quality of paediatric transfers.

Kacy Ringshaw (SCHSS)

Clinical Presentations and Toxicity Management in a Nurse Practitioner-Led Rural Cancer Care Service

My name is Kacy Ringshaw, and I am the Cancer Care Nurse Practitioner in Gympie. I have been a dedicated cancer care nurse for the last 19 years and am passionate about ensuring people living in rural and regional communities can access high-quality cancer care close to home. My role supports patients through treatment, managing complex side effects, finding practical solutions that help them stay well. I look forward to developing new models of care that improve access and outcomes for rural patients and their families and am proud to be part of a team working to strengthen cancer care for our regional community.

Rapid fire presentations: Session 1

Julie Scott (SCHSS and University of the Sunshine Coast) and Madeline Atlee (SCHSS)

Can research evidence be applied effectively in the real world: A snapshot from SCH involvement in the NHMRC-QARC-UQ Project Implementing Comprehensive High-dose Aphasia Treatment (CHAT) Programs

Julie Scott is a clinical Speech Pathologist (SP) with 24 years' experience across Australia, UK and Ireland. Her passions include rehabilitation for communication difficulties post acquired brain injuries, development of Allied Health Assistant workforce, and development of sustainable real world delivery options for SP and multidisciplinary teams that reflect the research evidence. These passions combined with her firm belief that Sunshine Coast Health SPs have a lot to contribute professionally to their disciplines growing evidence pool, were the driver for Julie to act as Site Principal Investigator for the Implementation of Comprehensive High Dose Aphasia Therapy in partnership with UQ.

Madeleine Atlee is a Speech Pathologist with a Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology) and a Master of Speech Pathology. She has worked across adult acute and rehabilitation settings for since graduating, with people with a range of neurological conditions, including stroke, traumatic brain injury, and progressive disorders. Maddy developed an interest in neuroscience during her undergraduate psychology studies, which sparked her passion for working in aphasia and dysphagia. She is particularly interested in translating research into meaningful, functional outcomes in everyday clinical practice.

Elizabeth Harris (SCHSS)

A Collaborative Nurse-Led Model of Care for Children in Out-of-Home Care

Elizabeth Harris is a Clinical Nurse Consultant with the Sunshine Coast Health Service and has worked in child and family health for more than 35 years across nursing, midwifery, and community health. She leads the nurse-led Out-of-Home-Care health service, supporting children in care through comprehensive health and developmental assessment, care coordination and advocacy. Elizabeth is passionate about improving health outcomes for vulnerable children and translating frontline clinical experience into evidence-based service improvement and research.

SUNSHINE COAST HEALTH RESEARCH SHOWCASE

Dr Wendy Kinton (SCHSS and University of the Sunshine Coast)

'A role you can fill'. Education legitimises allied health and nursing roles in advance care planning: A mixed methods study

Dr Wendy Kinton is the Sunshine Coast Health End of Life Care Program Coordinator, end-of-life care researcher and is an Adjunct Senior Lecturer with the University of the Sunshine Coast. She has a special interest in advance care planning, person-centred shared decision-making and health professional education.

Dr Muhammad Hussain (SCHSS)

Service Evaluation of a Specialist-Supported Cardiology GP With Special Interest (GPSI) Outpatient Model: Feasibility, Acceptability, and Early Clinical Outcomes

Dr Muhammad Hussain is a Basic Physician Trainee at Sunshine Coast University Hospital. He has a strong interest in cardiology, particularly clinical cardiology, cardiac imaging, and health service innovation. His current research focuses on evaluating the effectiveness of General Practitioners with Special Interest (GPSIs) in specialist outpatient care through the ACCESS-GP project. Dr Hussain has presented research at local and national meetings, including the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting. He is passionate about improving access to specialist care and enhancing patient outcomes through innovative models of healthcare delivery.

Dr Vivienne Moulton (SCHSS and Griffith University)

Implementing an ambulatory vascular minor operative procedures (MOPS) clinic integrating podiatry: a patient-reported service evaluation.

Dr Vivienne Moulton is a vascular surgeon and Medical Director at Sunshine Coast University Hospital with a strong focus on translational research to improve outcomes in peripheral arterial disease, diabetic foot disease, and chronic wound management. Her work centres on developing and evaluating innovative, multidisciplinary models of care that enhance limb preservation, optimise patient outcomes, and improve health system sustainability. She founded the High-Risk Foot Research Collaboration and led the development of the Vascular Surgery Research Strategic Plan (2026–2030), establishing a framework for embedding research within clinical practice. She has secured competitive funding to build research infrastructure and is committed to developing sustainable research capacity, fostering multidisciplinary collaboration, and delivering measurable improvements in patient and health service outcomes.

Dr Tanish John (SCHSS)

Outpatient Non-Attendance in Cardiology Services: Predictors and Opportunities for Service Improvement in SCHSS

Tanish is a Basic Physician Trainee with an interest in Cardiology and preventative medicine. He is working on the CAPTURE-FTA project along with Professor Kim Greaves (Director of Cardiology) and Dr Angela Crabery (SCHL research manager).

Prof Jennifer Broom (SCHSS and Griffith University)

The (anti) microbial gaze: surveillance meets resistance

Professor Jennifer Broom is an Infectious Diseases Physician and Clinical Sub Dean for Griffith School of Medicine at the Sunshine Coast. She is a research with a long term collaborative research programme addressing the complex issues driving the global threat of antimicrobial resistance.

Dr Scott Schofield (SCHSS, Clinical Excellence Queensland, and Griffith University) and Dr Nicki Newton (SCHSS and University of the Sunshine Coast)

ChildSAFE – Understanding clinician and consumer priorities for implementing a co-designed, evidence-based digital child safety screening tool

Dr Scott Schofield is a Paediatric Emergency Physician at Sunshine Coast Health, CEQ Healthcare Improvement Fellow Alumni, Senior Lecturer at Griffith University, and founder of Snap Paediatrics. He is driven by a passion for improving healthcare systems and an appreciation that the biggest challenges are rarely solved by simple solutions. Scott enjoys bringing people together to strategically tackle complex, "wicked" problems.

Nicki is a Senior Research Officer on the ChildSAFE research project based at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and a Research Fellow within the Centre for Human Factors and Systems Science at the University of the Sunshine Coast. She holds a PhD in digital health and human factors.

Kate Bennett (SCHSS and Macquarie University)

Expanding preventive care through a community pharmacist-delivered vaccination service

Kate Bennett is the Clinical Improvement and Implementation Project Lead at Sunshine Coast Health and a PhD candidate with the Australian Institute of Health Innovation at Macquarie University. With a background in pharmacy and business, she specialises in driving system-level improvement across patient flow, model-of-care redesign, and service integration to deliver efficient, high-quality, and patient-centred care.

Krist Feka (University of the Sunshine Coast and SCHI)

Saving Legs & Lives Trial – Efficacy of cardiac rehabilitation compared with usual care on walking capacity and quality of life following lower-limb revascularisation for peripheral artery disease

Krist is a postdoctoral research fellow in vascular disease and exercise at the University of the Sunshine Coast. His PhD research aimed to facilitate the integration of patients with peripheral artery disease into cardiovascular rehabilitation programs. His primary project investigated the efficacy of cardiovascular rehabilitation for people undergoing lower limb revascularisation for peripheral arterial disease. Krist is a clinical exercise physiologist by background. He completed his training at the University of Portsmouth in the U.K. He is also a member of the QCVRN Emerging Leader Committee and the VasoActive Cardiovascular Rehabilitation and Research Program.

Dr Omali Pitiyarachchi (SCHSS and University of NSW)

Prognostic value of progression free (PF) status at 6 months on overall survival (OS) in platinum resistant ovarian cancer (PROC)

Dr Omali Pitiyarachchi is a Medical Oncologist at Sunshine Coast University Hospital and a PhD candidate at the Lowy Cancer Research Centre, UNSW Sydney, supported by an NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarship and SPHERE Cancer CAG Award. Her work integrates clinical, translational, and patient-reported outcomes to improve treatment selection, prognostication, and trial design. She is passionate about equitable access to cancer care and recently led a Korean Society of Medical Oncology-endorsed project examining inequities in access to genomic testing across the region. She is also actively involved in European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) work focused on improving access to cancer medicines across the Asia-Pacific, alongside other national and international collaborations. She is an alumna of the competitive ESMO Leaders Generation Programme and an inaugural ASCO International Clinical Research Scholar.

Dr Pavandeep Soor (SCHSS)

Implementation and evaluation of unsedated transnasal upper gastrointestinal endoscopy in a regional tertiary setting

I am a Principal House Officer currently working in General Medicine at Sunshine Coast University Hospital. I completed my Foundation and Internal Medicine Training in the United Kingdom before moving to Queensland last year. I have a keen interest in gastroenterology and quality improvement, and am the founder of the PACES App.

Madisen Roser (SCHSS and University of Queensland)

Vaccine effectiveness of XBB.1.5 and JN.1 variant-adapted COVID-19 vaccines against hospitalisation in older Australians

Madisen Roser is a researcher at the Sunshine Coast Public Health Unit. Her current research portfolio includes vaccine effectiveness and immunisation outcomes within the Sunshine Coast and whole-of-Queensland populations. She is interested in understanding how vaccines perform in real-world settings, as well as defining and exploring the effects of variant-vaccine mismatch on vaccine effectiveness – work that sits at the intersection of epidemiology, infectious disease, and health policy. Building on her work in this space, she has recently commenced a PhD at the University of Queensland, under the supervision of Prof. Colleen Lau and Prof. Nicolas Smoll.

Rapid fire presentations: Session 2

Martina O'Neill (SCHSS) and Kacy Ringshaw (SCHSS)

Avoiding preventable emergency presentations: outcomes of the Rapid Access Clinic Expansion (RACE) service at a tertiary regional cancer centre

Martina O'Neill is a Cancer Care Nurse Practitioner with the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service. She has worked across both private and public healthcare settings, with extensive experience in inpatient and outpatient oncology. Martina began her career in Western Australia in oncology clinical trials before progressing through a broad range of clinical oncology roles. Her clinical interests include gastrointestinal and genitourinary cancers, supportive care, and improving access to evidence-based cancer services through innovative models of care. Martina is passionate about oncology research, quality improvement, and advancing the Nurse Practitioner role. She is committed to delivering person-centred care while supporting service innovation and the development of the future oncology workforce.

My name is Kacy Ringshaw, and I am the Cancer Care Nurse Practitioner in Gympie. I have been a dedicated cancer care nurse for the last 19 years and am passionate about ensuring people living in rural and regional communities can access high-quality cancer care close to home. My role supports patients through treatment, managing complex side effects, finding practical solutions that help them stay well. I look forward to developing new models of care that improve access and outcomes for rural patients and their families and am proud to be part of a team working to strengthen cancer care for our regional community.

Dr Rachel Barr (SCHSS)

Examining advance care planning practices: a descriptive study of ACP Tracker utilisation

Rachel is a recently fellowed Palliative and General Medicine Specialist who has completed post graduate training both in the UK and Australia. Since graduation from the University Of Aberdeen in 2012, she has completed training in London, South East England, Northern Ireland, Brisbane and Sunshine Coast. She has always been dedicated to pursuing a career in Palliative Medicine but has as strong interest in chronic illnesses which was the motivation to dual train in General Medicine. This research being presented was her RACP Advanced Training project.

Dr Brooke Colledge (SCHSS)

Optimising Prescribing Practices: Investigating Physician Confidence and Experience in Prophylaxis Against Hepatitis B Reactivation in Patients on Immunosuppressing Agents [React-HepB]

Brooke Colledge is a resident doctor at Sunshine Coast University Hospital with a strong interest in gastroenterology. During medical school, she published a paper on the effects of ketogenic diets on metabolic syndrome. She contributed to two posters, one exploring gender equitable scoring systems for decompensated cirrhosis, the other investigating acute severe ulcerative colitis recurrence rates with Hydrocortisone versus Methylprednisolone. Other research includes collecting data comparing time to large volume paracentesis following dedicated procedural teaching for doctors. Currently, she is exploring an app designed to assist clinical decision-making for monitoring and prophylaxis for chronic hepatitis B patients on immunosuppressive medications.

Dr Nick Tierney (SCHSS)

EMOLED Evaluation Study: Assessing Blue Light Therapy in Wound Healing

Nick is a medical practitioner (Principal House Officer) at Sunshine Coast University Hospital, working across the Vascular Surgery and High-Risk Foot services. Nick completed his medical residency at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, and prior to this worked as a Radiographer at Mater Hospital in Brisbane. Nick practices under the expertise of Dr Vivienne Moulton (director of vascular surgery) and Mr Scott Lucadou-Wells (advanced podiatrist). The team collectively has a strong interest in complex wound management and limb preservation, with an eagerness to advance innovative, research-driven strategies aimed at improving wound healing and patient quality of life.

Dr Elizabeth Morton (SCHSS)

Enhancing Efficiency and Accuracy in Trauma Activation Criteria: A Quality Improvement Initiative at Sunshine Coast University Hospital and Health Service

Dr Elizabeth Morton is an Emergency Medicine Registrar based on the Sunshine Coast, with experience across emergency medicine and major trauma in both Australia and the United Kingdom. She has worked in several Major Trauma Centres, including St Mary's Hospital and Kings College Hospital in London as a Major Trauma SHO, and as a Trauma PHO in Australia. She has a strong interest in trauma systems, disaster medicine, and emergency resource utilisation.

Dr Daniel Stephenson (SCHSS)

From Audit to Continuous Improvement: Multidisciplinary Redesign of the Major Haemorrhage Protocol at Sunshine Coast University Hospital

Dan is an emergency medicine registrar in Queensland. He underwent initial emergency medicine specialist training in the United Kingdom and has experience in pre-hospital emergency medicine and critical care. He has worked in London and Birmingham major trauma centres, and his interests include trauma resuscitation, major haemorrhage management, and clinical governance. He is undertaking the rest of his specialist training in Australia, and is currently involved in the redesign of the SCHHS Major Haemorrhage protocol as a member of the SCHHS Blood Management Committee.

A/Prof Andrew Dettrick (Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology and University of the Sunshine Coast)

Ultraviolet signature mutation testing for the management of metastatic head and neck squamous cell carcinoma of unknown primary site

A/Prof Andrew Dettrick is a senior Anatomical Pathologist at Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology, Sunshine Coast, attached to the Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital. He was the inaugural Director of Pathology at Sunshine Coast University Hospital. Noticing the high prevalence of skin cancer in the Sunshine Coast community, Andy temporarily relocated to Sydney to complete a fellowship in Melanoma Pathology at Melanoma Institute Australia in 2022. This experience inspired further study into skin cancer.

Dr Dougal Brown (SCHSS) and Dr Megan Van Niekerk (SCHSS and Griffith University)

Iron deficiency, anaemia, and colorectal cancer detection at colonoscopy: a retrospective cohort study

Dougal and Megan are resident medical officers at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital with an interest in quality improvement projects and in furthering their understanding of evidence based practice.

Dr Michael Christmas (SCHSS)

Retrospective cohort study of intravenous steroids in acute severe ulcerative colitis

Dr Michael Christmas is graduate of Griffith University and undertook physician training across several sites in Metro North. He completed his gastroenterology training in Canberra and finally, as the Inflammatory Bowel Disease fellow on the Sunshine Coast, where he obtained fellowship from the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and remains as an early career Gastroenterologist. His areas of investigation and studies management of acute severe ulcerative colitis, intestinal ultrasound and optimisation of existing resources. He is active in several drug trials and clinical trials involving intestinal ultrasound.

Nicole New (SCHSS)

Real-world efficacy and safety of nurse practitioner led heart failure therapy titration and optimisation

Mrs Nicole New is a Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner and has been working in Heart Failure Services across southeast Queensland for over 16 years. She works in the Heart Failure Service at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and Gympie Hospital delivering Heart Failure Medication Titration clinics across the region. Nicole completed her Master of Nurse Practitioner at the University of Queensland in 2023. Prior to this she completed a Master of Advanced Practice Nursing and a Postgraduate Certificate of Nursing Science specialising in Cardiac Nursing at James Cook University.

Dr Cassie Turner (SCHSS, Griffith University, and University of Queensland)

Later Line Therapies in Extensive-Stage Small-Cell Lung Cancer: Real-World Outcomes From a Multisite Retrospective Cohort Study.

Dr Turner is a medical oncologist with an interest in breast, gynaecological, brain and thoracic cancers. She is also a research fellow with the Australian Rare Cancer Portal. Her research interests include epidemiology and examining the real-world impact of treatment advances. She has worked over many years to establish a collaborative, multisite small cell lung cancer database, aiming to examine local practices and outcomes for those with this poor prognosis cancer. She hopes to leverage this data to improve patient outcomes. Cassie is passionate about equity in oncological care, particularly for those from rural and remote areas.

Dr Julie Creen (SCHHS, Clinical Excellence Queensland, and University of the Sunshine Coast)

Understanding and Building Research Culture and Capacity in Womens and Children's Services

Dr Julie Creen is an advanced allied health practitioner, occupational therapist in paediatrics at SCH, and principal project and research officer at Queensland child and youth clinical network, clinical excellence Qld. She is a clinically embedded researcher with over 20 years' experience in child development, medicine and health. She leads research focused on innovative models of care to improve access and outcomes for children with neurodevelopmental and behavioural conditions. Her work has secured competitive funding, and driven real-world service improvements, with a strong focus on family-centred, transdisciplinary care. She is also committed to building research capability within regional health services and supporting clinicians to engage in meaningful research and evaluation.

A/Prof Alison Craswell (University of the Sunshine Coast)

Unpaid caring for patients with conservatively managing kidney disease - "doing what I have always done".

Assoc Prof Alison Craswell holds a Cisco Research Chair in Digital Health and Ageing at University of the Sunshine Coast. Alison's research seeks to better understand care needs for older adults to age well, harnessing digital solutions. In collaboration with local health services, specifically Caboolture and Sunshine Coast hospitals, this research is challenging clinicians to innovate and think differently.

Rapid fire presentations: Session 3 (Novice Researchers)

Kate Kropp (University of the Sunshine Coast)

Sarcopenia prevalence, dietary intake and financial toxicity in head and neck cancer patients from regional Southeast Queensland up to one-year post-treatment

Ms Kate Kropp is a Bachelor of Dietetics graduate currently enrolled in Master of Science program at UniSC. Kate's interest and passion is to improve health outcomes for people impacted by cancer through diet. Her current research is in collaboration with Sunshine Coast Health, and focuses on sarcopenia prevalence, dietary intake and financial toxicity in head and neck cancer survivors.

Andrzej (Andrew) Kwintowski (University of the Sunshine Coast)

Does blood flow restriction applied during aerobic training enhance the functional and vascular health benefits of cardiac rehabilitation? A randomised controlled efficacy trial

Andrew is a Master of Science candidate whose research focuses on the application of blood flow restriction exercise within cardiac rehabilitation. His work investigates whether blood flow restriction can enhance aerobic exercise capacity, functional capacity, and vascular health in people with coronary artery disease. Andrew holds a Bachelor of Clinical Exercise Physiology and has contributed to several cardiovascular research projects involving peripheral artery disease and vascular assessment. He also enjoys assisting within the integrated SCUH-UniSC cardiac rehabilitation program and supporting patients in their recovery.

Carolyn Allen (SCHSS and University of the Sunshine Coast)

Footprints- An exploratory study of the services accessed by patients who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander with Diabetes-related Foot Disease in the Sunshine Coast region

Carolyn Allen is a Nurse Navigator and Credentialed Diabetes Educator with Sunshine Coast Health, working across hospital and community settings to improve outcomes for people with complex diabetes. She leads innovative models of care that focus on prevention, equity, and hospital avoidance. Carolyn is currently completing a Master of Science (Research) at the University of the Sunshine Coast, exploring healthcare utilisation and service access among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with diabetes-related foot disease. Her interests include research translation, service improvement, rural health, and developing practical solutions that improve access and outcomes for vulnerable communities.

Samantha Ellis (University of the Sunshine Coast)

Exploring Post-Trauma Care and Driving Readiness in Older Adults: A Collaborative Observership with SCUH

Samantha is a Research Associate and PhD Candidate with the MAIC/UniSC Road Safety Research Collaboration (RSRC). Here, her research examines attention in healthy ageing and how this relates to driving. She is currently completing a clinical observership with the SCUH Trauma Service, aiming to understand the hospital process for older adults who have experienced injury or trauma and understand what guidance may be given for activities such as driving. In addition, the observership aims to understand what cognitive assessments are used (if any), and how this information informs decisions regarding driving.

Kellie Strickland (SCHSS and University of the Sunshine Coast)

Pseudomonas aeruginosa in bronchiectasis: unmasking population diversity and antimicrobial resistance within the Australian context

Kellie Strickland is a third-year PhD candidate in Microbial Genetics and Infectious Disease at the University of the Sunshine Coast, working within the Pathogenomics Lab at the Sunshine Coast Health Institute. Her research focuses on *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and its antimicrobial resistance mechanisms, specifically in chronic respiratory conditions such as bronchiectasis. Additionally, Kellie is a respiratory and sleep scientist with 8 years' clinical experience across the UK and Australia, holding degrees in Biomedical Science and Honours from UniSC, and a Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases from the University of Edinburgh.

Eldho Thomas, Abhinav Tummala and Winston Wang (Griffith University)

Establishing a Pre-COVID-19 Baseline for Medically Attended RSV Hospitalisations in Infants Aged <1 Year: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Eldho Thomas is a third year Doctor of Medicine student at Griffith University and a University Medalist from the University of the Sunshine Coast. He holds a Bachelor of Medical Science. Currently advancing through core surgical and medical clinical placements, Eldho is also conducting critical epidemiological research. He is leading a systematic review establishing historical pre COVID baselines for Respiratory Syncytial Virus hospitalisations to help inform future clinical strategies. Beyond his medical training, Eldho is an accomplished science, mathematics, and GAMSAT educator. He is also a highly dedicated community leader, actively mentoring local youth and organizing local initiatives.

Abhinav Tummala is a Doctor of Medicine candidate at Griffith University and a 2023 Amgen Scholar, holding a Bachelor of Medical Science from the University of the Sunshine Coast. His research interests include public health, surgery, clinical governance, artificial intelligence, and healthcare innovation. His current research includes a systematic review and meta-analysis examining RSV case hospitalisation across age groups to better understand disease burden and healthcare utilisation, alongside the development of AI-based tools for surgical diagnosis and planning to support clinical decision-making and improve patient outcomes. Abhinav has strong experience in biostatistics, evidence synthesis, and academic scientific writing.

Winston Wang is a third-year medical student at Griffith University with an interest in clinical research and evidence-based medicine. His research interests include public health and radiology. He is interested in integrating research into clinical practice and developing skills in critical appraisal and scientific writing.

Kye Grant (SCHSS and University of Canberra)

How SMART is the adaptor? Validity of a novel smart device for measuring respiratory muscle strength; agreement with established point-of-care manometers

Kye Grant is an ICU physiotherapist working across the adult and paediatric units within Sunshine Coast Health. He is an early career researcher and PhD candidate at the University of Canberra. Supported by a SERTF-Wishlist Clinician-Researcher Fellowship, his research program centres on optimising respiratory recovery following critical illness, with a particular focus on inspiratory muscle training and the integration of smart technologies to enhance assessment, monitoring, and adherence. His work aims to generate foundational evidence to enable scalable, technology-supported respiratory rehabilitation beyond the ICU, improving equitable access to effective care regardless of setting.

Kelly Buzza (SCHSS)

Utilisation of Healthcare Redesign Methodologies to Develop an Allied Health-Led Carer Coaching Program for Carers of People Receiving Palliative Care in Rural and Regional Queensland

Ms Kelly Buzza is an Advanced Pharmacist with the statewide Specialist Palliative Care Rural Telehealth (SPaRTa) service and is currently completing a Master of Philosophy at The University of Queensland. She leads the implementation and evaluation of a multi-disciplinary Carer Coaching Program, delivered via Telehealth, to improve support for carers of people receiving palliative care in rural and regional Queensland. Kelly has strong expertise in healthcare redesign and quality improvement, with a focus on improving equitable access, service delivery, and measurable health outcomes. Her work integrates co-design, implementation science, and data-driven evaluation to translate evidence into scalable models of care.

Sehaj Kochhar (Griffith University)

Residential aged care home chart audit

Sehaj Kochhar is a third-year medical student at Griffith University, undertaking clinical training at Sunshine Coast University Hospital. She has a strong interest in healthcare quality improvement, healthcare systems optimisation, and initiatives that improve patient quality of life and outcomes. Her current quality improvement work examines Emergency Department utilisation among residential aged care home residents, with a particular focus on advance care planning and patient-centred decision-making.

Renuka Dasanayaka (University of the Sunshine Coast)

Impact of Different Modes of Cardiac Rehabilitation Delivery Practised in Regional, Rural, and Remote Settings on Clinical and Program Outcomes: A Systematic Review

Ms Renuka Dasanayaka is a full-time PhD candidate at the School of Health, University of the Sunshine Coast, focusing on implementing a sustainable cardiac rehabilitation model in rural Queensland that can be extended to similar contexts, including Sri Lanka. She is a registered physiotherapist currently on leave from her role as Senior Lecturer in Physiotherapy at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. Renuka holds a BSc in Physiotherapy, an MSc in Applied Statistics, and an MSc in Rehabilitation Science. She has a strong research profile, with 12 published papers and 15 abstracts in Q1/Q2 journals, as well as numerous conference contributions.

Simon Llewellyn (SCHSS) and Simon Hampshire (SCHSS)

Nursing management of intoxicated persons under involuntary legislation in emergency departments in metropolitan Queensland, Australia; a focused ethnography study.

My name is Simon Llewellyn, and I am a Clinical Nurse Consultant with the Emergency Department Mental Health team on the Sunshine Coast, where I have worked since the opening of SCUH after relocating from Sydney. I have nearly 20 years of experience in mental health nursing, including 15 years in emergency department settings. I hold qualifications in Nursing, Health Management, and Health Law, with an academic focus on medico-legal research in acute care environments. I have published in areas including emergency involuntary transport and the emergency use of guardianship legislation. I recently submitted my PhD through the University of the Sunshine Coast, which developed a Constructivist Grounded Theory to explain how registered nurses in Australia interpret and apply law in clinical practice. I am presently undertaking a research project which explores the emergency use of the mental health act; identifying the intersection of clinical decision making with legislative reasoning. I really enjoy working as a nurse, helping people and exploring ways we can do it better through research!

My name is Simon Hampshire I am Clinical Nurse Consultant within Emergency Department Mental Health (EDMH) services in the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service. I have 13 yrs experience in MH nursing, have worked in EDMH for the last 6 years and am currently undertaking studies as a Nurse Practitioner Student. I have previous experience in research, examining the intersection of emergency nursing practice and mental health legislation and engaged in a current research project, investigating how legislative frameworks influence clinical assessment, risk management, and decision-making processes in mental health care.

Nicole O'Donnell (SCHSS and University of Queensland)

Allied health supportive care needs in immunotherapy for head and neck cancer: a qualitative study of staff perspectives

Nicole O'Donnell is a speech pathologist and PhD candidate at The University of Queensland, researching supportive care for people with head and neck cancer. She brings more than 15 years of clinical experience across cancer care, with a strong interest in how treatment side effects shape function, wellbeing, and service development. Nicole's research combines qualitative and quantitative approaches to better understand patient experiences and guide improvements in multidisciplinary care. Her current thesis includes a series of studies exploring toxicity profiles, supportive care gaps, and opportunities to strengthen allied health involvement for head and neck cancer patients receiving immunotherapy.

