

HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

(HREC) MEMBERS

Mr Mike Feehan
HREC Chairperson



Mike was appointed to the Board of Barwon Health in July 2016. He was formerly a director of Western Health and of Inner East Melbourne Medicare Local and Melbourne East GP Network. He also served for seven years as vice president of the Western Bulldogs.

Mike is currently a business management consultant specialising in strategy development and stakeholder communications. He had previously held a number of senior management positions at Orica Ltd, including business and operational general management roles and head of Corporate Affairs. He was also formerly the Chief Operating Officer for Slater and Gordon Lawyers.

Mike and his wife Chris have recently made the move to the Bellarine Peninsula and are enjoying getting involved in their new local community.

Dr Renee Otmar
HREC Deputy Chair/HREC Member – Professional Care Category



Qualifications BA, GradDipEdPub, MA (Comms), MPH, GCALL, PhD, Cert.Governance

Awards Distinguished Editor (Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd), 2008), Honorary Life Member (Editors Victoria, 2000)

Member Australian Society of Authors, Ballarat Writers, Public Health Association of Australia, Lead Examiner IPEd Accreditation

Current Position Business and Communications Manager, Western Alliance Academic Health Science Centre.

Dr Renée Otmar joined Barwon Health's HREC in early 2013. She is a senior communications specialist with broad expertise in public health research, policy, writing and editing. Prior to commencing her research career she trained and worked as a book editor, writer and publisher. Renée has a professional background in content development, strategic planning, change management and project management. She has a particular interest in translating complex technical and scientific information to texts and formats suitable for implementation into policy briefs, professional practice and information for the general public.

Renée enjoys travel, outdoor exercise, training for distance running events and learning the cello and violin.

Ms Samantha Lopez
HREC Member – Lay Category



Ms Samantha Lopez is an experienced Product Developer within the fashion industry, specialising in menswear design. Graduating from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Samantha has had the opportunity to work for two diverse brands; a dominating fast-fashion retailer to a luxury menswear label.

When Samantha isn't working, she thoroughly enjoys being around her family, volunteering her time to causes which have a significant meaning to her, and travelling. Her favourite cities are Barcelona and London, both which she hopes to travel back to in the near future.

Ms Lauren Mahoney
HREC Member – Lay Category



Lauren has worked in the Water Industry for over 14 years undertaking a range of environmental planning, recycled water planning and project management roles. Lauren is currently working as a Senior Project Manager to deliver water, sewerage and recycled water related infrastructure in the Geelong and surrounding region.

Lauren enjoys travel, hiking and spending time with family and friends.

Qualifications – BE (Hons) Environmental Engineering, Graduate Certificate in Social Ecology.

Mr Darryl Towers
HREC Member – Lay Category



Mr Darryl Towers has corporate business experience including over 26 years with Alcoa in Australia. He has broad based international & domestic knowledge developed within metals/materials sales & marketing, transport, supply chain, purchasing & manufacturing environments.

Darryl has been a member of the HREC since mid-2012. He is a Barwon Health Volunteer and Consumer Representative on current governance committees plus a number of other committees, focus groups and WISE.

His qualifications include a Bachelor of Applied Science in Secondary Metallurgy.

HREC Member – Professional Care Category



Ms Jacqui Barry has extensive experience in governance, healthcare and regulation having held a variety of roles across the health sector and medical research fields including work with a national regulatory scheme (AHPRA), the Department of Health (Victoria), St Vincent's Hospital (Melbourne), Barwon Health and the University of Melbourne (Department of Medicine). She has also worked in the film, television and digital media sectors managing government-led investment initiatives and for private post-production and event management companies.

Jacqui currently works as the Director, Quality and Compliance in a role that encompasses strategic oversight of legislative and contractual obligations including health, safety and risk management. Jacqui has postgraduate qualifications in IP Law, management, clinical research and a BSc (Hons).

Mr Phil Emery

HREC Member – Layperson Category



During a long and varied professional career, Phil has been appointed to a wide range of challenging leadership positions in both science education and business including senior management as General Manager and CEO for a diverse range of local and overseas companies.

Phil has been involved in several important community groups including:

- 2014 to present - Chairman of Barwon Coast Committee of Management
- 2015 to present - Inaugural President of the new Shell Road Pavilion Board of Management - a multipurpose community facility servicing the needs of 5 sporting clubs and the wider community
- 1985 to present – Founder of Ocean Grove Harriers – a local running group that meets every Saturday and which participates in many community events as a group. Known humorously as ‘The Grand Master’

Dr Cameron Osborne

HREC Member – Professional Care Category



Dr Cameron Osborne’s first association with University Hospital, Geelong was in the ‘last century’ as a medical student. He has now been a consultant anaesthetist at Barwon Health since 2008.

Cameron has been the Site Investigator for several large multi-centre anaesthetic trials (ENIGMA 2, POISE 2, and the current RELIEF trial). He has studied biostatistics to certificate level and is now studying echocardiography. Cameron is interested in research because it answers questions to which we simply do not know the answer, and this will hopefully lead to better care. His outside interests include being a Dad and learning piano.

Dr Greg Weeks

HREC Member – Professional Care Category



Dr Greg Weeks is the Director of Pharmacy at Barwon Health and St John of God Hospital. He has current membership of various State and professional committees including the Victorian Therapeutics Advisory Group, and Health Purchasing Victoria Pharmaceuticals Expert Reference Group.

Greg is a researcher with Monash University in the Faculty of Pharmacy, Centre for Medication Use and Safety, and holds a Master of Pharmacy in Clinical Pharmacy, Master of Health Administration, PhD and Fellowship of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia.

Greg has a special interest in advanced practice roles for hospital pharmacists and is pursuing this interest through research grants involving partnered pharmacist charting and advanced pharmacy practice in community palliative care. Greg has published widely within the pharmacy literature.

Mr Lynsey Blakston

HREC Member – Pastoral Care Category



Mr Lynsey Blakston has ongoing pastoral responsibilities through church leadership he is involved in. This includes a particular project of outreach into the northern suburbs of Geelong through Vines Road Community Centre.

He is also part of the Board of Covenant College in Bell Post Hill where he has grandchildren attending.

Ms Ruth Oakden

HREC Member – Pastoral Care Category



Ruth has enjoyed almost two decades overseeing the chaplaincy and wellbeing programs within an international transport and logistics organisation.

Her current position as GM Wellbeing combines traditional pastoral care with a holistic wellbeing approach to support a culturally and geographically diverse community of over 40,000 people.

In this role Ruth has the opportunity to develop a range of programs that cater for the needs of the company's employees but also to respond to community issues.

A resident of Geelong for most of her life, she is an enthusiastic knitter but also enjoys travel within Australia and overseas, recreational bush-walking, cycling, camping and climbing – pleasure she shares with and imposes upon her partner, children and grandson.

Prof Trisha Dunning

HREC Member - Research Experience Category



Qualifications – RN, MEd, PhD, Graduate Certificates: Obstetrics, Infant Welfare, Paediatrics, Family Planning, Aromatherapy, Relaxation Massage. Graduate Diplomas: Health Education, Professional Writing. Credentialed Diabetes Educator since 1986.

Current Position Inaugural Chair in Nursing and Director of the Centre for Nursing and Allied Health Research, Deakin University and Barwon Health, Geelong, Victoria, Australia. Trisha chairs an important centre that is a partnership between Deakin University and Barwon Health. The Centre focuses on undertaking research as well as providing academic, research and professional leadership to students and staff in both organisations. Before coming to Deakin, Trisha was Professor of Endocrinology and Diabetes Nursing Research at University of Melbourne and St. Vincent's Health.

Trisha has an international reputation in diabetes research and clinical practice. She is a member of many diabetes, medicine, complementary therapy and nursing committees, and the foundation chair of the Diabetes Education Consultative Section of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF). She completed two three year terms as Vice President of the IDF in December 2015. She is a current member of the Board of Diabetes Australia Victoria, and is on the Executive of the Deakin Research Centre for Quality and Patient Safety Research.

Trisha was made a member of the Order of Australia for her work in diabetes and nursing in 2004 and admitted to the Honour Roll of Victorian Women in 2014. Her research concentrates on diabetes self-care and nursing management, particularly older people with diabetes and end of life care.

A/Prof Debra Kerr**HREC Member - Research Experience Category**



Debra is a registered nurse with more than 30 years nursing experience across public health services in Melbourne and 8 years employed in the academic setting. She holds a PhD degree, and has post graduate qualifications in 'Tertiary Education' and 'Research Methods' (Graduate Certificate) and 'Business Leadership' (Masters). She has held several senior leadership appointments (e.g., Head of Discipline – Nursing and Honours Coordinator (Victoria University) and chaired several university committees (e.g., HREC, Research and Research Training – VU).

A growing research track record is evident with over 68 peer-reviewed publications and over 60 conference presentations, and strengthening academic supervision and grant success (\$540,770). Maintaining strong links with industry partners, particularly at Western Health, has facilitated collaborative research opportunities. In the past 6 years she has been the recipient of several competitive grants (NSW Health, Nurses Board of Victoria Legacy Limited Grant, National Stroke Foundation).

Her research focuses on knowledge translation (the process of research use) and conducting applied nursing research on strategies that aim to enhance healthcare services. Areas of interest include the process of communication between nurses and patients in clinical contexts, such as bedside nursing handover. Debra has led many evaluations of new processes and/or interventions such as intranasal medication delivery, management of patients with low risk chest pain and weight estimation for paediatrics, aligned with clinical specialities of acute cardiac and emergency nursing. Methodological approaches have predominantly focused on quantitative methods including randomised controlled trials, feasibility studies, audits and surveys.

Ms Alison Mitchell**HREC Member – Lawyer Category**



Alison is the Practice Manager and a Lawyer at Whyte Just & Moore, practising in the area of wills and estates. Alison studied at Deakin University in Geelong, graduating in 1998 with an honours degree in law and a bachelor degree in commerce.

Alison's areas of legal practice initially included litigation, wills and estates and criminal law, before practising exclusively in family law for several years. During that time, Alison was appointed by Victoria Legal Aid to act as an independent Children's Lawyer, representing children in contentious family law disputes. After spending some time at home with her young family, Alison returned to legal practice and now enjoys the challenges and the ability to assist people with their succession and estate planning.

For more than a decade Alison was a regular volunteer at the Barwon Legal Service, an active member of the Geelong Law Association and the Treasurer of the Association for a number of years.

Alison's interests outside of work include spending time with family and friends, walking, reading and the beach.

Dr Ian McKenzie

HREC Member – Professional Category



Ian McKenzie graduated in Medicine (1961 MBBS) from Melbourne University and trained in Internal Medicine at the Royal Melbourne Hospital at the time when renal transplantation was being established. An MD & MRACP/FRACP followed and a PhD on “Antibodies in Transplantation”.

Ian then worked at the Mass General Hospital in Boston, and at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine USA, where his interest in Lymphocyte Surface antigens developed when working with Dr George Snell (Nobel Prize 1980). On return to Australia in 1974, he worked at the Austin Hospital, established a “Centre of Excellence” in the Department of Pathology at the University of Melbourne and was then, in 1990, appointed as Founding Director of the Austin Research Institute (ARI). His research at the ARI resulted in the formation of Prima Biomed Limited where Ian was a founding Board Member. He was a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of Revivicor (USA) and is an honorary member of the Australian Society for Immunology, Transplant Society of Australia and New Zealand, & International Xenotransplantation Association.

Ian’s major contributions are described in many papers, covering allo- and xeno-transplantation, cell surface antigens and studies in the diagnosis and therapy of cancer. His laboratory pioneered the application of monoclonal antibody technology in Australia in the 1970’s, where hundreds of antibodies were made, especially those detecting more than 40 different cell surface molecules and 15 new genes described in the mouse and humans, including the cloning of many. Several antibodies were used in the clinic, either alone or as immunoconjugates, or were used to develop serum based ELISA tests for breast or ovarian cancer and were successfully licensed. More recently, Ian has been consulting for several biotech companies, particularly those involved in cancer.

Dr Nick Simpson

HREC Member – Professional Care Category

Nick is an Intensive Care specialist at UHG. He grew up in Bairnsdale and moved to Melbourne to study medicine at The University of Melbourne. Having completed a fellowship in Emergency Medicine, Nick completed further training in aeromedical retrieval in Glasgow and medical simulation in Perth. After completing his intensive care fellowship Nick returned to Geelong.

He currently works as an Intensivist and Medical Director of the simulation centre at the Geelong Clinical School (Deakin University). Nick’s interests include medical education, human factors, and outcomes research.

Ms Katherine Snowden

HREC Member – Professional Care Category

Katherine is the Oncology Pharmacy Manager at Barwon Health. She graduated from the University of Tasmania with a Bachelor of Science majoring in Psychology and then completed her Bachelor of Pharmacy at Charles Sturt University. Katherine also holds a Master of Health Service Management from the University of Tasmania. Before joining Barwon Health she worked at the Chris O’Brien Lifehouse in Sydney as the Director of Pharmacy.

Ms Jackie Hutchinson
HREC Member – Layperson Category

Ms Louise Scerri
HREC Member – Layperson Category
