

2022 AusACPDM Mentors

Professor Roslyn N Boyd

PhD, MSc (PT), BAppSc (PT), BSc (Anatomy), Pgrad (Biomech)
Current Fellowships: NHMRC Senior Research Fellowship (2020-2025)
Brisbane, QLD, Australia



Professor of Cerebral Palsy and Rehabilitation Research,
Queensland Paediatric Rehabilitation Service,
Queensland Children's Hospital.
Scientific Director, Queensland Cerebral Palsy and Rehabilitation
Research,
Centre for Children's Health Research, Faculty of Medicine,
The University of Queensland.

Professor Boyd is an NHMRC Research fellow, leads an NHMRC CRE, CP Synergy grant and is Scientific Director of the QCPRRC, an internationally recognised team of researchers conducting clinical trials of novel interventions geared to optimising neuroplasticity (>17 RCT's), early detection of cerebral palsy, longitudinal comprehensive outcomes linked to brain structure and function. She leads a team of 38 researchers, including 4 NHMRC post docs, and has 12 current PhDs. She has been an invited participant for 3 international summits on Management of CP in high and low resource countries (2013); Early Detection and Early Intervention (2014, 2015) and Management of Neonatal Stroke (2016). She has received >\$44M in grants including 14 NHMRC, 1 ARC, 2 NIH. She and her research team have been awarded the most prestigious international prize for CP Research the Gayle Arnold Award on 3 occasions (2010, 2011 and 2014). Dr Boyd graduated as a physiotherapist (BAppSc 1981) from University of Sydney and completed a Postgrad Dip in Biomechanics at the University of Strathclyde (Glasgow 1997), a MSc in Physiotherapy at the University of East London (2001) followed by a PhD in Neuroscience at LaTrobe University (2004). Prof Boyd has >340 peer reviewed publications over her career, with 127 new publications in the last five years. H index=49; (Researcher ID: A-4498-2011).

Honours and Awards

Leader of the year award, 2017, Faculty of Medicine, UQ.

AACPDM Mentorship Award, 2018,

Commendation for the Premier's Award for Medical Research (Victoria), June 2004.

Gayle Arnold Award for best paper at the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy & Developmental Medicine, in 2011, 2010 and 2014.

Ms Andrea Butler

Physiotherapist

New Plymouth, Taranaki, New Zealand

Andrea completed her Physiotherapy Education at Auckland University of Technology in 1995. On graduating she became a rotational Physiotherapist at Taranaki Base Hospital in New Plymouth. Andrea travelled to the UK and worked predominantly in paediatrics, including a month working in an orphanage in Romania. On returning to NZ in June 1999 Andrea took up the position of Visiting Paediatric Physiotherapist at the Child and Adolescent Centre in New Plymouth, until she had her first child in March 2002. In February 2003 Andrea began work as a Physiotherapist for Ministry of Education in Taranaki, and have continued to work there increasing her position from a 0.2 FTE to now 0.7 (i.e. approx. 29 hours a week). Andrea's work is centred on children with disabilities in the school environment, assisting them to be as included in the school curriculum as possible.



Ms Therese Everton

Physiotherapist

Central Coast, NSW, Australia

Therese Everton is a physiotherapist working for the Cerebral Palsy Alliance at Tuggerah on the central coast of New South Wales, Australia. Therese started work in Birmingham England where she was introduced to the model of multi-disciplinary teamwork to improve the skills and opportunities of all people with a disability, regardless of their severity.

After moving to Australia with her family in 1990, she has worked in a variety of settings with children and adults with a disability.

Therese loves the variety and complexity of working with families to improve the participation and engagement of their children in all the challenges life has to offer.

She particularly enjoys working with infants and younger children and people with profound disabilities.



Dr Noula Gibson

Physiotherapist

Perth, WA, Australia

Dr. Noula Gibson has a background in physiotherapy working with children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families. She has expertise in cerebral palsy intervention and research including working in tertiary hospital acute inpatient and outpatient areas, the community sector, and the rural and remote sector. Noula is the Research Coordinator for the Physiotherapy Department at Perth Children's Hospital, providing leadership to strategically direct the research activities of the physiotherapy department to align with the Child and Adolescent Health research strategy.

Noula is the Coordinating Principal Investigator with a research team investigating respiratory comorbidities in children and young people with CP. The most recent output of this work, a *Consensus statement for preventing and treating respiratory illness in cerebral palsy* was the "Editors Choice" for February 2021. Since publication of this resource she has been invited and delivered over 10 workshops/presentations of this work. Noula's other stream of research is investigating physical activity interventions for children living with disabilities or chronic disease. She adapted and researched a running intervention for children with CP based on the pioneering work of Prof Gavin Williams in ABI. She teaches workshops based on this work, supervised a PhD to completion in this area and continues to adapt and test this model of intervention in other paediatric subspecialties.

Noula loves supporting and learning from new and emerging clinicians and researchers.



Dr Ashleigh Hines

Post-doctoral Research Fellow

Sydney, NSW

Ashleigh is an occupational therapist and post-doctoral research fellow at Cerebral Palsy Alliance. Ashleigh works in the early detection and early intervention team. Her research interests include early intervention with infants at risk or with cerebral palsy, and in particular, delivering early intervention for infants with upper limb asymmetry. Ashleigh's PhD focused on a novel approach to upper limb therapy for children with unilateral cerebral palsy.



Ms Megan Kentish

Senior physiotherapist

Brisbane, QLD

Megan is a senior physiotherapist and the program director for the Queensland Paediatric Rehabilitation Service. This is a multidisciplinary service offering management for children with acquired brain injury, spinal cord injury and disease, limb deficiency and cerebral palsy. She has over 20 years' experience in paediatric rehabilitation with special interest in service development for children with Rehabilitation needs, outreach services and tertiary health programs for children with cerebral palsy. Megan's publications and research areas include Hip Surveillance in CP, physiotherapy and rehab models of service delivery, intrathecal baclofen and botulinum toxin.

Megan's also a keen traveller and walker (see photo of Megan trekking in Bhutan).



Dr Katherine (Kate) Langdon

Consultant in Paediatric Medicine and Paediatrician
Perth, WA

Kate is a consultant in paediatric rehabilitation medicine and also a paediatrician. She has worked in the area for more than 20 years and has enjoyed seeing the positive changes in the field in that time. She has interests in cerebral palsy, early intervention, acquired brain injury, spinal cord injury, spina bifida and achondroplasia. Her research interest lies in the respiratory disease seen in CP, sleep and also the psychological adjustment to disability. She has worked in the RACP on papers regarding the NDIS, the training of rehabilitation physicians and also the service structure of the Faculty of Paediatric Rehabilitation Medicine. She is always keen to learn how other people in other places do things.



Dr Sarah McIntyre

Senior Research Fellow
Sydney, NSW

Sarah is a Senior Research Fellow at Cerebral Palsy Alliance, The University of Sydney. She is also an honorary researcher at Telethon Kids Institute, Perth and Sydney Children's Hospital Network. Sarah is a Board and Advocacy and Awards Committee member of the Australasian Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine. She is responsible for the day to day running of the NSW/ACT CP Register and is the current Policy Group Chairperson for the Australian Cerebral Palsy Register. Sarah is the Research Lead of CP Quest: Community and Researchers together. Sarah's research focus is population-based aetiology research for cerebral palsy, neonatal encephalopathy and congenital anomalies with the long term aim of identifying avenues for prevention and reduced severity of neurodisability.



Dr Cathy Morgan

Senior Research Fellow

Sydney, NSW

Dr Cathy Morgan is a Senior Research Fellow at the Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research Institute, a centre dedicated to the prevention and cure of cerebral palsy (CP) through a research program of neuro-protective, neuro-regenerative and early intervention clinical trials. A paediatric physiotherapist with over 30 years' experience, Cathy now leads the team conducting clinical research in the area of early detection and evidence based early intervention for infants and toddlers with cerebral palsy.

She is a member and network coordinator of the International Steering Group of IMPACT for CP and coordinates a network of clinicians and researchers focused on improving the early detection of cerebral palsy in high risk infants in NSW, Australia. She has led the establishment of the first Australian early diagnostic clinic for cerebral palsy in the western suburbs of Sydney through a collaboration with the Children's Hospital at Westmead and Cerebral Palsy Alliance. She has conducted the first two RCTs of early intervention in cerebral palsy using GAME intervention and is currently coordinating a large multicentre RCT on the same intervention. Other research interests include developmental trajectories of infants with CP and translating evidence based early intervention strategies in low- and middle-income country settings.

Since completing her PhD in 2016 she has received over \$10M in research funding to date including >\$8M NHMRC. She is a postdoctoral fellow of NHMRC CRE Australasian Cerebral Palsy Clinical Trials Network. Total publications >35 with 30 in last 5 years.



Associate Professor Gulam Khandaker

MBBS, MPH, DCH, PhD, FAFPHM

Rockhampton, QLD, Australia

Associate Professor Gulam Khandaker is a Public Health physician and an expert on infectious diseases and childhood disability in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). He is a Fellow of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine, Royal Australasian College of Physicians. Dr Khandaker is one of the lead investigators of the Bangladesh Cerebral Palsy Register; the first population-based surveillance of children with CP in a LMIC. His research focuses on preventable causes of childhood disability, gaining better understanding of the causal pathways, testing innovative community-based interventions for prevention, early diagnosis and intervention for CP in LMICs.

He is currently working as the Director of Public Health for Central Queensland. He is also the Co-Director of Asian Institute of Disability and Development (www.disabilityasia.org) and Honorary Executive Director of CSF Global (www.csf-global.org); an international NGO working for children with disability. Dr Khandaker is widely published and has over 84 peer reviewed publications. He has established research collaborations in several LMICs including Bangladesh, Ghana, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Vietnam.



Professor Dinah Reddihough

Murdoch Children's Research Institute

Melbourne, Vic, Australia

Professor Dinah Reddihough has appointments at The Royal Children's Hospital and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and is a Professorial Fellow in the Department of Paediatrics, University of Melbourne. Dinah had many years of experience as a paediatrician and is now concentrating on her research program. This is focused on improving the outcomes of children and adolescents with developmental disabilities, particularly cerebral palsy. She has a long association with the AusACPDM. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, reading and looking after three wonderful grandchildren, now aged 10, 11 and 15 years.



Professor Adam Scheinberg

Rehab Paediatrician

Melbourne, Vic, Australia

Adam is a rehab paediatrician and Medical Director of the Victorian Paediatric Rehabilitation Service. He is an active researcher and clinician and has been involved with the AusACPDM for many years in various roles. He is an AusACPDM representative on the IAACD Governing Council. Adam's research interests are primarily focused on service delivery in all settings and improving care for people living with spinal cord injury, acquired brain injury and cerebral palsy. Adam is a board member of Very Special Kids, one of the three children's hospices in Australia. He enjoys bushwalking, golf, skiing and gardening. Adam lives in Sandringham, Melbourne with his wife, a contemporary artist.



Dr Hayley Smithers-Sheedy

Senior Research Fellow

Sydney, NSW, Australia

Hayley is an NH&MRC Post-Doctoral Fellow with Cerebral Palsy Alliance, The University of Sydney and the Australasian Cerebral Palsy Clinical Trials Network. She is a member of both the International Affairs Portfolio for the AusACPDM and the Membership Committee for the International Alliance of Academies of Childhood Disabilities and a research member of CP Quest: Community and Researchers Together. Hayley is responsible for the coordination and execution of research from the Australian Cerebral Palsy Register. In this role she aims to build both local and international research capacity through collaborative partnerships with researchers in both high and low-middle income countries. In her post-doctoral research Hayley is investigating opportunities for prevention of maternal cytomegalovirus infection and understanding the long-term sequelae associated with congenital infection.

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/medicine-health/about/our-people/academic-staff/hayley-smithers-sheedy.html>
https://twitter.com/hss_1



Ms Clare Stevens

Physiotherapist

Brisbane, QLD, Australia

Clare has been working in the paediatric and disability field for 28 years. She currently works in an Education setting based at a special school and for a not for profit service based in the community.

Her passion is working with students with complex needs and their families. She is particularly interested in children who present with a neurodevelopmental disorder such as CP and are classified at GMFCS IV and V. Clare is very interested in the role of the physiotherapist in facilitating communication for this group of children. She has significant experience in prescription of complex seating, powered mobility, technology and other equipment. Clare has a strong belief in physical activity and any self-initiated movement as a learning experience for all, including those with significant physical challenges.



Dr Rachel Toovey

Lecturer, The University of Melbourne

Melbourne, Vic, Australia

Rachel is a physiotherapist and lecturer with the Physiotherapy Department at the University of Melbourne. Her research interests are cerebral palsy, cycling, motor learning, inclusive participation and Indigenous health. Rachel's PhD developed and tested a task-specific approach to attaining two-wheel bike riding goals in children with cerebral palsy.

Rachel currently teaches into the postgraduate level Doctor of Physiotherapy and Master of Rehabilitation Science at the University of Melbourne. She has worked in paediatrics as a physiotherapist for over 10 years in Melbourne, Alice Springs and Papua New Guinea. Rachel also holds a Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine (JCU 2015).

Rachel is a member of the International Affairs Portfolio for the AusACPDM and on the Communications Committee for the International Alliance of Academies of Childhood Disabilities. She is also an elected Victorian Branch Councillor for the Australian Physiotherapy Association, a national level para-cycling classifier with Paralympics Australia and was selected for the Inaugural Victorian Government Joan Kirner Young + Emerging Women's Leaders Program in 2017/18.

