

2024 AusACPD Conference Mentors

Professor Roslyn N Boyd



PhD, MSc (PT), BAppSc (PT), BSc (Anatomy), Pgrad (Biomech)
Brisbane, QLD, Australia

Professor of Cerebral Research, The University of Queensland, 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 has primary training in Physiotherapy (Pediatrics, Neurological, Neonatal, Orthopaedics) with post graduate training in Biomechanics (Pgrad) and Neuroscience (PhD). She has an international track record in conducting randomised clinical trials in the field of cerebral palsy (on the efficacy of upper limb rehabilitation, Early Detection and early intervention in infants and children with CP). Dr Boyd's studies have combined clinical outcomes with an understanding of the mechanisms underpinning response to intervention with novel use of Advanced Brain Imaging (functional MRI, Diffusion Imaging, Functional Connectivity, CP connectome). Her strong collaborations in neuroscience have enabled the development of novel rehabilitation trials for infants, children and youth with Cerebral Palsy. Dr Boyd has achieved 16 NHMRC project grants (8 as CIA, 6 as CIB and two as CIC) 4 NHMRC partnership grants and is currently CIB on an NHMRC Clinical Centre of Excellence CP DRIVE. She is passionate about training the next generation of researchers and in 2014 received the research supervision excellence award in the Faculty of Medicine and Science at UQ for post graduate training (including 29 PhD completions, 15 1st class honors with 8 current PhD's on competitive fellowships). She has had 5 students with NHMRC PhD scholarships (one obtained the Deans Award at UQ) and 12 with APA scholarships, in the fields of Rehabilitation, Neuroscience, Neonatology, Nutrition and Physical Activity. Dr Boyd has been is the scientific board of next joint IAACD-EACD conference in Heidelberg in June 2025.

Honours and Awards: 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 both 2011, 2010 and 2014 (first Australians to receive the award). Haydyn Williams Visiting Professorship 2016-2019, Curtin University. Mentorship Award, 2017 The Faculty of Medicine, The University of Queensland. Mentorship Award 2018, American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine.

Fellowships: NHMRC Senior Research Fellowship L1 (2016-2020, 2020-2025), NHMRC Career Development Fellowship (Senior, level 2) 2012-2015, Queensland Smart State Fellowship 2007 (1 of 3 awarded), NHMRC Career Development Grant (level 1) 473840, 2008- 2011, NHMRC Hospital Training Fellowship 284571 2004-2007

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.



Dr Israt Jahan (she/her)

Public Health Nutritionist and Epidemiologist

Rockhampton, QLD, Australia

Dr Israt Jahan is a public health nutritionist and epidemiologist working with children with cerebral palsy (CP) in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). She is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Central Queensland University Australia and senior program manager at CSF Global in Bangladesh. Her research focuses on understanding the nutritional epidemiology, standardized growth monitoring, prevention, and control of malnutrition among children with CP in LMICs. She is currently leading a "Global CP Nutrition Program" funded by the Research Foundation of Cerebral Palsy Alliance Australia and supported by the Global LMIC CP Register (GLM CPR, a multi-country network of >12 LMIC-based CP registers) which aims to develop a multi-country program on community-based screening/identification and management of malnutrition among children with CP in LMICs. She has ongoing collaborations with disability research team in nine LMICs in Asia, Africa, South America, and the Pacific regions. To date she has supervised >8 research students (master's students) studying public health and nutrition in Bangladesh and published >30 papers in peer-reviewed journals.



Dr Tasneem Karim

MBBS, MPH, PhD

Sydney, NSW, Australia

Tasneem contributes to the Australasian Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine as a member of the Membership and Finance Committee, Mentoring Subcommittee, and the Pacific Group.

With a background in medicine and public health, coupled with extensive international experience in childhood disability, Tasneem brings a distinct perspective to her current roles as Research Fellow at Cerebral Palsy Alliance and the Westmead Clinical School of The University of Sydney. Her interests include epidemiology, surveillance, prevention and early detection of disabilities, particularly cerebral palsy, and community-based approach to interventions in low resource settings. She strongly values nurturing emerging researchers, empowering local teams, and fostering strong partnerships with people with lived experience for sustained and meaningful impact.

Inspired by the invaluable guidance of her mentors, Tasneem looks forward to warmly welcoming mentees and offering support as they navigate their own journeys.



Dr Petra Karlsson (she/her)

Program Lead for Technology

Sydney, NSW, Australia

Dr Petra Karlsson (BS (OT); MHs (OT)) Program Lead for Technology at Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research Institute, and Adjunct Senior Lecturer, The University of Sydney.

Dr Karlsson is an Occupational Therapist with a PhD (2014) in Assistive Technology and cerebral palsy. Dr Karlsson's program of research focuses on bringing allied health and biomedical engineering together, in assistive technology, to support communication, cognitive assessment and functioning in daily activities for individuals living with severe cerebral palsy. She currently holds an NHRMC IDEAS grant that aim to build My Voice Library, a repository of high-quality audio and visual datasets which will be used by engineers and programmers to enable personalised real-time communication. Dr Karlsson works closely with the biomedical engineering department at the University of Sydney, and the occupational therapy department at the Australian Catholic University and brings her expertise of disability and assistive technology to research projects as a supervisor for honours and PhD students



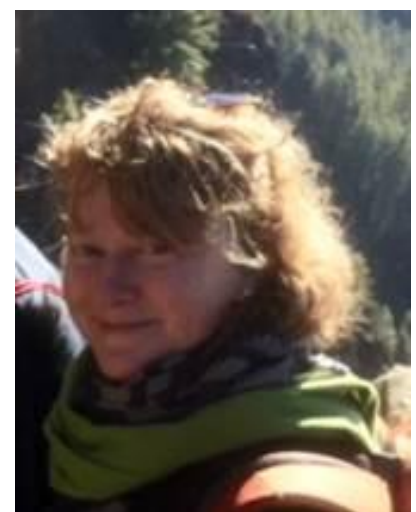
Ms Megan Kentish

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 Amanda Khamis (she/her)

Speech Pathologist and Post-doctoral Research Fellow
Sydney, NSW

Amanda Khamis is a speech pathologist and postdoctoral research fellow with Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research Institute and The University of Sydney, in Sydney, Australia. Amanda's research focuses on assessment and motor-learning interventions for infants with cerebral palsy and dysphagia. She has authored a number of papers on cerebral palsy, presented her research at several international conferences, and is continuing to collaborate with world-leading researchers on innovative projects. She won the Faculty of Medicine and Health, the University of Sydney Three Minute Thesis final, and was first runner-up in the Asia Pacific final. Amanda, continues to work clinically after a history of working internationally in the UK, Middle East, and Australia for 15 years. She has a special interest in infants and young children with complex neurological and developmental disabilities resulting in dysphagia or complex communication needs who may benefit from augmentative alternative communication (AAC), particularly those requiring eye gaze access.



Associate Professor Gulam Khandaker

MBBS, MPH, DCH, PhD, FAFPHM

Rockhampton, QLD, Australia

Professor Gulam Khandaker is a Public Health Physician, currently working as the Director of Public Health for Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service, Queensland, Australia. His research focuses on childhood development, disability, infectious diseases, and healthcare in both high, and low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). He leads a global research program on cerebral palsy in LMICs using a network of emerging and established cerebral palsy registers in Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, Vietnam, Vanuatu, Ghana, Malawi, South Africa, Sudan, Argentina, Suriname, Mexico, Brazil, and Columbia. He is also the chair of the Research Committee of International Alliance of Academies of Childhood Disability (IAACD). In the last 8 years, Prof Khandaker has supervised over 25 graduate/postgraduate research students including 10 PhDs, 4 postdocs, 8 Honors/master's (including 2 x MAEs) and 4 Royal Australasian College of Physicians advanced trainees in Public Health Medicine. Since 2016, he has also mentored 12 early career researchers from LMICs through the mentorship programs of the Australasian and American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (AusACPDM and AACPDM). Prof Khandaker has published >140 peer-reviewed publications. His research is supported by the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council Investigators Grant, Queensland Health and the Research Foundation of Cerebral Palsy Alliance Australia.



Ms Jenny Lewis (she/her)

Senior Physiotherapist

Sydney, NSW

Jenny Lewis works part-time as a senior physiotherapist in the Cerebral Palsy and Movement Disorders Service at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. Her caseload includes assessment and intervention planning for children with Cerebral Palsy. Her primary interests include patient selection and outcomes pre and post major neurosurgical interventions. This includes selective dorsal rhizotomy, intrathecal baclofen pump implantation and deep brain stimulation.

She also works part-time as a clinician researcher for 2 funded projects: the National SDR Research Registry. This is a multi-site study which collects longitudinal outcome measures pre and post SDR surgery for Australian children. Outcome measures are multi-dimensional and include assessments across the ICF (International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health). And the Knowledge Translation Fellowship for SDR project which is the focus of her thesis. Funding for these projects was granted by the Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research Foundation.



Dr Sarah Love (she/her)

Chief Executive Officer for Disability Assembly

Perth, Western Australia

Dr Sarah Love is a physiotherapist with over 35 years' experience in clinical, academic, leadership and management positions within health, education and disability. In her current appointment as Chief Executive Officer for Disability Assembly WA the focus is on advocacy and effecting systemic change, however her interest and expertise in childhood onset disability continues, with a particular focus on cerebral palsy .

An award-winning educator, advocate, researcher, knowledge translator and Adjunct Professor at The University of Notre Dame Australia, Dr Love has collaborated with people with lived experience in all aspects of her work. Along with her desire to deliver best practice and contribute to evidence based clinical care, she is passionate about improving the experience for people with lived experience of disability, and equally passionate in advocating for, mentoring and sponsoring professional colleagues, and in developing leadership skills in others. She values excellence, equity, and choice; and embraces the enormous opportunity that an Allied Health background gives us in so many employment scenarios here in Australia and abroad.



Dr Sarah McIntyre (she/her)

Program Lead Epidemiology

Sydney, NSW

Sarah is the Program Lead, Epidemiology at Cerebral Palsy Alliance, The University of Sydney. She is the current Co-President of AusACPDM and an Advocacy and Awards Committee member. She is responsible for the day to day running of the NSW CP Register and is the current Chairperson for the Australian Cerebral Palsy Register. 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. Through her research she advocates for equity of access to services and for involving people with lived experience in research.



Dr Cathy Morgan

Program Lead, Early Detection and Intervention
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.

Professor Dinah Reddihough (she/her)

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 12, 14 and 17 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 (she/her)

Principal Research Fellow

Sydney, NSW, Australia

Hayley is an Adj A/Prof and Principal Research Fellow with Cerebral Palsy Alliance, The University of Sydney. She is a member of the International Affairs Portfolio for the AusACPDM, 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. Hayley's research is also focussed on primary and secondary prevention of infectious causes of neurodevelopmental disability.

<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 35 years. She currently works in an Education setting as a Senior Advisor and Supervisor for school-based physiotherapists and for a not for profit service based in the community as part of a transdisciplinary team. Her passion is working with children and young adults with complex physical impairment and their families. Clare is particularly interested in the work with children who present with a neurodevelopmental disorder such as CP and are classified at GMFCS IV and V. She is very interested in the role of the physiotherapist in facilitating communication for this group of children and working in a transdisciplinary team. Clare is also very interested in working with this group of children to use AT for independent movement so they can participate in and promote an active lifestyle to decrease co-morbidities that were historically assumed as part of their motor disorder. Clare has significant experience in prescription of complex seating, powered mobility, technology and other equipment. Clare has been a recipient of the AusACPDM conference scholarship in the past and has been a Mentor since the programme began. She has attended every AusACPDM conference.



Dr Rachel Toovey (she/her)

Senior Lecturer

Melbourne, Vic, Australia

Dr Rachel Toovey (PhD, MPHTM, BPhysio(Hons)) is a Senior Lecturer and Physiotherapist with the Department of Physiotherapy and Disability and Inclusion Research Hub Co-Champion for the School of Health Sciences at the University of Melbourne. Rachel works with individuals, families, communities and organisations to create change and improve health through inclusive participatory research and evaluation. Rachel's research centres on supporting children and young people with disability to participate in physical activity. Rachel designs and delivers transformative education for graduate-entry physiotherapy students.

She leads the First Nations, Health Promotion and Equity Teaching Team and related curriculum within the Doctor of Physiotherapy, and is Co-Chair of the Physiotherapy Department Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. She has been a member of the AusACPDM for the last 12 years - serving on several committees including the Advocacy & Awards committee currently.



Mary Clare Waugh

Consultant, Paediatric Rehabilitation

Sydney, NSW Australia

Mary-Clare is a consultant in paediatric rehabilitation medicine, originally trained as a paediatrician but has worked only in paediatric rehabilitation for the last 26 years. She is a senior staff specialist in Kids Rehab at the Children's Hospital at Westmead, a tertiary teaching paediatric hospital linked with University of Sydney. Mary-Clare has interests in cerebral palsy management and treatments, acquired brain injury rehabilitation, interventions and outcomes, acquired spinal cord injury management and outcomes. She works both with inpatients and outpatients in Kids Rehab and has a particular interest in maximising functional outcomes. Kids Rehab is one of the main training centres in Australia and NZ for paediatric rehabilitation physicians. Mary-Clare is actively involved with the faculty of Australasian Rehabilitation Medicine for training of paediatric rehabilitation physicians. Mary-Clare is an active member of AusACPDM especially the International Affairs committee.

