



# AUSTRALIAN SYMPOSIUM OF MEDICAL CANNABIS RESEARCH

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020 | VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

AIMC'S AUSTRALIAN SYMPOSIUM OF MEDICAL CANNABIS IS OFFERING RACGP  
CPD POINTS APPROVED BY MEDIHUANNA



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**CANNATREK**

From seed to patient.

*AIMC acknowledges the traditional owners of the land.*



# AUSTRALIAN SYMPOSIUM OF MEDICAL CANNABIS RESEARCH

The Australian Institute for Medical Cannabis (AIMC) is building a foundation in the industry by leveraging a curated and exclusive network to coordinate strategic partnerships, support doctor education, as well as commercialize ground breaking research in the Australian Medical Cannabis industry. Our highly curated events are designed to educate doctors and connect researchers in the industry.

The Australian Symposium of Medical Cannabis Research brings together leading industry executives, researchers and doctors on to learn more about what is happening in Australia bringing thought provoking panel discussions and research presentations.

## WHAT MAKES AIMC INFLUENTIAL?

### FREE EVENTS FOR DOCTORS AND RESEARCHERS

Our highly curated events are designed to educate doctors and connect researchers in the industry.

### UNIQUE CONTENT

We provide a multimedia platform for Medical Cannabis professionals, GPs, specialists and researchers to engage the network and promote their research at our events and education platform.

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# AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020

- 10:20 AM | OPENING REMARKS**  
David Penington, Tommy Huppert & Emily Rigby
- 10:30 AM | FIRESIDE CHAT WITH TAMARA NATION**  
Moderated by Craig Thompson
- 11:05 AM | PALLIATIVE CARE PANEL**  
Matua Jansen, Teresa Towpik, Joel Wren & Gull Herzberg
- 11:40 AM | PAEDIATRICIANS PANEL**  
Daryl Efron, John Teh & Honey Heussler
- 12:15 PM | BREAK**
- 1:00 PM | PSYCHIATRY & MENTAL HEALTH PANEL**  
David Castle, Jerome Sarris, Danny Cai & Jamie Rickcord
- 1:35 PM | PRODUCTS, DOSAGE & WHAT WE KNOW**  
Paul Mavor & Orit Holtzman
- 2:10 PM | PRESENTATION: NOVEL DELIVERY SYSTEMS**  
Janaken Krishnarajah
- 2:30 PM | RESEARCH PRESENTATION 1: CANNABIS IN PALLIATIVE CARE**  
Teresa Towpik
- 3:00 PM | RESEARCH PRESENTATION 2: RESEARCH IN PALLIATIVE CARE**  
Phillip Good
- 3:30 PM | RESEARCH PRESENTATION 3: CBD**  
Katrina Green
- 3:45 PM | RESEARCH PRESENTATION 4: ACRE NSW CARE TRIAL**  
Rachel Galettis
- 4:00 PM | RESEARCH PRESENTATION 5: MEDICINAL CANNABIS AND ITS ROLE IN GASTROENTEROLOGY**  
Christopher Schneider
- 4:30 PM | RESEARCH PRESENTATION 6: CANNABIS AND ENDOMETRIOSIS – RESEARCH UPDATE**  
Justin Sinclair
- 5:00 PM | RESEARCH PRESENTATION 7: CHEMOTHERAPY THERAPY INDUCED NASUEA AND VOMITING**  
Anthony Mersiades
- 5:30 PM | CLOSING REMARKS**  
Lucy Haslam

# CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

— FEATURED INDUSTRY EXPERTS



**David Castle**  
**St. Vincent's Health**

David is Professor of Psychiatry at St Vincent's Health and The University of Melbourne. He has wide clinical and research interests, encompassing schizophrenia and related disorders, bipolar disorder, OCD spectrum disorders and disorders of body image. He has a longstanding interest in the impact of licit and illicit substances on the brain and body, and is actively engaged in programmes addressing the physical health of the mentally ill and the mental health of the physically ill. He has published widely in the scientific literature and is a frequent speaker at scientific meetings. His broader interests include music, literature, theatre and art.



**Daryl Efron**  
**Royal Children's Hospital**

Associate Professor Daryl Efron is a development-behavioural paediatrician at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. He has a longstanding interest in child psychopharmacology, and has been conducting research into the potential therapeutic uses of cannabinoids in children with development disorders such as autism and intellectual disability.



**Orit Holtzman**  
**Compass Clinics**

Dr Orit Holtzman is a medical doctor with a special interest in functional medicine and medicinal cannabis. She holds a Bachelor of Science in biology and psychology from the University of Tel Aviv, a PhD in neuroscience from the University of NSW and an MBBS from the Sydney Medical School at the University of Sydney.

After working in the public hospital system, she has begun exploring holistic health solutions and become passionate about utilising medicinal cannabis as a therapeutic agent. She began prescribing cannabis in 2019 under the mentorship of Dr Teresa Towpik, when she joined Compass Lifestyle Clinics. She now has more than 200 patients that have been approved for medicinal cannabis for various indications under her care and is an authorised prescriber for multiple conditions. She lives in the beautiful Blue Mountains with her husband and three children.



**Rachel Galettis**  
**ACRE**

Dr. Rachel Galettis is the Clinical Trial Manager for the Australian Centre for Cannabinoid Clinical and Research Excellence (ACRE), a National Health and Medical Research Council Centre of Research Excellence to support quality evidence for the use of cannabis medicines. Her position involves the management of a NSW-wide study, Cannabinoids for Symptom Control in Advanced Cancer, An Open Label Prospective Clinical Trial in NSW (CARE NSW), funded by NSW Health through the NSW Clinical Cannabis Medicines Program. CARE NSW provided Rachel with the opportunity to combine her research passions of natural product pharmacology, consumer reported outcomes and the design and execution of quality clinical trials.

Her early career included a PhD in New Zealand on the dietary chemoprevention of Pacific Island foods, before she moved to Australia and undertook pre-clinical and clinical research with isolated natural compounds. This, together with her subsequent coordination of the Australian Corneal Graft Registry and a large international multisite cancer trial for TROG Cancer Research, provided her with the necessary skills, understanding and appreciation of the complexities a clinical trial of cannabis medicines involve.



**Phillip Good**  
**Mater Group**

Professor Phillip Good is the Director of Palliative Care at St Vincent's Private Hospital, Brisbane Senior Specialist in Palliative Care at Mater Health Services and Professor in Clinical Medicine at The University of Queensland, Australia. Prof Good works across a variety of settings including inpatient care, outpatients, consultation liaison and visiting patients in the community. His research interests include nausea management, medicinal cannabis in palliative care, activity monitors to monitor pain outcomes, gastrografin for bowel obstruction and qualitative studies in regards to patient and carer journeys in palliative care, and the experience of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) patients, carers and interpreters.

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**Katrina Green**  
**ACRE**

Dr. Katrina Weston-Green is a senior lecturer at the University of Wollongong. She is also a scientific affiliate of the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute, Illawarra and Shoalhaven Local Health District, and Australian Centre for Cannabinoid Clinical and Research Excellence (ACRE). She leads a vibrant research team based in UOW's new research institute, Molecular Horizons. Her research aims to discover new treatments for brain illness through bioactive compounds found in nature. She has been researching the cannabinoid system in the brain and psychiatry since 2005. Her team made the first discovery that cannabidiol can treat cognitive deficits in schizophrenia through preclinical modelling.



**Honey Heussler**  
**Queensland Health**

Helen (Honey) Heussler MBBS FRACP MRCPCH DM is an Associate Professor at the University of Queensland and the Mater Medical Research Institute. She is the Medical Director of Child Development for Children's Health Queensland and is a Senior Medical Officer at The Lady Cilento Children's Hospital in Brisbane, Queensland working in dual specialities of Developmental Paediatrics and Sleep Medicine. Her research interests are in the areas of Clinical Practice. Her clinical work involves children with a variety of Developmental and Behavioural problems as well as a number of clinics that specialise in Sleep disorders for this population. She also runs specialised clinics for some genetic disorders including VCFS, Prader Willi Syndrome, Tuberous Sclerosis. She is the Co-Director of the Centre for Clinical trials in Rare Neurodevelopmental Disorders.



**Matua Jansen**  
**Cannabis Doctors Australia**

Dr. Matua Jansen graduated with distinction from the University of Auckland Medical School in 2008 and then moved to Sydney to complete his internship and residency at Liverpool Hospital, a major trauma centre and one of Australia's largest hospitals. After nearly a decade as a medical officer in the fields of oncology and general medicine Dr. Jansen has transitioned to Medical Cannabis.

Currently, Dr. Matua is the co-founder and the managing director of CDA Health, having a passion for chronic pain management and finding safer, non-synthetic, plant-based alternatives to opioids and medical cannabis healing powers. In addition to his Medical studies, Dr. Matua completed a Masters of Business Administration at Auckland University, with a particular focus on the intersection of business management, leadership and healthcare. Dr. Matua aims to develop a company that's purpose and value driven, basing on core values such as transparency, honesty and integrity.



**Janakan Krishnarajah**  
**IX Biopharma**

Dr. Krishnarajah has over the past 20 years worked across many areas of healthcare delivery, drug development and life sciences innovation. A registered specialist medical doctor, he has extensive experience in clinical trials and drug development having worked in both the Contract Research Organisation and Pharmaceutical industry.

He is currently the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Medical Officer of specialty pharmaceutical company, iX Biopharma Ltd having joined the Company in 2016. He is responsible for the Group's pharmaceutical and nutraceutical product development, including the design and implementation of clinical trial programmes. He is also a Director of iX Syrxin Pty Ltd, the Group's wholly-owned certified GMP manufacturing facility, and oversees its operations in Australia.



**Paul Mavor**  
**Health House International**

Paul is a registered Australian and UK pharmacist. His company Health House was granted the first medicinal cannabis import license in Australia and he is currently distributing medicinal cannabis products to eligible patients. Over the last 30 years he has owned several retail pharmacies and worked both in Australia and the UK. In the last 4 years he has focussed on researching medicinal cannabis and has been to conferences, grow and manufacturing facilities and spoken to patients and prescribers in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Israel and South America. [www.healthhouse.com.au](http://www.healthhouse.com.au)

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— FEATURED INDUSTRY EXPERTS



**Antony Mersiades**  
**ACNEM**

Antony Mersiades is a medical oncologist who trained in Sydney, and works at the Northern Beaches Hospital and the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre. Antony works as a clinical researcher on the CannabisCINV study exploring the role of an oral THC/CBD cannabis extract in the prevention and management of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting. His primary clinical interest is thoracic malignancies and he works in clinical research with the Australasian Lung Cancer Trials Group (ALTG).



**Tamara Nation**  
**NIIM**

Dr. Tamara Nation (MBBS PhD FRACGP) is a general practitioner, medical educator and public health advocate who has an interest in complex and chronic illness especially in the area of women and children's health. Dr. Nation has a patient centred practise and was taken on the journey of becoming a medicinal cannabis prescriber by patients who wanted the opportunity to trial medicinal cannabis in their treatment regime. Dr. Nation has over three years of experience as a Cannabis Clinician in Melbourne. She has had both local and international training in the area and has also provided teaching for the next generation of Medicinal Cannabis Doctors in Australia. She is also member of the Society of Cannabis Clinicians and regularly attends clinical updates. Medicinal Cannabis therapy has opened the door for many patients to a new understanding of health. Dr. Nation combines medicinal cannabis therapy with holistic diet and lifestyle advice to provide safe and high quality care.



**Jamie Rickcord**  
**Ananda Cannabis Clinic**

Dr. Jamie has practised medicine since graduating from Imperial College, London in 2006 and for the last 8 years has worked as a GP in the Northern Rivers of NSW. He is the founder of Ananda Clinics in Byron Bay - one of Australia's first to be dedicated to plant medicine. Jamie is an experienced prescriber of medicinal cannabis and is studying a masters in trauma informed psychotherapy. He is totally committed to the birth of a new paradigm in mainstream society where plant medicines are accepted as the remarkable gifts from nature that they are.



**Jerome Sarris**  
**Western Sydney University**

Jerome Sarris is an NHMRC Clinical Research Fellow and Professor of Integrative Mental Health at NICM Health Research Institute at Westmead, Western Sydney University. He also holds an honorary Principal Research Fellow appointment at Melbourne University, Department of Psychiatry. He has a particular interest in mood and anxiety disorder research pertaining to lifestyle medicine and nutraceutical psychopharmacology, and psychotropic plant medicine research (in particular on Kava, and medicinal cannabis). Professor Sarris has over 180 academic publications, including journal articles featured in The American Journal of Psychiatry, Lancet Psychiatry, JAMA Psychiatry, and World Psychiatry). He has conducted many RCTs in the field, including 3 recent multicentre NHMRC Project Grants as CIA. Professor Sarris was a founding Vice Chair of The International Network of Integrative Mental Health & is an Executive Committee Member of the International Society for Nutritional Psychiatric Research. He currently leads the LIFEMend Neuropsychiatry Clinical Trials Network, in addition to chairing the World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry: Integrative- Nutraceuticals/Phytoceuticals Clinical Guidelines Taskforce.



**Christopher Schneider**  
**Eastern Health**

Dr. Christopher Schneider is a Canadian Internal Medicine Specialist/Gastroenterologist and has been an advocate for an evidence-based approach to Medical Cannabis. He has worked with the Canadian Digestive Health Foundation and National Access Cannabis to create evidence-based guidelines and has given talks at local conferences as well as international conferences including the Australian Gastroenterology Week (AGW). Dr. Schneider is currently putting together a patient database of real-world experience with Medical Cannabis in treatment of IBS and IBD.

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**Justin Sinclair**  
**NICM**

Justin is a Research Fellow at NICM Health Research Institute (Western Sydney University) where he coordinates the Australian Medicinal Cannabis Research & Education Collaboration (AMCREC). Since 2015, Justin has also served on United in Compassion's Scientific Advisory Board, Australia's leading medicinal cannabis patient advocacy group, in a pro bono capacity.

His scientific background is in pharmacognosy (i.e. drugs that come from plants), but his research interests extend into botany, ethnopharmacology, analytical phytochemistry and psychopharmacology. He is currently a co-investigator on several medicinal cannabis clinical research projects and has presented over 80 medicinal cannabis lectures to medical practitioners, nurses, pharmacists and the general public since 2016. Justin's current research focus is medicinal cannabis for the symptomatic management of endometriosis, and he has published on the topics of cannabis and the endocannabinoid system, pain management and herb/drug interactions in peer reviewed publications.



**John Teh**  
**PlantMed**

Dr. John Teh Medical Director and Educator of Plantmed Medical Cannabis Clinic has been working within the Medicinal Cannabis industry since the legalisation of cannabis for medicinal use in Australia in February, 2016.



**Teresa Towpik**  
**Medihuanna**

Dr. Towpik has been a General Practitioner in Australia since 1993 and an advocate of medicinal cannabis since the law was amended and cannabis was legalised for medicinal use. Since then she has been studying the therapeutic properties of cannabis, how it works in the human body and the potential applications in General Practice, especially in the management of chronic debilitating pain.

In 2016, Dr Towpik founded MediHuanna, an organisation that provides science-based medicinal cannabis education for Health Professionals.

Dr. Towpik has been prescribing medicinal cannabis for various clinical conditions, including chronic pain, PTSD, autism, epilepsy, depression, anxiety since March 2018 and she has observed some very significant positive results.



**Joel Wren**

Dr. Joel Wren is a GP Registrar working full-time in Adelaide and also as a telehealth practitioner for PlantMed; a Brisbane based cannabis clinic. He is an active participant in the GP Palliative Shared Care Program throughout South Australia. He has an avid interest in cannabinoid medicine, and is passionate about deprescribing where possible and patient health literacy.



**Gull Herzberg**

Gull is an Integrative GP living and working on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales. A disproportionately large number of patients who consult him suffer from chronic symptoms such as pain, fatigue, cognitive dysfunction and mood disturbance, within a wide range of diagnoses, known and unknown. Amongst other clinical modalities, Gull has been prescribing medical cannabis since 2017, including, most recently in his residential aged care work. He is a keen collaborator and in addition to his clinical work, is involved in Local Health District and Primary Health Network health system improvement processes.



**Danny Cai**

Dr. Danny Cai holds a Bachelor's Degree in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Adelaide (2001) and is a fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practice (2007). He has spent more than 10 years working at a University Medical Practice where he developed a strong interest in management and advocate of mental health conditions.