






Medicines of Tomorrow: Horizon Scanning Forum

Speakers

	<p>The Hon Ged Kearney MP Assistant Minister for Health</p> <p>Ged Kearney is the Federal Member for Cooper and the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care. Ged has served in the parliament since March 2018, when she was elected in a by-election. She is the first woman to hold the seat.</p> <p>Ged started her working life as a nurse and rose to become Federal Secretary of the Australian Nursing Federation. From 2010, Ged served as the president of the ACTU – the peak body of Australia’s union movement – where she fought for better conditions for Australian workers.</p> <p>Ged’s working life – from nurse to President of the ACTU to parliamentarian – has been about fighting for the rights of others.</p> <p>She is a strong voice for social justice, workers’ rights and universal healthcare inside Labor and the Parliament. Ged is a passionate advocate for the environment and throughout her career she has supported a humane response to refugees.</p> <p>Ged was born and raised in Melbourne and lived in Cooper for over 25 years. Ged has four children, two stepdaughters and six much loved grandchildren.</p>
	<p>Ms Liz de Somer Chief Executive Officer, Medicines Australia</p> <p>Liz de Somer was appointed CEO of Medicines Australia in 2018 and has steered the association through four changes in Government and a dynamic policy landscape. Liz is one of Australia’s leading policy experts on the pharmaceutical industry. She is widely regarded for her contributions to national policy development spanning two decades and has led successive Strategic Agreement negotiations with Industry and the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Liz began her career as an Intensive Care nurse before undertaking post-graduate studies in Medical Science, leading her to work across drug development, clinical trials, regulatory affairs and market access in the pharmaceutical industry. Her commitment to improving the lives of patients has remained a consistent focus throughout Liz’s career.</p>

	<p>Liz contributes her industry expertise to various expert committees providing advice to Government. She was appointed by the Minister for Health and Aged Care to the HTA Review Reference Committee in 2023 and sits on the CMO Health Climate Strategy Advisory Group, the Ministerial Roundtable on Procurement, and the National Reconstruction Fund’s Enabling Capabilities Industry Working Group.</p>
	<p>Ms Penny Shakespeare Deputy Secretary, Department of Health and Aged Care</p> <p>Penny Shakespeare is Deputy Secretary of the Health Resourcing Group. This includes the Technology Assessment and Access Division, Medical Benefits Division, Health Workforce Division, Benefits Integrity and Digital Health Division.</p> <p>Since joining Health in 2006, Penny has held a number of senior leadership positions, including First Assistant Secretary of the Technology Assessment and Access Division and Health Workforce Division.</p> <p>Prior to joining Health, Penny was an industrial relations lawyer in the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and worked in regulatory policy roles, including as head of the ACT Office of Industrial Relations.</p> <p>Penny has a Bachelor of Laws, a Master’s degree in International Law and is admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor.</p>
	<p>Ann Single Coordinator, Patient Voice Initiative. Vice-President, HTAi International</p> <p>Ann Single is the Coordinator of Patient Voice Initiative, which aims to ensure patients are seen, heard and valued in decision-making, especially health technology assessment (HTA). With more than 20 years’ experience in this field, last year she became Vice-President of HTA international – the first from the patient sector. She’s currently a consumer representative on the Australian Government’s HTA Policy and Methods Review Reference Committee.</p>
	<p>Dr Marguerite Evans-Galea AM Director, Australia’s Cell and Gene Catalyst</p> <p>Dr Marguerite Evans-Galea AM is Director of Australia’s Cell and Gene Catalyst, a national joint venture of the industry peak bodies, AusBiotech and Medicines Australia. Dr Evans-Galea is an influential leader in Australia’s health ecosystem as an accomplished researcher in cell and gene therapy in the United States and Australia and having established and led high-impact STEM workforce initiatives with the Australian Academies. She has also played a pivotal role in boosting diversity and inclusion in the Australian STEM sector.</p>



Prof John Rasko AO
Head of Department, Cell & Molecular Therapies, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, SLHD
Deputy Director & Head, Gene and Stem Cell Therapy Program, Centenary Institute
Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Health, The University of Sydney

Prof John Rasko, an Australian pioneer in adult stem cells and gene therapies with expertise in clinical hematology, pathology and molecular biology. With over 220 publications, he delivered the prestigious Boyer Lectures in 2018 and co-authored "Flesh Made New" with historian Carl Power. He holds leadership roles in various hospital, state, and national bodies, including the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee and the International Society for Cell & Gene Therapy.



A/Prof Philip Thompson
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

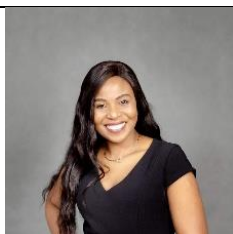
Philip Thompson is an Associate Professor of Haematology at the University of Melbourne and a Clinical Haematologist at The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Royal Melbourne Hospitals. He has contributed significantly to cell and gene research to date including the development of MRD-adapted treatment approaches and the use of CAR-T cells, CAR-NK cells and bi-specific antibodies for the treatment of haematologic malignancies. He has also led several clinical trials in these areas and is the principal investigator on an ongoing phase I study of a novel allogeneic CAR-T product.



Quentin Braacquart
Principal in the Management Consulting team in IQVIA Australia and New Zealand, and Head of Payer, Provider and Government.




IQVIA is a global provider of advanced analytics, technology solutions, and clinical research services to the life sciences industry.





With a footprint in over 100 countries, we have unparalleled expertise in understanding issues faced by the life sciences industry and governments to respond to the challenges as novel therapies and technologies come to market. Leveraging our global expertise, IQVIA provides services on best-practice case studies to help adapt for a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape.



Agnes Nsofwa
Executive Director, Australian Sickle Cell Advocacy Inc

Agnes Nsofwa is a registered Nurse and founder of Australian Sickle Cell Advocacy Inc. She founded ASCA in 2018 after her daughter was diagnosed with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) in the late 2000s with the main aim of supporting other people. Coming from a Business background, Agnes ditched the business and accounting qualifications to study nursing to fully understand SCD. Agnes is an author of a children's book on SCD and later turned the book character into a comfort doll for children experiencing pain.

	<p>Agnes has also brought over 50 people from different parts of the world to write about their experiences living with sickle cell disease in two books available on Amazon and her website. Agnes has also featured on different media to raise awareness about SCD.</p>
	<p>Katrina Lapham Director, Strategic Market Access & Policy, Biointelect</p> <p>Katrina Lapham has more than 15 years of international experience in the healthcare and biopharmaceutical industries spanning Europe, the US, Australia, and emerging markets. She leads Biointelect’s team of health economists, market access and policy specialists. Clients include biopharmaceutical companies, government and patient organisations. The team partners with clients to develop actionable strategies and support reimbursement, policy white papers and stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>Biointelect has played a central role in recent Australian policy debates, including the HTA review and the introduction of genomic technologies and precision medicine.</p>
	<p>Ms Jennifer Herz Co-Founder & Director, Biointelect</p> <p>Jennifer Herz, co-founded Biointelect in 2011, offering end-to-end strategic commercialisation services to the biopharmaceutical sector. She has over 30 years of industry experience. Jennifer is a member of the NHMRC’s Health Research Impact Committee and the NSW Innovation & Productivity Council.</p>
	<p>Prof Paul Kelly Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Aged Care</p> <p>Professor Paul Kelly is currently the Chief Medical Officer and Head of Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control at the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care. A public health physician and epidemiologist by training, Professor Kelly first joined the Department in March 2019 as the Chief Medical Adviser, Health Products Regulation Group. Prior to these appointments, Professor Kelly spent 8 years as Chief Health Officer for the Australian Capital Territory and Deputy Director-General of Population Health in the ACT Government Health Directorate.</p> <p>Professor Kelly has previously worked in research, health systems development, postgraduate teaching and as a health service executive including Director of Australia’s field epidemiology program at the Australian National University (ANU), and in the Northern Territory working as a Principal Research Fellow with the Menzies School of Health Research, as well as with the Centre for Disease Control in the NT Department of Health. Professor Kelly has also worked in Malawi, Indonesia, East Timor and the UK.</p> <p>Professor Kelly has over 30 years research experience and has published over 130 peer reviewed journal articles, book chapters and public health</p>

	<p>guidelines. He has supervised or mentored many trainees and post-graduate students and delivered lectures, workshops, seminars and conference talks in Australia and internationally.</p>
	<p>Prof Paul Griffin Director of Infectious Diseases, Mater Hospital, and Professor & Head of the UQ Mater Clinical Unit</p> <p>Prof Paul Griffin is a professor of Medicine, Clinical Unit Head and Director of Infectious Diseases, University of Queensland and Mater. Fellowships in Infectious Diseases (RACP), Clinical Microbiology (RCPA) and Tropical Medicine (FACTM). Principal Investigator on over 150 clinical trials, particularly in Infectious Diseases including 8 COVID-19 vaccines. Clinical Microbiologist with an active interest in diagnostic microbiology. Scientific Advisory Board member with the Immunisation Coalition, becoming a trusted media spokesperson during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
	<p>Dr Krishan Thiru Country Medical Director, Pfizer Australia</p> <p>Dr Krishan Thiru has more than 15 years' experience in the innovative medicines industry. Prior to joining industry, Krishan worked in clinical medicine in hospital and community settings in metropolitan and regional Australia. He is a fellow of the RACGP and has a Masters in Health Administration from UNSW.</p>
	<p>Dr Iris Depaz Country Medical Lead - Australia & New Zealand, Sanofi</p> <p>Dr Depaz has 20 years of industry experience. She joined Sanofi in 2015 as Global Head of the MSL Centre for Excellence based in France. She returned to Australia in 2022 and was instrumental in the creation of the Translational Science Hub in partnership with the Queensland Government, The University of Queensland and Griffith University. She was recently appointed a Board member of AusBiotech.</p>
	<p>Chris Bond Captain of the Australian wheelchair rugby team</p> <p>At the age of 18, Chris contracted a severe bacterial infection and was diagnosed with acute promyelocytic leukaemia. Chris survived, but lost his left hand, right fingers and both legs below the knees. He spent more than 10 months in hospital recovering from the infection before he was able to start cancer treatment that continued for three years. The treatment made Chris more susceptible to infections, and antibiotic resistance is now a constant threat.</p> <p>Determined not to be defined by his disability and to achieve his lifelong goal of representing Australia in sport, Chris began playing wheelchair rugby and quickly progressed to international level. He has represented Australia at three Paralympics and will Captain the team at the upcoming Paralympics in France.</p>



Andrew Bowskill
Director of Stakeholder Engagement for Queensland, MTPConnect;
Co-chair Australian Antimicrobial Resistance Network.

Andrew joined MTPConnect in 2019 and leads stakeholder engagement in Queensland. He also led the establishment of, and co-chairs MTPConnect's catalytic body for Antimicrobial Resistance, the Australian Antimicrobial Resistance Network (AAMRNet). Previously he was Manager of Industry and Regulatory Policy at Medicines Australia. Andrew has a Bachelor of Pharmacy from the University of Otago, and extensive experience as a pharmacist in Australia and New Zealand.



Renae Beardmore
Managing Director, Evohealth

Renae is an experienced advisor to the health sector. She has worked for over thirty years in health, covering the spectrum of healthcare from policy development, regulation and reimbursement through to clinical delivery. Renae's work is focused on ensuring that the system supports equitable patient access to care.

Renae is the founder and Managing Director of Evohealth. Evohealth recently published a report with MTPConnect – Fighting superbugs, Ensuring Australia is ready to combat the rise of drug resistant infections. The report provides nine recommendations to reform the regulatory and reimbursement landscape in Australia for novel antimicrobials.






Having been the Pricing Advisor to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Pricing Authority, as well as Chief Pharmacist in the ACT, Renae is in a unique position to understand how Government can adequately respond to the market failure that exists for novel antimicrobials



Prof Jon Iredell
Senior Staff Specialist, Infectious Diseases & Microbiology, Westmead Hospital

Jon Iredell is a physician and microbiologist based at Westmead Hospital and the University of Sydney. His research group works on infections in the critically ill and in antimicrobial resistance and has been continuously funded by the Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council for more than 15 years. Recent work in the laboratory has focused on new solutions for antimicrobial resistant infections, including plasmid displacement approaches and bacteriophage therapy.

Formal affiliations are (1) Conjoint Professor of Medicine and Microbiology, Sydney Medical School and Sydney ID, (2) Director of Centre for Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, The Westmead Institute for Medical Research and (3) Senior Pathologist, NSW Pathology and Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research.

	<p>Dr Scott Preiss Medical Affairs Director - Vaccines, GSK Australia</p> <p>GSK is a biopharma company with the ambition and purpose to unite science, technology, and talent to get ahead of disease together. It aims to impact the health of 2.5 billion people over the next 10 years. At the centre of this is our R&D focus on the science of the immune system, human genetics and advanced technologies, and our world leading capabilities in vaccine and medicines development.</p>
	<p>Mike Stephens Director of Medicines Policy and Program at the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)</p> <p>Mike is a pharmacist and policy advisor with experience working in a diverse range of roles in the health and medicines sector, both in Australia and overseas, including in community and hospital pharmacy, as a consultant pharmacist, and in education and intern assessment.</p> <p>Mike has spent the last decade working in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector as a consultant, policy and program director and as a practising pharmacist integrated into an Aboriginal health service.</p>
	<p>Dr Diana Zhang Fulbright Scholar & 2023 NSW Young Woman of the Year Finalist</p> <p>Diana is a multi-award-winning scholar, STEM ambassador, and professional musician. She completed her PhD at UNSW Sydney where her research focused on the use of machine learning and analytical methods to improve disease diagnosis.</p>
	<p>Oona Reardon Director, Pulse Economics Consulting</p> <p>Oona Reardon, founder and director of Pulse Economics has more than 20 years' experience in the healthcare sector in private, public and academic roles. Oona's expertise includes PBAC/MSAC reimbursement submissions, health economic evaluations, market access strategy, evidence-based literature reviews, economic modelling and budget impact analysis. Prior to consulting, Oona held a Research Fellow position at the Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation (CHERE) at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS).</p>
	<p>Kim Smyth General Manager Investment, ANDHealth</p> <p>Kim is General Manager for Investment with ANDHealth, Australia's leading commercialisation engine for digital health in Australia, where she leads MRFF-funded non-dilutive investment programs including the company's flagship ANDHealth+, and CUREator+ (in partnership with Brandon BioCatalyst). Kim's background includes digital transformation, innovation and strategy across industries with a particular focus in health and life sciences, both in Australia and internationally.</p>



Dean Whiting
CEO Pathology Technology Australia

Dean Whiting graduated from UWA with a Master of Science in Clinical Biochemist and worked in pathology labs for 15 years. Moved to sales, marketing and executive management roles, mostly in large IVD technology companies. Has lived and worked in the USA, China and almost all Asian and sub-continental countries. Dean has an extensive knowledge of the pathology testing and technology sector. He supported the early days of Australia's Bowel Cancer Screening program roll out.

Currently heading up Pathology Technology Australia - the peak body representing companies that develop, manufacture and supply the technology and consumables so vital to testing in human health. This includes the technology used to detect and sequence the COVID-19 virus and its RNA. This has also been vital in creating some of the vaccines available today.



Olivia Nassaris
CEO, Parkinson's Australia

Olivia is the CEO of Parkinson's Australia, but prefers the title National advocate and Changemaker. She has a wealth of Parkinson's experience, both with engaging with people affected by Parkinson's, government relations and advocacy skills. Parkinson's Australia has recently launch their new brand, and new tag line - National Advocacy. Connection. Awareness. This was chosen as their "promises" to the Parkinson's community across Australia.

She also holds the voluntary position of Treasurer for The Rare Find Foundation that supports families and research for GM2 conditions, a form of Childhood Dementia.



Dr Anna Lavelle AM
Chair, Medicines Australia

Dr Anna Lavelle AM was appointed as Chair of Medicines Australia in August 2018, having previously served as Deputy Chair and Independent Director since January 2017.

Dr Lavelle is an experienced non-executive director serving for over 25 years on the boards of not for profit, government and for-profit entities. She has a lengthy track record in healthcare delivery, technology development and negotiating government policy, including as the CEO of AusBiotech from 2005 to 2016. Dr Lavelle was appointed as member (AM) in the General Division of the King's Birthday 2023 Honours List.

Dr Lavelle currently also serves as Chair, Avatar Brokers Pty Ltd and as a non-executive director of Hemideina Pty Ltd; Cyban Pty Ltd; Island Pharmaceuticals Ltd; and Sementis Ltd.



Urs Voegeli
Managing Director Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicines and
Medicines Australia Board Member

Urs is a visionary leader in the pharmaceutical industry, experienced in successfully leading broad product portfolios and teams as Managing Director in Europe and Asia Pacific as well as in international/regional leadership roles with P&Ls exceeding 1 billion USD. He demonstrated global benchmark launches in Oncology, Hematology & Immunology as well as significant business turnarounds and leading business transformations of large organisations.

As a dynamic and inspirational leader with a business administration background, he developed through roles of increasing seniority in Pfizer, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Johnson&Johnson.

Urs is passionate about shaping partnerships and policies and gained trust of broad stakeholder groups in the health care sector in various markets. He has served on multiple industry boards, actively shaping healthcare policies, improving access to innovative medicines.



Dr Paul Fennessy
Horizon scanning expert and Principal, Paul Fennessy Advisory

Paul Fennessy (PhD) has 35 years' experience in medical research, health technology assessment and health technology policy, funding and implementation. He proposed development of Australia's National Health Genomics Policy Framework, which resulted directly from horizon scanning, oversights cell and gene therapy implementation in Victorian public hospitals and co-authored the National Framework for assessing, funding and implementing highly specialised therapies and highly specialised services.