



International Centre for Future Health Systems (ICFHS) News December 2025



Message from the Directors

As we reach the close of a remarkable year, we extend our sincere gratitude for your commitment, your collaborative efforts, and your unflinching dedication to improving health systems for people across Australia and around the world. The work we undertake together is often complex and constantly evolving, yet each challenge met, and every insight gained, brings us one step closer to the more equitable, resilient and responsive future of health care that we all envision.

This year has been marked by significant progress across our research themes and the development of further global partnerships. We have seen major contributions to national health policy, digital health innovations, reimagined models of community-centred care, strengthened multidisciplinary collaborations, and expertise shared with colleagues from around the world.

We are especially pleased of the way our centre members continue to champion evidence-based action and engage with the real-world needs of patients, health care providers, and policy makers alike. Your efforts ensure that our work does more than generate ideas; it contributes to shaping meaningful change.

Thank you for your contributions throughout the year and for the generosity, curiosity, and integrity you bring to our shared endeavours. We hope the coming weeks allow you some time for rest, reflection, and happy times with your families and other loved ones.

We wish you a peaceful end to the year, and renewed energy for all we will achieve together in 2026.

Best wishes

Professor Michael Kidd AO FAHMS & Professor Patricia M. Davidson FAAN
Directors
International Centre for Future Health Systems

Our Highlights

Inaugural ICFHS Ian Webster Oration



The Inaugural Ian Webster Oration of the International Centre for Future Health Systems (ICFHS) was held at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Health Translation Hub building on 25th November 2025. The orator was Associate Professor Shannon Nott, a distinguished Australian rural doctor, working as an anaesthetist, retrieval physician, and clinical services executive, and as the Chief Medical Officer and Executive General Manager of Health and Clinical Services at the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The oration was titled "Heroes of Australian Health Care: What the future holds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service", and described the history of the Royal Flying Doctors Service and the important role it continues to play in delivering health care in Australian rural and remote areas, where health infrastructure on the ground is minimal. [Read more.](#)

ICFHS welcomes Professor Alexandra Martiniuk as new Professor of Hospital Transformation and Future Health Systems



ICFHS is delighted to announce the appointment of Professor Alexandra Martiniuk as the Professor of Hospital Transformation and Future Health Systems, commencing January 2026. Professor Martiniuk is currently a Professor in the Faculty of Medicine and Health at the University of Sydney (School of Public Health and Daffodil Centre) and Adjunct Professor at the University of Toronto. She was previously a Senior Research Fellow at the George Institute for Global Health. Trained in medical sciences and clinical psychology, she completed her graduate studies in community health and epidemiology in Canada. [Read more.](#)

MedConnect | The hospital of the future



The International Centre for Future Health Systems was delighted to welcome over 1500 registrants to our second MedConnect event in partnership with the Faculty of Medicine & Health at the University of New South Wales, and in collaboration with the NSW Ministry of Health. For decades healthcare has focussed on the hospital, but this approach is not fit for a future where demographic and health problems will challenge traditional models. The conversation centered on what tomorrow's hospitals will look like. The need to move from traditional, centralised, bricks and mortar models to person-centred, technology-enabled systems was identified. Key messages from the panel included focusing on value-based health care, digitally enabled health solutions, and meeting individuals and communities where they are in the community. [Read more.](#)

How societies can better support healthy ageing in the 21st century



The International Centre for Future Health Systems (ICFHS), in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research (CEPAR), recently co-hosted an event exploring how societies can better support healthy ageing in the 21st century. A keynote address by Professor John Beard, from Columbia University, emphasised the importance of the World Health Organization's Healthy Ageing Framework, which centres on an individual's ability to do and be what they value. Professor Beard called for a fundamental shift from disease-based models of care toward a focus on intrinsic capacity and functional ability, arguing that this reframing has the potential to transform how ageing is understood and supported globally. He suggested that Australia could learn from the example of France, which is an early adopter in embedding the healthy ageing framework into national health system reform including via comprehensive capacity assessments in primary care. [Read more.](#)

ICFHS Foundation Director featured in NSW Health 'Future Health Podcast' series



ICFHS Foundation Director Professor Michael Kidd AO, Australia's Chief Medical Officer, is interviewed in the *NSW Health Future Health Podcasts series*, in an episode titled 'How do we get to the future? Broadening the team to influence the future.' In this episode, Michael is interviewed by Dr Louise Messara and discusses the importance of broadening and diversifying research, policy and clinical teams to work together to help shape the future of healthcare. [Read more.](#)

Shaping the Future of Australian Primary Health Care: launch of new national research collaboration



The Inaugural Strategic Think Tank for the new MRFF funded National Multidisciplinary Primary Care Research, Policy and Advocacy Consortium, was held in Geelong, following Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care (AAAPC) Conference. Organised by the Consortium Coordinating Team at UNSW, the event brought together members from across Australia for a collaborative day focused on shaping the future of multidisciplinary team based (MDT) primary health care. The Consortium includes 100 of Australia's leading primary care researchers, including five researchers from ICFHS: Professor Michael Kidd AO, Associate Professor Margo Barr, Associate Professor Freddy Sitas, Associate Professor Michael Wright and Dr Peri O'Shea. [Read more.](#)

ICFHS Associate Professor Margo Barr awarded funding to develop an early detection AI tool



ICFHS researcher Associate Professor Margo Barr has received \$1.3 million in funding through the Medical Research Future Fund's (MRFF) *Improving Health Outcomes for People with Intellectual Disability* scheme to lead the development of EarlyCare AI, a generative AI tool to help people with intellectual disability and their caregivers detect health concerns earlier and manage them more effectively. The project will be co-designed and tested with people with intellectual disability and their supporters. [Read more.](#)

ICFHS and Murrumbidgee Local Health District announce inaugural joint research fellows



The International Centre for Future Health Systems (ICFHS) and Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) have announced the four recipients of their inaugural joint research fellowships. The fellowships were presented by Dr Barbara Taylor, Director of Research at MLHD, Associate Professor Margo Barr from ICFHS, and Emeritus Professor Mark Harris. These fellowships, introduced for the first time in 2025, aim to strengthen research capacity within MLHD and are the outcome of more than two years of collaborative efforts between ICFHS and MLHD. The 12-month fellowships will provide each recipient with mentoring and guidance from experienced researchers and experts in their respective research fields. This will include two funded trips to the ICFHS in Sydney and allocated time away from regular duties to focus exclusively on their projects. [Read more.](#)

Professor Michael Kidd AO delivers Brett Tindall Memorial Lecture at The Kirby Institute

The Kirby Institute hosted the 14th Brett Tindall Memorial Lecture, delivered by Professor Michael Kidd AO, Australia's Chief Medical Officer and Foundation Director of the International



Centre for Future Health Systems (ICFHS). In his address, Professor Kidd reflected on Brett Tindall's HIV research and advocacy, and explored what health leadership means today, emphasising themes of equity, digital innovation, genomics, and the future of health systems. [Read more.](#)

Our People

ICFHS welcomes the team members from our Centre appointed to the National Multidisciplinary Primary Care Research, Policy and Advocacy Consortium.

Elizabeth Byrne - Communications Lead



Elizabeth brings extensive experience spanning corporate communications, advocacy, journalism and law. Prior to starting at UNSW, she worked with a prominent economic think tank the Committee for Economic Development of Australia as the Associate Director of Strategic Communications & Advocacy. She has previously worked as a journalist at The Australian Financial Review and as a producer at Sky News. She is admitted to practice as a solicitor, holds a Bachelor Commerce/Laws (Hons) from the University of Sydney and was the former associate for Justice White at the Supreme Court of NSW.

Katie Moses - Senior Project Officer



Katie has wide experience in engagement, communications and project work, and has a particular interest in embedding principles of equity, diversity and inclusion into practice, and working with groups who are often marginalised to tell their unique stories. After working in the not-for-profit sector and local government, for the last six years Katie has worked in roles across UNSW including in the Strategic Alliances and Initiatives team in the Vice Chancellor's Division, and the faculties of Law and Justice, Medicine and Health and Arts, Design & Architecture. Katie's most recent role was at the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health, based within the UNSW Faculty of Medicine and Health.

ICFHS researcher Dr Rafal Chomik awarded PhD in social policy



ICFHS researcher Dr Rafal Chomik has been awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Social Policy for his thesis titled *"Health-Related Inequality Trends in 21st Century Australia: How Changes in Life, Health, and Work Expectancy Differ by Area Socioeconomic Status."*

ICFHS research team won a City of Sydney research grant



Dr Christopher Standen and Associate Professor Fiona Haigh from the Health Equity Research and Development Unit, with Dr Jinhee Kim from the UNSW Cities Institute, won a competitive City of Sydney [Community Services Research Grant](#) to support a community-led health impact assessment of the demolition and redevelopment of the Waterloo South public housing estate in inner-city Sydney.

ICFHS researcher Dr Patrick Harris has been promoted to Associate Professor



Congratulations to Patrick Harris on being promoted to Associate Professor in the recent rounds of promotions at UNSW. Patrick is part of ICFHS's Health Services and Equity Stream executive and leads the Centre for Health Equity Training Research and Evaluation in South Western Sydney Local Health District. Patrick is an international expert on researching healthy public policy and intersectoral action for health equity, and the intersections between health, urban and regional planning and infrastructure. Click [here](#) to see Patrick's UNSW profile.

ICFHS welcomes the following new adjunct members and associate members of our Centre:

Adjunct member: [Adjunct Professor Michael Green](#), [Adjunct Fellow Zhixin Liu](#), Adjunct Fellow Lijing Ma, Xinrui Wei
Associate members: [Associate Professor Katja Hanewald](#), Zhaoli Dai-Keller, Lisa Sharwood, [Quang Nguyen](#), [Associate Professor Kim van Schooten](#)

Our News & Media appearances

ICFHS research on the features of primary care patient enrolment schemes around the world



A research team, led by the International Centre for Future Health Systems (ICFHS) Senior Research Fellow Dr Shona Bates, with colleagues Associate Professor Michael Wright, Dr Peter Brown, Dr Rafal Chomik, Dr Jialing Lin, Professor Michael Kidd AO, and international colleagues Dr Tara Kiran (University of Toronto) and Dr Luke Allen (University of Oxford), undertook work to build our understanding of patient enrolment policies in primary care. [Read more](#).

ICFHS research on the use of multi-disciplinary teams in primary care around the world



A research team, led by the ICFHS Senior Research Fellow Dr Shona Bates, with colleagues Dr Jialing Lin, Associate Professor Michael Wright, Professor Michael Kidd AO, and Dr Luke Allen from the University of Oxford, undertook a scoping review to build our understanding of the use of multi-disciplinary teams in primary care. This work was prompted by the recommendations of the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce Report that included encouraging team-based multidisciplinary care based on the assumption that multi-disciplinary team care improves the quality of primary care. [Read more](#).

A new guide to designing, reporting and appraising studies of AI Chatbots



Generative AI chatbots (e.g. ChatGPT) are increasingly used in healthcare but many of the studies evaluating them are poorly done. ICFHS Associate Member Dr Anthony Sunjaya as part of the CHART Collaborative of global AI researchers has developed and published a new reporting tool for studies evaluating healthcare advice provided by chatbots (e.g. ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot, Claude, DeepSeek). By applying CHART, researchers ensure their reports are clear, informative, and permit others to build on their work. [Read more.](#)

ICFHS researcher, Dr Jialing Lin, writes in *The Conversation* about shingles vaccination uptake during the COVID-19 pandemic



Dr Jialing Lin has written for *The Conversation* about how shingles vaccination rates changed in the United States of America before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the most effective way to prevent shingles and its complications, the vaccination rate rose during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the rates rose more quickly among some underserved groups, such as those from racial and ethnic minority groups and those with low household income. [Read more.](#)

E-cigarettes are likely to cause lung cancer and oral cancer



A report by the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) Working Group on "E-cigarettes and Cancer – a qualitative assessment", which included Professor Bernard Stewart (UNSW, Chair) and ICFHS Adjunct Associate Professor Freddy Sitas was published on 5 August 2025. After reviewing the existing laboratory, animal and human evidence, the Working Group concluded that nicotine-based e-cigarettes contain known carcinogens, "Nicotine-based e-cigarettes are likely to be carcinogenic to humans who use them, and "E-cigarettes are likely to cause lung cancer and oral cancer". This finding is a call for good epidemiological data to provide quantitative assessments on the level of risk. [Read more.](#)

ICFHS student highlights new findings for people with Parkinson's in Latin America



ICFHS higher education student Christine Jeyachandran has published the first qualitative study capturing the perspectives of people with Parkinson's across Latin America. The study identifies stigma, limited services, and a lack of symptom recognition by health professionals as major barriers to care, and calls for global collaboration to improve health outcomes, training of health professionals, and the co-design of a resource kit to support people with Parkinson's and their families. Christine has been supervised by ICFHS Emeritus Professor Mark Harris and researcher Dr Catherine Spooner. [Read more.](#)

Our publications

- [Characteristics of patient enrolment policies in primary care: a qualitative analysis of 15 schemes from 12 high-income countries](#)

By **Shona Bates, Michael Wright, Peter Brown, Rafal Chomik, Jialing Lin, Tara Kiran, Michael Kidd, Luke Allen**

- [Change in herpes zoster vaccination uptake before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States older adults](#)
By **Jialing Lin**, Zhaoli Dai, Chenxi Li, Wen-Qiang He
- [Can multidisciplinary teams improve the quality of primary care? A scoping review](#)
By **Shona Bates, Jialing Lin, Luke Allen, Michael Wright, Michael Kidd**
- [By Residents, for Residents: Evaluating a Community-Led Peer Health Education Program in Australian Social Housing Communities](#)
By Esther Tordjmann, **Fiona Haigh**
- [Co-Governance – Working Better Together](#)
By **Fiona Haigh, Shona Bates**
- [Co-Governance – A Guide](#)
By **Fiona Haigh, Shona Bates**
- [Acceptability of intrauterine device insertion without sedation for young nulliparous people: a mixed-methods study](#)
By **Sarah Wright**, Prudence Kidman, Clare Boerma, Jessica Botfield
- [Associations between multiple neurodevelopmental disorders and mental health in children](#)
By Xiaoyun Zhou, Frank Jia, Matthew Bambling, Sisira Edirippulige, Harvey Whiteford, **Jialing Lin**
- [Patterns of follow-up testing of abnormal eGFR and UACR for the detection of chronic kidney disease in Australian primary care: analysis of a national general practice dataset](#)
By Angela Kathy Li, Sradha Kotwal, Hannah Wallace, Daniel Bekele Ketema, James Wick, Brendon Neuen, Michael Falster, **Jialing Lin, Sallie-Anne Pearson**, David Peiris, Meg Jardine, Mark Woodward, John Chalmers, Paul Ronksley, Min Jun
- [Lessons learned from Vietnam's first COVID-19 vaccine rollout: tackling vaccine hesitancy and misinformation for future pandemic responses](#)
By Ngoc Minh Tam Bui, Hong Trang Nguyen, Bich Thuy Duong, Tri Nugraha Susilawati, Truc Thanh Thai, Minh Thuy Vu, **Jialing Lin**, Thuy Anh Bui, Minh Cuong Duong
- [Health-centred climate adaptation: Insights from local governments in western Sydney, Australia](#)
By Nicky Morrison, **Patrick Harris**, Erica McIntyre
- [Monitoring privilege for health equity: building consensus on indicators to monitor socioeconomic advantage through a modified Delphi survey](#)
By Amy Carrad, Ashley Schram, Belinda Townsend, **Patrick Harris**, Fran Baum, Lucie Rychetnik, Steven Allender, Melanie Pescud, Sharon Friel
- [Immunological associations in post-infective fatigue syndromes including Long COVID—a systematic review and meta-analysis](#)
By Ruud Raijmakers, Lise Lund Berven, Stephan Keijmel, Chaturaka Rodrigo, Vegard Wyller, Ben Katz, Dedra Buchwald, Rachael Evans, Patrick Gérardin, Hans Knoop, Maria Prins, Knut Stavem, Tonje Stiansen-Sonerud, Renee Taylor, **Braulio Mark Valencia Arroyo**, Knut-Arne Wensaas, Joel Pradeepkumar Selvakumar, Cees van den Wijngaard, Andrew Lloyd, Carolina Sandler
- [Building a health workforce to meet future population needs](#)
By **Shona Bates**, Ben Harris-Roxas, **Patricia Davidson**

- [Can multidisciplinary teams improve the quality of primary care? A scoping review](#)

By **Shona Bate, Jialing Luke Allen, Michael Wright, Michael Kidd**

- [Barriers and Facilitators to Accessing Healthcare for People with Parkinson's Disease in Latin America: A Qualitative Study](#)
- By Christine Jeyachandran, **Catherine Spooner**, Ana Margarita Rodriguez Salgado, Matthew Prina, Joel Rhee, Jorge Jesus Llibre-Guerra, Dani Kim, Juan Llibre-Rodriguez, **Mark Harris**

- [Towards One Health Impact Assessments in Urban Planning](#)

By Emilia Rönkkö, Helka-Liisa Hentilä, **Fiona Haigh**, Ben Harris-Roxas, Karla Jaques, **Patrick Harris**

- [Health impact assessments should be mandatory for all relevant government policies](#)

By Heidi Lynch, Ian Holdroyd, Martin Birley, Daniel Black, Ben Cave, Margaret Douglas, Rowena Ekermawi, Liz Green, **Fiona Haigh**, Ben Harris-Roxas, Monica O'Mullane, Joanna Purdy, Anna Stevenson, Salim Vohra, John Ford

- [Inequities](#)

By **Fiona Haigh**, Esther Tordjmann, Jane Lloyd, Jinhee Kim, **Elizabeth Harris**

- [Health Equity Frameworks in Australia: A Scoping Review](#)

By **Fiona Haigh, Nina El-Haddad, Margo Barr, Wendy Jopson**

[A scoping review to identify opportunities and challenges for communities of South Asian origin in accessing mental health services and support in high-income countries](#)

By Gayathri Menon, Haribondhu Sarma, Amy Bestman, **Cathy O'Callaghan**, Uday Narayan Yadav

International Centre for Future Health Systems (ICFHS)
Level 5, Health Translation Building, UNSW

55 Botany Street, Randwick 2031
Email: icfhs@unsw.edu.au

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