Monash Partners is a member of the Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA), encompassing Australia’s NHMRC-accredited Advanced Health Research Translation Centres and Centres for Innovation in Regional Health (Centres). The Centres are recognised for their excellence and collaboration in health and medical research, research translation, research-infused education and training, and outstanding healthcare.

For more detailed information about our work, please visit monashpartners.org.au

Our Partners

- Alfred Health
- Monash Health
- Monash University
- Eastern Health
- Peninsula Health
- Cabrini Health
- Epworth HealthCare
- Basser Institute
- Hudson Institute

Introducing our Associate Partners

Australian Health Research Alliance – AHRA
Monash Partners’ Indigenous Network
Our COVID–19 Activities
Our Enabling Platforms
- Data-Driven Healthcare Improvement
- Clinical Innovation
- Health Services Research and Implementation
- Consumer and Community Involvement
- Clinical Research Facilitation
- Biomedical Discovery Research Integration
- Primary and Community Health
- Workforce Development
Our Clinical Themes
- Theme Flagships
Our Partnership with Equity Trustees
Our Partnership with the Cystic Fibrosis Community
Our Thanks

Monash Partners acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and waterways on which our Australian Partners stand. We pay our respects to these cultures, their Elders past, present and future, and continue to uphold their ongoing relationship to the land.

For more detailed information about the work of AHRA, please visit AHRA.org.au

This publication outlines the work of Monash Partners activities during 2019-2020, and is not an annual report. If you are viewing this online and would prefer a hard copy, please email info@monashpartners.org.au

“The purpose of Monash Partners is to connect researchers, clinicians and the community to innovate for better health for around three million Australians and beyond.”
Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centre is a Centre of excellence and collaboration in health and medical research, research translation, research-infused education and training, and outstanding healthcare.

Established in 2011, Monash Partners is an innovative partnership between leading health services, research and teaching organisations, supporting the health and wellbeing of around three million Australians.

Our Partner organisations include: Alfred Health, Monash Health, Monash University, Cabrini Health, Epworth HealthCare, Eastern Health, Peninsula Health, Burnet Institute, Hudson Institute and Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute. We have recently added La Trobe University and Latrobe Regional Hospital as Associate Partners.

Accredited by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) in 2015 as an Advanced Health Research Translation Centre (AHRTC), the shared purpose of Monash Partners is to ‘connect researchers, clinicians and the community to innovate for better health’.

Our priorities and initiatives are driven by the needs of our health service Partners as well as the community. We are committed to:

▶ Responsibility and accountability
▶ Transparency and communication
▶ Collaboration and inclusiveness
▶ Leadership
▶ Excellence in research, healthcare, education and translation
▶ Innovation – from discovery to healthcare improvement
▶ Focus where need, benefit and strengths are the greatest.

Monash Partners at a glance

- 3 million Australians
- 723,401 emergency department presentations across our hospitals
- $313,411,961 combined research budget across our Partners
- 845,599 hospital admissions across our Partners
- 57,000+ healthcare professionals across our Partners
- 484 hours of Monash Partners’ education and training delivered
- 7 medical research institute Partners
- 2 university Partners
- 3 health service Partners
- 83 Monash Partners’ research projects
Our Messages

Monash Partners prides itself on a collaborative and distributive leadership approach working alongside our Partners and stakeholders.

We thank all those involved in setting the strategy and overseeing the development of Monash Partners this past year. Our work together allows us to become greater than the sum of our parts.

The following pages capture reflections of 2019-2020 from CEOs and senior leaders within our ten Partner organisations.

“These are very significant times for Monash Partners. The integration of research to improve healthcare has arguably never been so important.”

Professor Helena Teede
Executive Director
Monash Partners
A message from the Chair

As 2020 draws to an end and Australia continues its fight against the global COVID-19 pandemic, this inaugural Monash Partners Impact Report presents an opportunity to reflect on the value of research in protecting and optimising the health of our community.

The pandemic has created unprecedented opportunities for collaboration and for clinicians, researchers and the community to work together to improve health. In that unity, research has been an ever-present beacon of strength and hope along the way in our recovery from coronavirus. Close collaborative relationships between our health services, academia and research institutions have been pivotal in driving innovation and positive outcomes. Whether on the frontline battling busier than ever emergency departments or working on prototypes to prevent viral spread, COVID-19 has demonstrated what can be achieved in partnership.

It has now been eight years since I started my journey with Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centre. The role of Chair of Council has offered many changes, challenges and rewards as together we journeyed toward new and unprecedented collaborations and transformed through the nuances and differences of the medical research funding schemes. Over this time, I have had the privilege of witnessing the value of embedding research at the coalface of care. I have discovered that Monash Partners holds a unique position, focused on connecting research, health, staff and community, innovating for better health and to focus on research and translation that delivers meaningful and direct impact above and beyond research grants and publications. Likewise, the value and impact of Monash Partners extends far beyond our capacity as a granting body to unearth and address key barriers to research and translation.

Whilst still in their infancy, these Australasian Centres have evolved greatly and our impact this past year has been notable, especially in response to COVID-19. This Report is testament to our researchers, clinicians and partnerships, and provides examples of our innovation and collaboration that transcends boundaries and works towards measurable impact. The team at Monash Partners has focused relentlessly on the purpose of these Centres and the MRFF funding to deliver a ‘health system fully informed by health and medical research’ through facilitating health service research and translation. Monash Partners has continued our strategic focus on data-driven healthcare improvement, clinical innovation through research, and supporting our Theme flagship projects. We are now instituting the Monash Partners’ STAR PhD and early career Fellows program to build the next generation of clinician academics. In a very tough year for all Partners and our health services, academia and research institutions have been pivotal in driving innovation and positive outcomes.

So, as we close out 2020 and look to 2021, I look forward to strengthening our collaboration with Partners, Associate Partners, researchers, funding bodies, government, consumers and community organisations, primary care stakeholders and other Centres, to further our reach and impact within the health research sector and continue to drive better health through research.

Professor Christina Mitchell AO
Chair
Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centre

A message from the Executive Director

Monash Partners focuses on delivering better health through research to enhance the health of our community. We network extensively and provide a community of practice where all health disciplines, our community and our researchers can genuinely collaborate and innovate for better health. We work with our Partners to identify real world problems, support research to inform best practice and to enable implementation of evidence-based solutions back into healthcare. We have directly supported and funded more than 80+ projects across our Partners from improving mental health around pregnancy and developing new tests to detect heart attacks, to enhancing quality cancer care via our Clinical Themes and Enabling Platforms.

We transcend traditional silos across organisations, disciplines and fields including engineering, IT and digital health, bringing our best people together to address health and community need. Monash Partners supports research and translation through our Platforms, including in data-driven healthcare improvement, clinical research, health services research, clinical innovation, primary care and community involvement. Monash Partners initiated and works closely with the Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA) across all Centres. Here we are leading nationally data-driven healthcare improvement and the Learning Health System, optimisation of clinical research and the newly established Women’s Health Research Translation and Impact Network.

Over the past challenging year, with unprecedented changes for our Partners during COVID-19, we have accelerated support and connection for our researchers, health professionals and community. We have developed and piloted our Learning Health System Framework, now operationalised in the Victorian Healthcare Recovery Initiative. We have progressed efficient, safe and lawful sharing of health data and launched a major consumer and community involvement (CCI) program including online training and resources to support involvement in research, healthcare improvement and innovation. We have accelerated clinical innovation, integrating with the Monash Institute of Medical Engineering (MIME), supporting innovative digital and engineering solutions for unmet clinical need. In addition, we welcomed Latrobe Regional Hospital and La Trobe University as our newest Associate Partners.

Thank you to our Chair, Council and Partner organisations for their strategic leadership, engagement and financial and in-kind support. Also, to the Executive Committee and Theme and Platform leaders for their contribution, including in peer review and Medical Research Future Fund dispersion. I would also like to acknowledge our funded research project teams across our Partners. Finally, I would like to thank the Monash Partners’ team for their tireless enthusiasm and commitment to supporting and delivering on our purpose to connect and innovate for better health.

Professor Helena Teede
Executive Director
Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centre

“Connecting researchers, clinicians and the community has never been so important.”

“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.”

Helen Keller

“These Partnerships are about so much more than grant funding; they are here to deliver better health through research and to maximise impact.”

Helen Keller

Executive Director
Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centre
We deliver across a diverse range of research areas including blood diseases and cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity, infection and immunity, mental health and neuroscience, nursing and allied health, and trauma, critical care and perioperative medicine.

This research was supported through a range of funding channels. Alfred Health researchers were lead investigators of several new NHMRC (National Health and Medical Research Council) grants commencing in 2020. This included Investigator Grants, Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies Grants, and the Medical Research Future Fund.

Of special note this year has been our work in COVID-19 research. Our team demonstrated great agility in a challenging environment, providing advice to government right through to conducting research and trials into possible vaccines and treatments. These efforts have been essential to Australia’s current and future public health response to this global pandemic.

Also, our strategic partnership with the Monash Institute of Medical Engineering is helping turn clinical problems into real world solutions expanding into funded digital health and health service impact streams.

We look forward to strengthening our collaboration with Monash Partners and its members. Through the sharing of ideas and strong co-operation, we can help achieve better health outcomes for the community.

A message from Alfred Health

Alfred Health continues to be one of the most research-intensive health services in Australia. Our strong focus on translational research means that patients and the broader community directly benefit from the work of our scientists and clinicians.

We are proud to continue as a founding Partner of the Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centre during the year. It is an important collaboration as we harness the skills, abilities and scale of our combined organisations and talented staff to deliver on breakthroughs that improve the lives of our community.

A message from Monash Health

Monash Health is Victoria’s largest public health service and is unique in providing healthcare across the entire lifespan from newborn and children, to adults, the elderly, their families and carers. The Monash Health Strategic Plan 2023 commits to the relentless pursuit of excellence in the care we provide, in our research, teaching and our entire operations.

Being a part of Monash Partners assists Monash Health, by creating opportunities for collaboration between leading clinicians and researchers. It opens valuable channels for sharing knowledge between the nationally recognised Academic Health Science Centres. Within the growing suite of Monash Partners activities and opportunities, Monash Health enjoys many benefits, including success in attracting support for collaborative projects funded through the Medical Research Future Fund’s Rapid Applied Research Translation Scheme. Examples include an expanded analysis of the Victorian Cardiac Outcome Registry; assessment of procedural approaches for interventional cardiology; and expanding home-based care for jaundiced infants.

Monash Health also benefits from several researcher training opportunities offered through Monash Partners. With three early stage researchers currently enrolled in PhD studies through the Graduate Research Industry Partnership (GRIP) program and 250 Monash Health researchers having received Good Clinical Practice training through Monash Partners, there is significant and growing value being leveraged through Monash Health’s engagement.

Our Partners

A message from Alfred Health

Alfred Health

A message from Monash Health

Monash Health
Monash University is extremely proud of the health-focused research and education outcomes achieved as a direct result of the shared vision and longstanding partnerships with Monash Partners’ member organisations.

Our commitment to Monash Partners is key in our long-term objective to extend beyond our reputation for world-class research to deliver translation in the public and allied health setting, impact on clinical practice and policy, and improved patient outcomes.

A message from Monash University

In recent years, we have seen a number of Monash Partners-led initiatives strengthen connections between our researchers, clinicians and the community to support health innovation. This includes seed funding to develop improved medical devices, processes or intervention strategies to address unmet needs; project funding for applied health services research and data-driven healthcare improvement; and a new industry-partnered PhD program for Digital and Data-Driven Innovation in Healthcare. We recognise that Monash Partners is playing a key role in boosting clinical research capability locally, and is a driving force in the Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA), a platform for unprecedented national collaboration and integration between research, education and healthcare. We look forward to seeing the ongoing impact created with Monash Partners in 2021.

A message from Eastern Health

Eastern Health is one of Melbourne’s largest metropolitan health services providing a range of emergency, surgical, medical and general healthcare services, including maternity, palliative care, mental health, drug and alcohol, residential care, community health and statewide specialist services. Eastern Health has over 1000 active research projects including more than 250 clinical trials. Eastern Health publishes world-recognised research articles with the aspiration to become an organisation that is renowned for research, striving for performance excellence and translates research evidence into the care we provide our community. Through our collaborative partnership with Monash Partners, Eastern Health is exploring opportunities to strengthen integration with primary care.

Eastern Health’s Turning Point service collates ambulance data in relation to alcohol and drug-related presentations. Turning Point has recently been the recipient of a Google grant of more than $1M to apply artificial intelligence to this data to develop suicide prevention strategies.

A message from Peninsula Health

Peninsula Health is committed to delivering safe, personal, effective and connected care to every person, every time. We are growing our research profile across the health service, encouraging more clinicians to engage in detailed work which will translate into real outcomes for our community. We greatly value our innovative and collaborative association with Monash Partners, which facilitates clinical research and the provision of Good Clinical Practice training on site to Peninsula Health researchers, as well as providing templates for important research collaboration agreements.

The partnership allows for the engagement of Peninsula Health clinicians and researchers with the Medical Research Future Fund. This enables collaborative projects and funding for developing pilot clinical translational programs including: improving the well-being of patients in the community with dementia and/or delirium through social and practical support, enhancing quality of care following childbirth as well as the safety and quality of care following a heart attack, and improving access to treatment for patients with blood cancer.
A message from Cabrini Health

Cabrini Health strives to deliver quality, compassionate care to our patients, residents and community. Research continues to play an integral role at Cabrini, with more than 300 active research projects currently being carried out across Cabrini Institute departments. Focus areas identified to underpin our growth over the coming years include expanding clinical research to align with our clinical services, developing and expanding our translational research program to improve patient care, and embedding health informatics into clinical and translational research.

Cabrini received a $6 million funding commitment from the Federal Government to enable the establishment of a new cancer institute at Cabrini Malvern. The Cabrini Cancer Institute will play a major role in the future of Victorian cancer care. It will enable Cabrini to bring together researchers and clinicians, allowing them to drive research, translate findings into clinical practice and, ultimately, deliver better health outcomes for patients.

Our strong collaborative partnership with Monash Partners continues to allow us to extend and broaden our research pursuits and outcomes to improve the health of our community.

A message from Epworth HealthCare

As a founding member of Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centres, Epworth HealthCare is committed to working with its partners toward improving the lives of our patients and the broader community. Our Research Strategy launched this year resonates with the objectives of Monash Partners and underpins our activity in embracing and leading innovative practices that are closely aligned with the expectations of our patients and the clinical services we provide them.

Many of our doctors, nurses and allied health professionals have academic interests across the full spectrum of disease themes and in most cases utilising a multidisciplinary approach. Being part of a partnership that embraces this approach Epworth is confident that it can rapidly develop, evaluate and implement improvements to healthcare that matter.

Through joint programs such as the Graduate Research Industry Partnership (GRIP) with Monash University, Epworth is including academic perspectives that are aligned with delivering practical outcomes. Advancing women in healthcare leadership is a priority for Epworth and we are proud to be part of the Monash Partners commitment to ensuring women continue their career goals. We would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Monash Partners in the annual Epworth HealthCare research grants scheme.

A message from Burnet Institute

Burnet Institute’s focus on improving the health of vulnerable populations through research, discovery and evidence is strengthened greatly through its membership of Monash Partners. Closer collaborations have enabled the development of new and innovative approaches to some of the most challenging health issues. These often require a deep understanding of community behaviour and a consumer-driven approach in order to bring about change, and improvements in the health and social well-being of at-risk communities.

As co-lead of Monash Partners’ Health Services Research and Implementation Platform, Burnet brings a depth of experience that supports health improvement through evidence-based research and behaviour change, and in the development of novel and affordable approaches to clinical practice and healthcare, especially in the community setting. Collaboration across Monash Partners has increased capacity in health services research and provided a network which enables the sharing of information to fast-track improvements in healthcare and improved outcomes for communities.

A message from Baker Institute

Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute is Australia’s first multidisciplinary institute focused solely on research into cardiovascular disease and diabetes. The Institute has been working closely with Monash Partners on initiatives to facilitate collaborative, high-quality clinical research, including the development of a consistent policy and delivery of Good Clinical Practice training, and development of a research agreement template aimed at expediting collaborative research opportunities, and strengthening consumer and community involvement in research.

Professor David Kaye has also received funding to study the prediction of mortality following admission to intensive care after a cardiac arrest. This project, which involves collaborations between the Baker Institute, Alfred Health and Monash University, is funded by Equity Trustees through its partnership with Monash Partners and allows students to work on this important project. We are particularly keen to contribute to research activities with verifiable translational outcomes.
Hudson Institute is recognised internationally for discovery science and translational research.

Introducing our Associate Partners

Monash Partners welcomes La Trobe University and Latrobe Regional Hospital as our new Associate Partners. These affiliations will strengthen existing research, translation, patient care and education programs.

Our partnership with La Trobe University will enhance research collaboration and broaden our research to improve the health of women as well as Indigenous and rural communities. La Trobe University research focuses on translational outcomes, including innovative interventions and models of care to improve the quality of life of patients, especially the most vulnerable in our community and those from rural and indigenous backgrounds.

Partnering with Latrobe Regional Hospital provides us with an avenue to increase research engagement, clinical research, access to clinical trials and translation of evidence to deliver health benefit in a rural and regional area supporting a diverse and rich population. This will enable research programs based on patient need and advance these discoveries back to the clinic.

A message from Hudson Institute

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Our COVID-19 Activities

Our Impact

Our health services, academic partners, health professionals, researchers and community, have faced, and continue to face, unprecedented challenges this year brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Research and translation have played a crucial part in public health promotion and prevention, focusing care and developing interventions to prevent and treat COVID-19. We have also supported rapid transformations in non-COVID care, such as providing resources and supporting best practice telehealth expansion, accelerating new models of adaptive care and reducing low value care, and understanding and addressing care that was forgone.

The Victorian Healthcare Recovery Initiative – Partnering with State Government

Building collaborations with the Melbourne Academic Centre for Health and the Western Alliance across regional Victoria, we have formed a governance structure and built stronger collaboration to support Victoria during COVID-19 and beyond.

We have developed the Victorian Healthcare Recovery Initiative and been funded by State government to implement the Monash Partners Learning Health System Framework to: i) engage key stakeholders and the community, ii) establish priorities, iii) capture and disseminate best evidence including in telehealth delivery, iv) improve data capture, linkage and analysis to assess and address care forgone, v) capture learnings and evaluate emerging models of care in COVID-19 and, vi) innovate and implement healthcare improvement in key areas as we emerge from COVID-19.

Monash Partners have engaged and worked with State government to help establish and participate in new systems to enable researchers to access and link health data. We have also developed an initiated projects on optimising high value care and on evaluating and informing new models of remote care.
COVID-19 activities across our partnership

Establishing a biobank and linked clinical data

A clinical database and biological bank of clinical samples from individuals with COVID-19 infection were established to better characterise the clinical course and pathogenesis of the infection and provide insights into potential therapeutic agents. These will be a key resource for a wide range of studies, including diagnostics, immunology, virology, and markers of severity. The project included all Monash Partners’ health services.

Linking clinicians and researchers in partnership to help stop the COVID-19 spread

Clinicians from Monash Partners’ health services, in collaboration with researchers from the Monash Institute of Medical Engineering, adapted a recreational snorkel mask and received approval for a clinical trial to help minimise the spread of COVID-19 to healthcare workers and patients in the hospital setting. The unique design of the snorkel mask allows delivery of oxygen while simultaneously harnessing and filtering the air as it is exhaled to limit the spread of contaminated droplets.

Supporting the healthcare workforce during COVID-19

The Victorian Healthcare and Aged care workers (COVIC-1A) cohort study will enrol more than 1500 Victorian frontline healthcare workers across hospital, ambulance, aged care and primary care settings. Their physical and psychological health will be monitored over 12 months, and serology for COVID-19 infection will be measured to examine exposure. The study will also assess workplace preparedness and responses with findings to be used to inform organisational responses that are matched to workers’ needs to safeguard their health and wellbeing. The collaborative team of researchers is drawn from Alfred Health, Monash University’s School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash Partners, Cabrini Health, Ambulance Victoria, the Southern Academic Primary Care Research Unit, and WorkSafe Victoria.

Through a community survey, nearly 3 in 4 of you told us post-COVID-19 to keep:

- GP telehealth
- Drive-thru flu vaccinations
- Digital prescriptions
- Increased Medicare-funded mental health sessions
- Online mental health programs.

There has never been a more important time for the Australian research community to pool its resources in order to tackle a global health crisis not seen in more than a century. Monash Partners also...

Supported research...
- to enhance best practice recommendations for the prevention of pressure injuries in the COVID-19 context.

Established and trained the COVID-19 Consumer Advisory Committee...
- helping researchers, health professionals and health services in the planning and delivery of COVID-19 research and healthcare innovations.

Advocated for inclusion...
- of pregnant and breastfeeding women in COVID-19 clinical trials supporting a MACH-led initiative through the Women's Health Research Translation and Impact Network.

Led indepth engagement with health service leaders...
- on needs and priorities regarding changes to health services during and after COVID-19.

Submitted grant applications...

Pivoted to online training...
- providing our participants with greater flexibility and reach.

Supported those involved in COVID-19 research...
- to expedite ethics, governance and protocol development, linking to accelerate regulatory pathways and enable rapid research progress.
Our Enabling Platforms

Monash Partners’ Enabling Platforms connect researchers, clinicians and the community across our Partners and stakeholders.

They include:

- Data-Driven Healthcare Improvement
- Clinical Innovation
- Health Services Research and Implementation
- Consumer and Community Involvement
- Clinical Research Facilitation
- Primary and Community Health
- Workforce Development
- Biomedical Discovery Research Integration.

The aims of the platforms are to:

- Enhance data-driven innovation and care and implement the Learning Health System Framework
- Deliver engineering and IT innovation to address unmet community and health care needs
- Co-design and deliver research-informed healthcare improvement
- Strengthen consumer and community involvement
- Facilitate and enable clinical research
- Enhance integration across the care continuum between primary care providers such as GPs, the community and hospital-based care
- Build workforce capacity and develop the workforce of the future.
Data-Driven Healthcare Improvement

Monash Partners has prioritised Data-Driven Healthcare Improvement and created a Data Platform, leveraging the engagement of our health services and the strength in clinical registries across our network and in Monash University’s Health Data Platform.

The purpose of our Data Platform is to ‘improve health outcomes across our community, through data-driven innovation and improvement’. We aim to create a system to improve the use of data, taking practice to data, data to knowledge and knowledge to practice, to drive better health outcomes. The Platform Steering Committee comprising researchers, data specialists, clinicians and consumers is supported by a project manager, includes data fellows and PhD students and is funded by our Partners and the Medical Research Future Fund. A key focus is development and implementation of the Learning Health System Framework, including exemplar projects across healthcare.

Our impact

Progressing national data priorities through large-scale collaboration

Through AHRA, Monash Partners is co-leading a national system-level initiative to identify and address agreed priorities in data-driven healthcare improvement. We are working together to progress previously intractable problems through large-scale collaboration, transcending sites and barriers to make tangible impact on health outcomes. This includes increasing data quality, harmonisation, secure sharing, linkage, analytics, artificial intelligence, benchmarking, and feedback. We have developed a framework for evolving our health Centres into a Learning Health System to capture, identify and address health service and community priorities, and emergent challenges for the frontline healthcare workforce.

Developing a Learning Health System Framework to improve health

The vision of the Learning Health System is ‘Learning together for better health’. The Framework was developed using a multi-step codesign process including:

- Stakeholder engagement
- Systematic literature review
- Qualitative research with experts and stakeholders nationally and internationally
- Interactive workshops.

The Framework has the key elements for healthcare performance to data, data analysis to knowledge, and knowledge implementation to healthcare improvement. It takes routine health data into iterative cycles of knowledge generation and improvement. It does so underpinned by governance, trust, partnership across multidisciplinary stakeholders (academic, clinician, community and industry stakeholders), and systems and processes across four quadrants of evidence:

- Evidence of needs and priorities from stakeholders
- Evidence from research and guidelines
- Evidence derived from data including benchmarking
- Evidence of implementation barriers, enablers and processes, and of improvement.

Facilitating safe, efficient and lawful sharing of healthcare data

We have developed the Monash Partners Data Sharing Principles and Agreement in the context of the Learning Health System Framework, through extensive stakeholder engagement. These are now endorsed by Monash Partners’ Council and support an end-to-end system and streamlined data governance process to achieve low risk, highly secure, and lawful data sharing across organisations and populations.

Building the digital health workforce of the future

Broad upskilling: We have contributed to a Massive Open Online Course in data literacy (MOOC) freely available to all our Partners.

PhD programs: Through a partnership between Monash University and the Monash Partners health services we have supported PhD students via our Digital and Data-Driven Innovation in Healthcare Graduate Research Industry Partnership (GRIP), embedding PhD students within health services to solve health problems through digital and data-driven innovations.

Postgraduate data Fellows: We have appointed competitive data fellowships to undertake prioritised projects, aligned to MRFF, national and Monash Partners’ priorities and to build capacity in data-driven health improvement for impact on healthcare, the health system, public health, national policy, and/or service delivery.

Our hope is to create a critical mass of experts in the area of data-driven healthcare improvement to support and sustain change in the long term.

Lead, Professor Helena Teede

“A silo is still a silo, no matter what it looks like. Our role is to bridge the silos”
Clinical Innovation from Research through to Practice and Impact

Through our strategic partnership, Monash Partners and the Monash Institute of Medical Engineering (MIME) have continued to generate real world solutions to clinical problems.

Clinicians from our health services have worked collaboratively with leading researchers and innovators from Monash University's Engineering, Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences; and Information Technology Faculties to develop ground-breaking clinical and community-driven innovations with translation and healthcare impact.

Through our Healthcare Innovation Summer Scholarship program, we train the workforce of the future with clinicians involved in mentoring highly motivated interdisciplinary teams of undergraduate and master’s students set to discover technological solutions to frontline health problems.

Our impact

Reducing blood stream infections
Led by Dr Maryam Soomro
A cannula is being developed that reduces the rates of cannula-associated blood stream infections. Currently, cannula insertion requires up to 15 steps, with healthcare workers needing to establish a sterile field whilst trying to assemble different components together, making the risk of infection likely. This project is working toward reducing reliance on a sterile field, lessening the steps of cannular insertion thereby decreasing the risk of infection, making the procedure safer and more effective.

Monitoring baby movement during pregnancy
Led by Professor Wenlong Cheng
A wearable Band-Aid sized device is being developed to be worn by expectant mothers to continuously monitor foetal movement during pregnancy. Early studies have shown the device is more effective at detecting foetal movements than the mother’s own feelings. This new technology will give both mothers and their clinician’s the ability to continuously track the baby’s movement, and provide them with vital real-time information.

Expanding home-based care for jaundiced newborns
Led by Associate Professor James Doery and Professor Shen Wei
A flexible waterproof wrist monitor is being developed to support jaundiced newborns. Jaundice affects 60 per cent of newborns and is due to elevated bilirubin in the first few days of life. Babies are often kept in costly Special Care nurseries, separated from new parents for monitoring. Monitoring requires hours to take and transfer babies’ blood samples to labs, delaying diagnosis and treatment. This project will deliver low-cost and user-friendly technology to support home-based monitoring and care, avoiding unnecessary separation of newborns from their parents.

Saving lives with heart attacks
Led by Dr Dion Stub
Accurate bedside testing of those with acute chest pain is being developed to be carried out in a patient’s home. Of the 80,000 Victorians presenting to hospital each year with acute chest pain, only 15 per cent need immediate hospital treatment. The currently available bedside testing is not reliable. This innovation seeks to deliver accurate bedside testing without the need for lab tests, delays and infrastructure. It could be carried out, in a patient’s home, in the ambulance, or at local health clinics or care facilities, preventing unnecessary hospital transfers and ensuring heart attacks are rapidly detected and treated. This would see major cost savings, free up ambulance and hospital emergency resources, offer patients more convenient care, optimise rapid treatment for heart attacks and improve clinical outcomes.

Focus areas of MIME

- Medical devices
- Therapeutics and drug delivery
- Manufacturing and regulation
- Regenerative medicine and stem cell technologies
- Imaging and diagnostic tools
- Surgical and clinical tools
- Digital health and AI

Strong alignment of the visions of Monash Partners and MIME underpinned the establishment of a strategic alliance between the two groups in June 2019.

Health service clinicians together with biomedical engineers and health information and communications technology researchers offer ground breaking innovation initiatives, responsive to clinician and community need, leading the way to development, translation and impact within health care.

MIME is led by Professor Helena Teede and Professor John Forsythe and supported by Clinical Directors, Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah and Dr Elizabeth Sigston. MIME is overseen by an Executive Group within Monash University.

MIME at a glance

10-15 seed funded projects annually
6-10 MIME-supported PhD top-up awards
24 Healthcare Innovations Summer Scholarships students currently funded

Professor Helena Teede
Co-Director
Monash Institute of Medical Engineering (MIME)

Professor John Forsythe
Co-Director
Monash Institute of Medical Engineering (MIME)
Health Services Research and Implementation

Health Services Research is a multidisciplinary field of inquiry, both basic and applied, that examines access to, and the use, costs, quality, delivery, organisation, financing, and outcomes of healthcare services to produce new knowledge about the structure, processes, and effects of health services for individuals and populations.

Our Health Services Research and Implementation Platform supports a system-wide approach to implementing evidence-based change that can lead to improvements in the health and social care outcomes of Australians. However, to be able to implement change in clinical practice via health professionals, and in the community via healthbehaviours, an understanding of how to translate knowledge and implement evidence-based interventions at an organisational level and across settings is vital. Our methodology aims to identify the most effective ways to organise, manage, finance and deliver high quality care to ultimately improve patient wellbeing.

Our impact

Supporting a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on healthcare improvement and implementation science

Monash Partners supported a free online course titled ‘Implementing Innovation in Healthcare’ co-designed with the Monash-Warwick Alliance, a partnership between Monash University and Warwick University in Coventry (UK). This introductory healthcare improvement course is aimed at all healthcare workers highlighting the critical importance of a continuous healthcare improvement approach.

- 785 joiners
- 323 ‘activated learners’

In addition, our collaborative Implementation and Healthcare Improvement Masterclass was co-designed with and is offered in partnership with Monash University.

Meeting community needs via a Clinical Innovation Workshop

In November 2019, Monash Partners hosted a Clinical Innovation Workshop with Dr. Helen Bevan, NHS Horizons’ Chief Transformation Officer. Helen is acknowledged globally for her expertise and energy for large-scale change in health and care. During Helen’s 25 years as a change leader in the English National Health Service, she has been at the forefront of many NHS improvement initiatives that have made a difference for thousands of patients and for the staff who care for them. The event was attended by more than 200 researchers, clinicians, improvement leads, health service executives and managers, as well as consumers.

Some of the key messages from the event were:
- People who are highly connected have twice as much power to influence change as people with hierarchical power
- Transformational change requires people who are engaged from the beginning and want to make change happen
- Identify the go-to person, the informal influencers who are the ‘super-connectors’ in the organisation; just three per cent of people in the organisation or system typically influence 85 per cent of the other people
- Frame the issues for change in ways that will engage, such as the use of stories.

Reducing patient harm from falls

Falls are a leading cause of patient harm across community settings, hospitals and residential aged care facilities with most falls prevention strategies neither effective nor cost effective. Since 2015, a passionate group of researchers, clinicians, hospital managers and consumers have been working collaboratively under the leadership of Professor Terry Haines, to enhance collective efforts to prevent falls across Monash Partners’ health services. Recently, this group secured a $1.1 million NHMRC ideas grant to lead a project investigating the effect of removing mobilisation alarms from use in hospital wards across six of our Partner hospitals.

Reducing the impact of preventable injuries

Pressure injuries are a significant cause of preventable harm and suffering in healthcare settings across Australia. Through our Monash Partners Health Services Research Fellowships, Dr. Victoria Team a wound care Fellow, has been appointed to build capacity for pressure injury surveillance and prevention across our health services. During COVID-19, this project has focused on best practice for the prevention of pressure injuries in very sick patients in intensive care settings.

New community models of care for the older person

Integrating care via a volunteer-based patient-centred program for hospitalised patients with dementia and/or delirium: The MyCare Ageing Project.

Dr. Darshini Aytoun Lead Researcher MyCare Ageing Project

Led by Dr. Darshini Aytoun and Professor Helen Skouteris

Having to stay in hospital can be overwhelming, but if you are affected by dementia it can be even more challenging. This project provided volunteer based social and practical support and linkages with existing community services for hospitalised patients with dementia and/or delirium once discharged home. It is anticipated this tailored support program will result in reduced emergency department and hospital admissions of patients with dementia and/or delirium.

Bridging the communication gap between primary care providers and aged care residents to minimise preventable ED admissions.

Led by Professor Terry Haines

Residents of residential aged-care services already represent the sickest and most vulnerable members of the community. Another layer of complexity is added if people have low English proficiency and become acutely unwell. This project identified strategies to enhance delivery of primary healthcare services to residents of aged-care homes with poor English proficiency, enabling appropriate referrals and care.

- Audit of 8,000 records who attended emergency (2,022 residents with limited English proficiency (cases) and 5,978 residents (controls))
- 1/3 of residential aged-care facility residents in Victoria are from a non-English speaking background
- Leveraged further funding through a Monash University Arts-MNHS seed grant in partnership with several organisations

For more about our Health Services Research and Implementation Platform, please visit our website.
Consumer and Community Involvement (CCI)

Meaningful engagement and connection between health professionals, researchers and those affected by, or who may benefit from, research and healthcare improvement is crucial. Policy and funding agencies including NHMRC and MRFF, increasingly recognise and prioritise partnership with consumers, communities, organisations and services in research and healthcare improvement.

Monash Partners’ philosophy is – research and innovation in partnership with the community rather than for the community.

Our impact

An avenue for researchers to seek support and advice
Researchers are now trained and supported on how to embed consumer and community involvement within their research and healthcare improvement projects.

Guidelines for recognising consumer involvement
Guidelines to recognise the value and importance of consumer and community involvement in research and healthcare improvement projects were introduced, including reimbursing those involved for their time, expertise and any costs incurred.

Surveys to determine community views and priorities
About 1,200 community members provided input and shared their experiences of health service changes, such as telehealth appointments, drive through vaccinations and digital prescriptions during and after COVID-19. The survey also sought advice on what information, resources and support were needed for consumer and community involvement to inform an online national knowledge hub.

Tip sheets to support consumer and community involvement via communications technology
Researchers can now access a series of tip sheets explaining how to best communicate with consumers using various communication technologies when face-to-face contact is not possible.

National knowledge hub
Through AHRA, Monash Partners is co-leading a national initiative to co-design a consumer and community involvement knowledge hub. The knowledge hub will be a place to network, share learnings and connect to quality resources. The project has included a rapid evidence review, a national stakeholder survey and a series of online co-design workshops.

Support for teams involved in COVID-19 research
A COVID-19 Consumer Advisory Committee was developed to support consumer and community involvement in COVID-19 across our Partner organisations.

Training modules and resources
After extensive engagement with stakeholders, including national and international leaders, a systematic review and qualitative research to inform our program, Monash Partners has developed a co-designed set of evidence-based resources. Six self-paced online training modules are now available offering practical information, strategies and resources on how to meaningfully conduct and embed consumer and community involvement in research and healthcare improvement projects. monashpartners.org.au/education-and-training/ci

“…this is a fabulous collection of practical and informative resources. I like the combination of text, diagrams and videos... The videos of consumers talking about their experiences were highlights for me.

— Researcher

The website looks fantastic! It is incredibly thorough and well-resourced with additional links and readings... This is a great resource.

— Healthcare professional

For more about our Consumer and Community Involvement (CCI) Platform, please visit our website.
### Clinical Research Facilitation

Our Clinical Research Facilitation Platform aims to support clinical research across the Monash Partners network by addressing barriers and systemic issues.

Our priorities include:
- Implemented a model for centralised ethics review: working with Cabrini Health and Epworth HealthCare, and two leading national mutual acceptance certified human research ethics committees, Monash Health and Alfred Health. Researchers may approach either Alfred Health or Monash Health for ethics review of single site or multi-site research projects.
- Delivered Accredited Good Clinical Practice training program to more than 3,000 staff across Monash Partners.
- Co-designed a research collaboration agreement template that reduced research start up times from months to days.
- Supported clinical researchers through online resources.
- Provided a point of contact for assistance with complex multi-site applications.
- Piloting cohort identification and data extraction software programs to allow rapid identification of patients for clinical trials and rapidly extract relevant data to increase the reach, efficiency and impact of clinical research.

**Our impact**
- Developed a model for centralised ethics review: working with our private health service Partners, Cabrini Health and Epworth HealthCare, and two leading national mutual acceptance certified human research ethics committees, Monash Health and Alfred Health. Researchers may approach either Alfred Health or Monash Health for ethics review of single site or multi-site research projects.
- Delivered Accredited Good Clinical Practice training program reaching more than 3,000 staff across Monash Partners.
- Co-designed research collaboration agreement template, reducing research start up times from months to days.
- Producing online resources to support clinical researchers.
- Providing a point of contact for assistance with complex multi-site applications.
- Cohort identification and data extraction software programs identified and being trialled to allow rapid identification of patients suitable for clinical trials and to rapidly extract relevant data to increase the reach, efficiency and impact of clinical research.

For more about our Clinical Research Facilitation Platform, please visit our website.

### Primary and Community Health

Our Primary and Community Health Platform steers and enables partnership and integration between primary providers such as GPs and community health organisations, and hospital-based care. Its overall aim is to deliver better health outcomes for our community.

Historically, the structures of governance and funding within Australia’s health system have made it difficult to build links between the various layers of health services and associated research hubs. Our Primary and Community Health Platform is working to overcome this by bringing together health service managers, academics and clinical leads, along with members of academic primary care and community health.

To strengthen evidence-informed care in primary health we are supporting the development of a practice-based research network – a platform for designing, translating and implementing evidence-informed care in primary healthcare.

For more about our Primary and Community Health Platform, please visit our website.

### Workforce Development

Education is a core element of Academic Health Science Centres internationally and fundamental to Monash Partners’ accreditation as an Advanced Health Research Translation Centre.

The purpose of our Workforce Development Platform is to provide professional development opportunities and programs, aligned to the priorities and needs of our Partners and the community.

Our education and training programs are co-designed in areas that add value, avoiding duplication, and provided at low or no cost.

**Our offerings include**
- Accredited Good Clinical Practice in clinical trials training.
- Online consumer and community involvement resources.
- Implementing Innovation in Healthcare, a free on-line introductory course.
- Women in Leadership training.

We are also engaging with our Partners and nationally around what is needed to support clinical academic pathways across medicine, nursing, midwifery and allied health.

The clinical academic workforce is important in the delivery and improvement of healthcare now and in the future.

For more about our Workforce Development Platform, please visit our website.

### Biomedical Discovery Research Integration

Biomedical Discovery Research across Monash Partners, also known as basic or pure research, is internationally recognised and has led to remarkable discoveries to revolutionise the treatment of many conditions.

Our Biomedical Discovery Research Integration Platform provides networking opportunities to promote effective engagement between researchers, health professionals and the community; foster collaboration across the research continuum; and enhance translation of discoveries through to health impact.

For more about our Biomedical Discovery Research Integration Platform, please visit our website.
Our Clinical Themes

Our Clinical Themes connect researchers, clinicians and the community across our Partners and stakeholders.

They include:
- Cancer and Blood Diseases
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Critical Care, Trauma and Perioperative Medicine
- Infection and Inflammation
- Metabolic Medicine
- Neuroscience, Mental Health and Sleep
- Women’s and Children’s Health

The Themes were established in 2012, based on their demonstrated research excellence nationally and internationally, leadership in research translation leading to improved clinical care, and cross partnership capability, engagement and representation.

The aims of our Clinical Themes are to:
- Enhance the quality and outcomes of healthcare
- Strengthen interaction and collaboration across the Partner organisations and between health service clinicians and research scientists
- Develop and implement prioritised initiatives and flagship projects

Each Clinical Theme has a funded, prioritised, innovative flagship. The process of developing the flagships includes:
- An open call for concepts for a flagship initiative
- Facilitated workshops including clinicians, researchers and consumers
- Development of prioritised concepts into detailed proposals
- Peer review of flagship proposals by the Monash Partners’ Executive Committee underpinned by a strategic prioritisation framework
- Review by Monash Partners’ Council for strategic alignment, prioritisation and final endorsement.
Leading Theme Flagships, directly benefitting the community

Monash Partners’ Clinical Themes continue to connect researchers, clinicians and the community across our Partners and stakeholders. Our Clinical Themes have worked to enhance the quality and outcomes of healthcare while strengthening our interactions and collaborations between health services and research.

Our impact

The following illustrates just some of Monash Partners’ flagship prioritised initiatives that innovate for better health. All projects include multiple Monash Partners’ members and health services.

“Each Theme has leadership across discovery research, applied clinical research and clinical service to enhance the quality and outcomes of healthcare.”

Monash Partners’ Clinical Themes

Critical Care, Trauma and Perioperative Medicine

This Theme brings together our world leading strength in outstanding clinical care and research across the continuum. The Theme’s aim is to improve patient experience and outcomes across critical care, trauma, anaesthesia and perioperative medicine, emergency care and rehabilitation.

Investigation of the utility and the user experiences of widespread access to accurate emergency department wait times

Led by Associate Professor Katie Walker

Emergency department (ED) waits can be a source of frustration for the acutely unwell when there is a lack of visibility about the queue ahead, and whether another ED has a shorter wait time. This project is developing an automated method to inform people of emergency department wait times, using a data-driven model. This system improves patient experience by keeping patients and their carers informed and involved in their care; improves ED staff morale and communication by understanding the status of accessibility to emergency department services; assists to inform the ambulance services of the real time status of the EDs; reduces patient ‘did not wait’ rates by avoiding excessive wait time.

Infection and Inflammation

This theme harnesses the knowledge and expertise of health professionals and researchers across multiple clinical sites, and across the continuum of research to achieve more effective prevention and treatment of infectious and inflammatory diseases, including the response of the immune system to transplantation and chronic diseases.

Tackling superbugs: an integrated antimicrobial resistance infection prevention genomics service

Led by Professor Anton Peleg

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) represents one of the most serious global human health threats. This project transforms the way we track and respond to AMR infections and prevent their spread in healthcare, facilitating rapid detection of AMR pathogens to inform targeted treatment, and allowing prediction of treatment response, all culminating in improved survival and outcomes from AMR infection. At the health service level, it is providing an early warning system for AMR outbreaks, allowing rapid responses to AMR transmission, improving efficiency with infection prevention resource allocation and outbreak control, and improving overall patient safety.

Cardiovascular Disease

Our health service partners provide some of the largest and most influential cardiovascular services in Australia. This theme focuses on the development of ground-breaking devices and treatments, new models of clinical care, and innovative education and training programs and includes the new Victorian Heart Hospital and Victorian Heart Institute linked to our health services, Monash University and Baker.

Preventing heart disease in women with non-traditional cardiovascular risk factors

Led by Dr Sarah Zaman

Through improved awareness of cardiovascular disease in women at both an individual and healthcare provider level, timely institution of well-proven interventions can be achieved, saving lives as well as healthcare dollars. This project will improve early detection and intervention of traditional and non-traditional cardiovascular risk factors in women through the development of innovative Women’s Heart Clinics. An integrated database and healthcare service will provide a pathway and leadership structure for clinical trials addressing female-specific cardiovascular disease.

For more about our Clinical Themes, please visit our website.
Leading Theme Flagships, directly benefitting the community (cont’d)

Cancer and Blood Diseases
This Theme aims to improve patient experience and outcomes across the cancer care continuum, through world-class research and quality improvement. It links expertise across basic translational, clinical, health service, population health and epidemiological research, with the service delivery expertise of our clinical partners.

Using smart technology to more effectively and efficiently monitor the quality of cancer care
Led by Professor John Zalcberg
Cancer registries provide comprehensive, accurate and timely information for cancer control and prevention. Using smart technology to more effectively and efficiently monitor the quality of cancer care helps to inform care for people with cancer. However, health data used to inform the registries comes from a variety of sources that don’t easily ‘talk to each other’. The introduction of electronic medical records and a system known as Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FIHR) provides the project team with the opportunity to make registries informing best practice, cancer decision-making and care.

Metabolic Medicine
Our Metabolic Medicine Theme includes world leaders in research and clinical care across the range of endocrine and metabolic-related disorders. The Theme works to improve and enable easy transfer of key information into registries informing best practice, cancer decision-making and care.

Precision medicine for hypertension: early detection of primary aldosteronism
Led by Dr Jun Yang
The evidence produced by this flagship project is changing how doctors treat high blood pressure, leading to better blood pressure control and reduced heart disease in our community. This research identifies how many people in our community (including rural and indigenous populations) have Primary Aldosteronism (PA), a hormonal disorder that leads to high blood pressure. The project will focus on improving screening and testing for PA and develop a database that accurately captures the short- and long-term benefits of early detection.

Women’s and Children’s Health
Our Partners provide some of Australia’s largest and most complex healthcare services for women and children, integrating with leading research programs to improve the health of children and women across the lifespan. Our research spans the continuum of research and focuses on translation and impact. Our women’s health group have a leading role in the National Research Translation and Impact Network across ANZ.

Breaking the cycle of substance misuse in families
Led by Dr Bernadette Ward
Improving the health of parents who use methamphetamine, a vulnerable group in the community, also has an impact on their children. Involving parents in the co-design, this project is developing a feasible, engaging and acceptable intervention based on other interventions previously developed (i.e. for parents with a severe mental illness). Within five years, a specifically tailored intervention for parents who use methamphetamine will result in increased parental self-efficacy and competence, a reduction in methamphetamine use and improved physical, mental and social health parenting outcomes.

Active participatory health monitoring in people with multiple sclerosis to improve treatment outcomes (Active MS)
Led by Professor Helmut Butzkueven
With a focus on patient benefit, quality, safety and health system performance, this project investigates active patient self-monitoring at home. By using smartphone Apps, after starting or changing an MS treatment, assists in determining good or poor treatment response early after treatment starts. The aim of the multi-centre research program is to prove that physical and cognitive trajectories derived from self-assessment are surrogates for accepted measures of MS progression. The project implements this practice change by creating ‘single log-in’ systems for clinicians to see this information together with currently used clinical monitoring databases and platforms in MS clinics.

Neuroscience, Mental Health and Sleep
Harnessing the strength of our leading researchers and clinicians, this Theme aims to reduce chronic illness and death by developing and implementing new approaches to diseases of the brain including dementia, stroke, epilepsy, depression, psychosis, suicide, addiction, sleep disorders and autism. We focus on integrating biopsychosocial determinants of disease and span the continuum of research.

Active participatory health monitoring in people with multiple sclerosis to improve treatment outcomes (Active MS)
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With a focus on patient benefit, quality, safety and health system performance, this project investigates active patient self-monitoring at home. By using smartphone Apps, after starting or changing an MS treatment, assists in determining good or poor treatment response early after treatment starts. The aim of the multi-centre research program is to prove that physical and cognitive trajectories derived from self-assessment are surrogates for accepted measures of MS progression. The project implements this practice change by creating ‘single log-in’ systems for clinicians to see this information together with currently used clinical monitoring databases and platforms in MS clinics.

“Helping parents with their methamphetamine misuse helps their children.”

Cancer registries provide comprehensive, accurate and timely information.
Our Partnership with Equity Trustees

Generous contributions from the philanthropic sector play a critical role in supporting innovation in health and medical research. The partnership with Equity Trustees’ Inaugural Medical Research and the Health Partner Program has enabled us to plan for the future.

Thanks to the vision and insightful approach of Equity Trustees, we have translated a wide range of innovative research projects designed to rapidly transform research into efficient delivery of our healthcare dollars to directly benefit patients.

Equity Trustees’ Partnership Program is generously supporting a wide range of translational research projects responding directly to the needs of communities, health providers and health services, and designed to rapidly transform research into healthcare delivery and direct patient benefit. An additional benefit from these innovative research projects – is the career development of early, mid-career and female researchers; improving child health; improved diagnosis and treatment of cancer; new approaches to the treatment of depression in women; and use of data in new ways to improve outcomes after cardiac arrest.

This funding supports research prioritised by our community, health providers and health services. Monash Partners looks forward to developing and strengthening our relationship with Equity Trustees into 2021 and beyond.

Equity Trustees supported projects

Examples of our joint work include:

PROTECT Me: A new treatment to prevent cerebral palsy
Led by Dr Kirsten Palmer
Cerebral palsy is the most common physical disability of children. Preventing cerebral palsy requires us to protect the developing brain during pregnancy. Impaired growth of the baby – so called foetal growth restriction (FGR) – is one of the main causes of brain injury that leads to cerebral palsy. Foetal growth restriction (FGR) is a serious pregnancy complication, associated with increased rates of perinatal death and morbidity among survivors. This project is a world first, randomised, placebo-controlled trial to explore whether antenatal maternal melatonin supplementation in pregnancies with severe, early-onset FGR can improve neurodevelopment among children at two years of age. If successful, this would be the first treatment that can prevent cerebral palsy and improve outcomes for these children and their families. As of October 2020 the trial has recruited 37 patients. Six of the recruited babies have celebrated their first birthday in the first half of 2020 and the research team is keeping in touch with the parents in preparation for the two-year follow-up.

Improving outcomes for patients with blood cancer
Led by Associate Professor Andrew Wei
Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) is an aggressive blood cancer characterised by high levels of relapse and recurrence following treatment with significant mortality. With Equity Trustees support, we have developed several new tests for routine use in AML to identify gene mutations that might lead to recurrence and poor patient outcomes. This work has had a profound impact on the care of patients with AML, enabling a more personalised approach to decision making and the clinical care of each patient. Through national collaboration, molecular tracking has been adopted across most of Australia as a standard of care in the treatment of AML.

“We were looking for partners who could help us link researchers with healthcare professionals in meaningful two-way collaborations to generate and rapidly translate patient-focused research; leverage our funds; engage with us and our clients to deepen our knowledge and understanding; and were focused on empowering change across the sector.”

Ms Jodi Kennedy,
General Manager Charitable Trusts
and Philanthropy
Equity Trustees

Monash Partners would like to thank the following Trusts for their generous contribution to our work:

▶ Bill Long Charitable Trust
▶ The George Perry Fund
▶ The Dean William Robert Winter Trust
▶ The Appel Family Bequest
▶ Harry Blunt Estate
▶ The Lynne Quayle Charitable Trust
▶ Preston and Loui Geduld Trust Fund
▶ A. J. Anderson Charitable Trust – The Dorothy Hill Memorial Trust Fund
▶ The William & Evelyn Beveridge Trust
▶ Beatrice Harris Charitable Trust
▶ The Myra Stoicesco Charitable Trust.
Our Partnership with the Cystic Fibrosis community

Cystic Fibrosis

Over the last three years Monash Partners has developed a highly successful, community-driven, research and translation partnership with the Cystic Fibrosis (CF) community.

Cystic fibrosis is a chronic and complex inherited condition presenting a major health, economic and social burden. In the last six years, a group of dedicated volunteers has raised more than $720,000 to support high quality, prioritised research through an annual community event – 65kmforcf.com.au

This funding supports consumer prioritised, high quality research, led by clinician researchers in partnership with consumers, and focused on enhancing the quality of CF care in hospitals and improving patient outcomes and experience. Projects are identified through a formal, co-developed expression of interest process, and require consumer engagement, alignment to consumer and community priorities, and linkage to research and clinical leadership across Monash Partners. Scientific peer review is a two-stage process consisting of independent peer review, followed by consumer engagement to ensure the projects meet community needs.

The partnership is a model for building research capacity and community confidence, and moving consumer and community involvement through to partnership and empowerment. Centres like Monash Partners are ideally positioned to connect consumer organisations, researchers and clinicians to support innovation and enhance healthcare quality and outcomes.

A 65km for Cystic Fibrosis project exemplar

Continuous blood glucose monitoring as improving quality of life
Led by Dr Georgia Soldatos

Optimal management of CF-related diabetes is important to improve outcomes including nutritional status and lung function, yet screening and monitoring remains poor. This project saw a new co-designed model of care applying more accurate and preferred measurement of blood glucose levels using continuous blood glucose monitoring devices.

“Monash Partners plays a vital role in connecting the Cystic Fibrosis community with clinicians and researchers, to develop shared priorities and support research and healthcare improvement to achieve better health outcomes for those affected by Cystic Fibrosis.”

Julie Noorman
Co-founder
65km for Cystic Fibrosis

Connect to enhance wellbeing for our people

Monash Partners is committed to strengthening Indigenous research capacity to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Title: Connecting Wellbeing for our people
Artist: Emma Bamblett
Date: 2018
Description: Monash Partners-commissioned artwork from local Indigenous painter.

Our Thanks

Thank you!

None of our work would be possible without the dedication of our researchers, clinicians and staff from across the Partnership, and the incredible support that we received from our Partners, funding bodies and government. Thank you for being the driving force behind our innovations for better health.

■ 20 patients completed continuous glucose monitoring
■ 25 patients assisted in co-designing the model of care

65km for Cystic Fibrosis