

HIV in Focus – Session Program

Friday 22 November

Time	Chair(s)	Session	Speaker(s)
08:00 – 08:30		Registration Coffee	
08:30 – 09:00		Welcome to HIV in Focus Acknowledgement of Country	Prof. Jenny Hoy – Alfred Health Mr Adam Horsburgh – CEO Alfred Health Mr Richard Keane – CEO Living Positive Victoria
09:00 – 10:00	Dr Emma Paige	Update: HIV and STI Prevention	
		What is Happening with Incidence and Prevalence of HIV in Australia	Dr Skye McGregor – The Kirby Institute
		New Diagnoses HIV in Victoria – Demographics	Ms Nasra Higgins – Department of Health Victoria
		Improving HIV Testing with Novel Strategies	Prof. Jason Ong – MSHC
		PrEP Options and Uptake	Prof. Edwina Wright – Alfred Health
10:00 – 10:30		Morning Tea	
10:30 – 12:00	Dr Norm Roth	HIV, ART and Comorbidities Session	
		What's New with ART	Prof. James McMahon – Alfred Health
		Weight Gain – Is It the Drugs?	Prof. Jenny Hoy – Alfred Health
		Approach to Managing Weight Gain	A/Prof. Priya Sumithran – Alfred Health
		Case-based Discussion – Person Gaining Weight on ARV	Moderator: Dr Jill Lau – Alfred Health Dr Varun Kommidi – Prahran Market Clinic, Emily Parsons and Adam Bratt – Positive Women Victoria and Living Positive Victoria, A/Prof. Priya Sumithran – Alfred Health, Prof. James McMahon – Alfred Health, Prof. Judy Currier – UCLA
12:00 – 12:30		Lunch	
12:30 – 13:30	MIDS Prof. Jenny Hoy	Keynote Talk	
		"Navigating Ageing in the Context of HIV: Recent Developments"	Prof. Judy Currier – UCLA
13:30 – 13:45		Break	
13:45 – 15:30	Dr Beng Eu	Clinical Complexity in People Ageing with HIV	
		Complete Geriatric Assessment and Screening for Frailty	A/Prof. Peter Hunter – Alfred Health
		Polypharmacy and Deprescribing	Ms Alison Duncan – Alfred Health
		Women and Ageing – Menopause	Dr Sushena Krishnaswamy – Monash Health, Royal Women's Hospital
		HIV-associated Neurocognitive Disorder (HAND) in 2025	Prof. Bruce Brew – St. Vincent's Hospital Sydney
	Prof. Jenny Hoy	Discussion Panel – What Should an HIV and Ageing Service Look Like?	Moderator: Prof. Jenny Hoy – Alfred Health Speakers plus Dr Richard Moore – Northside Clinic, Robert Grant and Heather Ellis – Living Positive Victoria and Positive Women Victoria
15:30 – 16:00		Afternoon Tea	
16:00 – 17:30	Dr Rekha Pai Mangalore	HIV and Comorbidities – Session 2	
		MASLD Diagnosis, Monitoring and Management – What is the Role of Semaglutide?	Dr David Iser – Alfred Health

		Renal HIV - An Update on Delaying Progression of CKD and Increasing Access to Transplantation	Dr Nichita Gavrilescu – Alfred Health
		Solid Organ Transplantation – Barriers for People with HIV	Dr David Griffin – Alfred Health
		Screening and Prevention of Cancer in HIV	Dr Maggie Moore – Alfred Health
17:30 – 19:00		Networking Event	

Saturday 23 November

Time	Chair(s)	Session	Speaker(s)
08:30 – 09:00		Arrival	
09:00 – 09:45		Plenary	
	Mr Simon Ruth, Prof. James McMahon	"From Pathogenesis to Prevention: Updates on Cardiovascular Disease in HIV"	Prof. Judy Currier – UCLA
09:45 – 10:30		How Easy Can REPRIEVE Be Extrapolated to the Australian Context?	A/Prof. Janine Trevillyan – Austin Health, University of Melbourne
		Case Discussion – Person with High CVD Risk	Moderator: Prof. James McMahon – Alfred Health Prof. Judy Currier – UCLA, A/Prof. Janine Trevillyan – Austin Health, University of Melbourne, Dr Mark O'Reilly – East Sydney Doctors
10:30 – 11:00		Morning Tea	
11:00 – 13:00	Prof. Edwina Wright	Providing Quality Care to Vulnerable Populations	
		Long-acting Injectables for Vulnerable Populations	A/Prof. Mina John – Royal Perth Hospital
		Addictions Management in People with HIV	Dr Matthew Frei – Eastern Health, Turning Point
		Challenges in Management of HIV in General Practice	Dr Matt Penn – North Richmond Community Health Centre
		Overview of the Current Immigration Landscape	Mr Vikas Parwani – HALC NSW
		Navigating Health Systems When New to Australia	Carlos Araya-Perez – Living Positive Victoria
		Interactive Panel: Care for the Medicare Ineligible People with HIV	Moderator: Dr Emma Paige – Alfred Health Dr Beng Eu – Prahran Market Clinic, Dr Matt Penn – NRCHC, Mr Vikas Parwani – HALC NSW, Carlos Araya-Perez – Living Positive Victoria, Dr Mark Jeanes - Alfred Health Ms Tess McAloon – Alfred Health

13:00 – 13:10		Introduction to Living Positive Victoria Stigma Video	Ms Jen Johnson – Living Positive Victoria
13:10 – 13:45		Lunch	
13:45 – 14:50	Dr James Sell	Hot Topics	
		Update in Prophylaxis and Management of Opportunistic Infections	Dr Christina Chang – Alfred Health
		Changes in HIV Diagnostics	Dr Eloise Williams – VIDRL
		Anal Cancer Screening – Challenges in Implementation	Prof. Jason Ong – MSHC
		Mpox Update – Epidemiological and Clinical	A/Prof. Simon Crouch – SEPHU, Dr Mel Bissessor – MSHC
14:50 – 15:15		Afternoon Tea	
15:15 – 16:30	Dr Jeff Wilcox	Hot Topics	
		DoxyPEP for Syphilis Prevention	Dr Vincent Cornelisse – NNSWLHD
		Updates in Management of Diabetes, Bone Loss, Testosterone Deficiency	Dr Daniel Fineberg – Alfred Health
		HIV Cure Update	Prof. James McMahon – Alfred Health
		Symposium Wrap-up	Prof. Jenny Hoy – Alfred Health

Meet our Speakers

Carlos Araya-Perez



Carlos (They/Them) is a passionate advocate for diversity and inclusion within the HIV community. Having immigrated from Chile to Australia in 2018, Carlos brings a unique perspective to their work. Since their HIV diagnosis in 2020, they have been dedicated to sharing their lived experiences and empowering marginalised communities. As a co-founder of the Positive Latinx Australian Network (PLAN) and a Peer Navigator and Health Promotion Officer at Living Positive Victoria, Carlos is committed to creating a sense of belonging for positive migrants. They also serve as a director and events project manager at the Latin And Hispanic Rainbow Community (LAHRC), working to build inclusive and supportive communities.

Dr Mel Bissessor



Melanie Bissessor is a sexual health physician at MSHC and is the joint clinical lead of the HIV Clinic at MSHC. She manages a large cohort of MSM at both MSHC and Thorne Harbour Health. She is also involved in the education of clinicians in STI /HIV in prevention and treatment.

Mr Adam Bratt



Adam has been living with HIV since 2017. He is a member of the Positive Speakers Bureau, a facilitator of HIV related peer support groups and recently became a director of Living Positive Victoria.

Professor Bruce Brew



Bruce Brew is Professor of Medicine (Neurology) University of New South Wales and University of Notre Dame, Director of the Peter Duncan Neurosciences Unit St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research and neurologist at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney. He graduated in Medicine from the University of Sydney (MBBS Hons) and holds two higher degree doctorates – Doctorate of Medical Sciences from the University of Sydney and a Doctorate of Science from the University of New South Wales. He has a long-standing interest in HIV neuropathogenesis particularly in relation to cognitive impairment at both clinical and basic science levels, and HIV related neurological complications in general. He has designed and participated in numerous clinical studies related to HIV brain disease and written over 400 papers and four books with approximately 35,000 citations (Google Scholar). He has served on the editorial boards of several journals, including AIDS, Lancet HIV and several societies including the International Society for Neurovirology. He was on the scientific committee for CROI for several years and continues to serve on the scientific committee for HIV and Ageing. In 2015, he was awarded the Order of Australia for his services to Neurology. In 2018, he was elected President of the International Society for Neurovirology, and served in this position till 2024.

Dr Christina Chang



Christina is an Infectious Diseases physician-scientist, and is internationally recognised for her clinical and research expertise in cryptococcal meningitis (CM) and cryptococcosis-associated immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome (C-IRIS).

Dr Vincent Cornelisse



Vincent is a sexual health physician. His research focuses on sexual health epidemiology and public health interventions to reduce transmission of HIV and other sexually transmissible infections. He was the principal author of ASHM's 2024 consensus statement on Doxy-PEP.

A/Professor Simon Crouch



Associate Professor Simon Crouch is a Public Health Physician at the South East Public Health Unit with an adjunct appointment with the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University. He has had a varied public health career, but now focuses on communicable disease prevention and control. During the recent COVID-19 pandemic, A/Prof. Crouch served as Deputy Chief Health Officer at the Victorian Department of Health. A/Prof. Crouch has a particular interest in public health emergency management and has a Public Health Emergency Management Fellowship from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A/Prof. Crouch is very active in the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine and is currently the Regional Education Coordinator for Advanced Training and the Deputy Lead Examiner for the Faculty.

Ms Alison Duncan



Alison is a senior clinical pharmacist who has worked at The Alfred Hospital for more than 20 years. Alison's passionate interest is Infectious Diseases, in particular infections in the immunocompromised host, opportunistic infections and HIV. Alison leads the HIV team at Alfred Health (encompassing the Alfred and Melbourne Sexual Health Centre), working closely with ID physicians and nursing staff in both the inpatient and ambulatory outpatient settings. Her favourite things are solving complex drug queries (especially drug interactions) and helping patients understand their medicines. Alison is actively involved in teaching and training; participating in the education of undergraduates, pharmacists (including mentoring an advanced training resident in infectious diseases) and other health professionals. Alison and her Alfred colleagues established the HIV pharmacists special interest group, which meets virtually a few times each year. She and her team have presented their work both nationally and internationally.

Ms Heather Ellis



Heather Ellis was diagnosed with HIV in 1995 after riding her motorcycle solo through Africa. She is the communications and engagement coordinator with Positive Women Victoria, an HIV communications specialist, a member of the HIV Cure Consortium, the Network of Women Living with HIV and INFORM+, an international group of researchers, clinicians, and community advocating for wider acceptance of breastfeeding for mothers with HIV. Heather is passionate about translating complicated HIV science into plain language for the HIV community. A 60-year-old single mother of three boys, Heather believes improving quality of life for people with HIV is a holistic approach based on ARV treatments, clinical care and screening, nutrition, exercise, social interaction and peer support. And she still rides motorcycles...

Dr Beng Eu



Dr Beng Eu is a GP and co-director of Prahran Market Clinic and a Senior Fellow (honorary) at the Department of General practice, University of Melbourne. He has special interests in HIV, STIs, LGBTIQ+ health, and addiction medicine (including performance and image enhancing drugs). He has presented talks and studies at Australian and International conferences on a wide variety of topics.

Dr Daniel Fineberg



Dr Daniel Fineberg is an endocrinologist with an interest and expertise in diabetes, thyroid, pituitary, adrenal, electrolyte and metabolic disorders. He also provides acute and general medicine services. Dr Fineberg has been providing a consultative service in the HIV Complex Metabolic Clinic for over 8 years, and contributed to the Screening and Management of HIV-associated Comorbidity Algorithms.

Dr Matthew Frei



Dr Frei is a Foundation Fellow of the Chapter of Addiction Medicine, who first worked for Turning Point 20 years ago. Over the last two decades, he has worked in private and public practice settings, taking on the role of Turning Point Clinical Director following Turning Point's amalgamation with Eastern Health. In this role, he has clinical oversight of Turning Point's bed-based services, hospital consultation-liaison, outpatient pharmacotherapy clinics and the Drug and Alcohol Clinical Advisory Service (DACAS).

Dr Nichita Gavrilescu



Dr Gavrilescu is a consultant Nephrologist. He graduated from Monash University with Honours in 2015, and completed specialist fellowship training in nephrology at Northern Hospital, Austin Hospital and Alfred Hospital. He holds a public position with the Northern Hospital and Alfred Hospital as a consultant nephrologist and is currently working in the HIV Renal Metabolic clinic at the Alfred. He consults privately in Hawthorn and Epping.

Mr Robert Grant



Robert was living in the United Kingdom during the onset of the HIV epidemic in the 1980s. He was diagnosed HIV positive in 2003, and has lived positive ever since. In 2021, after retiring from a career in the public sector, he became a volunteer at Living Positive Victoria, including telling his story, through the Speaker's Bureau, of living as an HIV-positive person.

Dr David Griffin



David works as an Infectious Diseases physician at the Alfred Hospital and is actively involved in the inpatient and ambulatory care of people with, and other complex infections, in an ambulatory and inpatient setting. He is a current PhD candidate at Monash University, exploring the barriers to organ transplantation for people living with HIV, and vaccine responses in immunocompromised hosts.

Ms Nasra Higgins



Nasra Higgins is an epidemiologist with over 25 years of extensive experience in public health, including the past two decades with the Victorian Department of Health. She specialises in the surveillance, prevention, and control of communicable diseases, with a particular focus on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections. Her expertise encompasses communicable disease surveillance, epidemiological studies, data analysis, surveillance policy development, database management, and outbreak investigations. Recognised locally and nationally for her subject matter expertise, Nasra is also a respected mentor and coach in her field, making her an invaluable contributor in the area.

Professor Jenny Hoy



Professor Jenny Hoy is an Infectious Diseases physician and Director of HIV Medicine at Alfred Health and Monash University. She has been involved in HIV patient care and research since 1988, particularly research to aid the understanding of the prevention and management of comorbidities associated with Ageing and HIV. She is actively engaged in HIV education, was a member of the Australian Antiretroviral Guidelines Panel for 22 years before joining the IAS-USA Antiretroviral Guidelines panel in 2012. She is passionate about quality of care for people with HIV and quality of life experienced by people with HIV.

A/Professor Peter Hunter



Peter Hunter is a senior geriatrician and physician, the Director of Geriatric Medicine and the Clinical Program Director of Home, Acute and Community at Alfred Health. He is an Adjunct Clinical Professor at the School of Translation Research at Monash University. Peter has over 35 years' experience as a clinician. Peter has been involved with the development of a number of initiatives and policies with the Victorian Department of Human Services including the Hospital Admission Risk Program, HealthLinks and The Better at Home Advisory Committee. Peter was the Deputy Chair of Implementation taskforce for the Voluntary Assisted Dying Legislation. Peter was the inaugural clinical lead for the care of Older People in Safer Care Victoria and played a key role in improving care of older people, including in residential care during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. Currently, Peter maintains an active clinical role as a geriatrician and is responsible for managing a range of acute, sub-acute and community services across Alfred Health. Peter sits on the executive of Alfred Health, and he chairs the Improving End of Life Care Steering Committee for Alfred Health. He is also involved with clinical teaching at an undergraduate and postgraduate level with Monash University, health professional leadership development and research.

Dr David Iser



Dr David Iser is a gastroenterologist/ hepatologist who has worked in the Infectious Diseases Unit at The Alfred since 2006. Initially, his work focused on people living with HIV and viral hepatitis coinfections. However; his practice has evolved to treating other liver conditions, particularly fatty liver disease and cirrhosis. He also works at St. Vincent's Hospital, and in private practice, including inner Melbourne and East Gippsland. One of his passions is upskilling GPs, nurses and other healthcare workers in the management of liver diseases.

Dr Mark Jeanes



Mark Jeanes is a psychiatrist with extensive experience managing people with HIV in both an inpatient and ambulatory care setting. He is the Head of the Victorian HIV Mental Health Service and an integral member of the HIV Outward Program team.

A/Professor Mina John



Mina John is a consultant Clinical Immunologist and Immunopathologist with the Department of Immunology at Royal Perth Hospital, which provides a large ambulatory, inpatient and community outreach HIV care service for WA. She is also an immunopathologist and supervises the HIV diagnostics and drug resistance laboratory for the WA public pathology provider PathWest. She has research appointments with the Institute of Immunology and Infectious Diseases (IIID), Murdoch University and the School of Human Sciences, University of WA. Her main research interests have included HIV immunology and many aspects of HIV therapeutics.

Ms Jen Johnson



Jen Johnson is Programs Manager at Living Positive Victoria.

Mr Richard Keane



Richard Keane has been CEO of Living Positive Victoria since 2017. Richard was diagnosed with HIV in 1989 at 19 years of age and has been engaged in the community led response to HIV for over three decades. He remains a passionate advocate for people with with HIV at every level of the local response and the ever-diversifying communities living with and affected by HIV in Victoria.

Dr Varun Kommidi



Dr Varun Kommidi completed his medical degree from the University of Melbourne in 2014 and worked as a junior doctor at Monash Health in internal medicine before transitioning to General Practice. Since completing General Practice training in 2020, he has also commenced further training in HIV medicine, and Sexual Health for all individuals.

Dr Sushena Krishnaswamy



Sushena is an Infectious Diseases physician and clinician researcher at Monash Health, The Royal Women's Hospital and within the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Monash University. She has a special interest in providing care for women with HIV, including during pregnancy.

Dr Jill Lau



Dr Jillian Lau is an Infectious Diseases physician at The Alfred, Royal Melbourne Hospital and Monash Health, and a postdoctoral research fellow at the Doherty Institute. She has a research interest in HIV cure.

Ms Tess McAloon



Tess is the Team Leader of the Infectious Diseases Social Work Team at Alfred Health. Tess has over 10 years of clinical experience working as a Social Worker with people living with HIV across inpatient, outpatient and community settings. She co-leads the HIV Outward Program providing assistance to vulnerable people with HIV.

Dr Skye McGregor



Dr Skye McGregor is an epidemiologist whose work focuses on surveillance and prevention of sexually transmissible infections and blood borne viruses.

Professor James McMahon



Professor McMahon is Head of the Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Unit at the Alfred Hospital and an ID physician at the Alfred and Monash Medical Centre. He is the current President of ASHM, and his research interests include clinical trials focused on HIV and COVID-19.

Dr Maggie Moore



Dr Maggie Moore is a Medical Oncologist at the Alfred Hospital. She specialises in the treatment of melanoma, lung and breast cancers.

Dr Richard Moore



Richard Moore is a GP who has been working in HIV medicine since the early 1990s. He is currently a director of Northside Clinic, and he works at the Green Room at Melbourne Sexual Health Centre. In the past, he has worked at Carlton Clinic and the Infectious Diseases clinic at the Alfred Hospital.

Professor Jason Ong



Professor Dr Jason Ong is an academic Sexual Health physician with a passion for research among marginalised populations. He has a unique combination of skills and experiences of being a clinician, health economist and epidemiologist. He focuses his research on giving a voice to the voiceless and enjoys the challenge of shining light on taboo topics, to enable better decision-making.

Dr Mark O'Reilly



Dr Mark O'Reilly is a Sexual Health physician, HIV specialist GP and Director at East Sydney Doctors and Taylor Square Private Clinic. He is a clinical advisor to ASHM and is a current member of the Australian antiretroviral guidelines committee.

Dr Emma Paige



Dr Emma Paige is an Infectious Diseases physician at Alfred Health with a subspecialty interest in HIV. She is one of two physicians within the Victorian HIV Service Outward Program, a multidisciplinary service that works with vulnerable patients with medical and psychosocial complexities to optimise their engagement in HIV care.

Emily Parson



Emily Parson is a woman living with HIV, she was diagnosed in 2010 at the same time as finding out that she was pregnant with her first child, she has gone on to have another two pregnancies and is now the mother of three beautiful boys. While juggling her hectic family life, she is a peer support worker with Positive Women Victoria. Emily brings a passion for helping women living with HIV to build their confidence, meet the challenges of HIV stigma and advocate for all.

Mr Vikas Parwani



Vikas Parwani is the Principal Solicitor at the HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (HALC)* in Sydney. He is an accredited immigration law specialist with over 10 years of experience as an immigration lawyer. Vikas has run test cases on Migration Law before the Full Federal Court of Australia and the High Court. In addition, he has assisted asylum seekers at the Manus Island Detention Centre in Papua New Guinea with their claims for protection. Outside Migration law, Vikas has published articles, co-authored and edited publications on HIV and the Law (including a chapter in the Law Handbook), and presented and authored abstracts at national and international conferences. He has presented at government forums on amendments to the My Health Records Act and appeared and made submissions on HIV criminalisation before the NSW and Queensland Law Reform Commissions. Vikas has a particular interest in legislative initiatives to improve harm reduction, and in improving access to justice for marginalised communities. *HALC is a specialist community legal centre that provides pro bono assistance to people with HIV and Hepatitis related legal problems (within operational guidelines), delivers community legal education and undertakes law reform activities in this area.

Dr Matt Penn



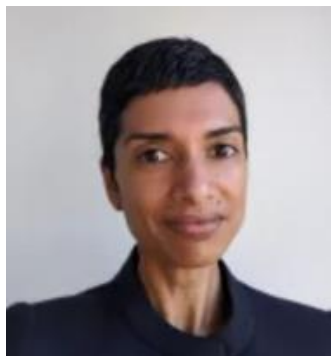
Dr Matt Penn is GP who works at North Richmond Community Health Centre. He has extensive experience working with marginalised populations. He is an integral member of the Victorian HIV and Hepatitis Integrated Learning program, delivering education on HIV and STIs.

Mr Simon Ruth



Simon is the CEO of Thorne Harbour Health, formerly the Victorian AIDS Council. He has previously worked at Peninsula Health, the Salvation Army, YSAS and the Ozanam Community. He was on the Board of the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association for 10 years, serving 6 years as President and is a current Board Member of VicHealth and the AIDS Trust of Australia.

A/Professor Priya Sumithran



Associate Professor Priya Sumithran, MBBS (Hons), PhD, FRACP, is an endocrinologist and clinician researcher. She is Head of the Obesity and Metabolic Medicine Group in the Department of Surgery, School of Translational Medicine, Monash University, and Clinical Lead for Obesity Medicine at Alfred Health (Department of Endocrinology and Diabetes).

A/Professor Janine Trevillyan



Associate Professor Janine Trevillyan is the Head of Clinical Virology and HIV services and Deputy Director of Infectious Diseases and Immunology at Austin Health, Melbourne and an honorary Associate Professor within the Department of Infectious Diseases, University of Melbourne at the Peter Doherty Institute of Infection and Immunity. She is an Infectious Diseases physician and clinical researcher, and her work focuses on understanding and preventing the long-term complications of HIV, particularly targeted at reducing cardiovascular risk and metabolic dysfunction.

Dr Eloise Williams



Dr Eloise Williams is a clinical microbiologist and Infectious Diseases physician at the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory. She is currently undertaking a PhD focusing on optimising diagnosis and control of STIs, including HIV at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity at the University of Melbourne. Her primary interests are sexually transmitted infections, blood borne viruses and public health.

Professor Edwina Wright



Professor Edwina Wright AM is an Infectious Disease physician and clinical researcher at the Alfred Hospital, Monash School of Translational Medicine. She leads the HIV prevention Service in the Victorian HIV Service. Her research interests include HIV prevention, HIV cure and HIV dementia. She is a past President of ASHM.

Appreciation to our Steering Committee Members:

Alfred Health:

Prof. Jenny Hoy (Chair)
Prof. James McMahon
Mr Brian Price
Dr Olga Vujovic
Prof. Edwina Wright

Prahran Market Clinic:

Dr Beng Eu
Dr Varun Kommidi

Living Positive Victoria:

Mr Tim Krulic