



# The Menzies Institute for Medical Research

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

**MENZIES** 

Institute for Medical Research



# The Menzies Institute for Medical Research

The Menzies Institute for Medical Research, at the University of Tasmania, is one of Australia's leading health and medical research institutes. We strive for a world where the diseases that currently touch every one of us – such as multiple sclerosis, dementia, arthritis, heart disease and cancer – are halted. We want to know how to prevent, treat and cure these diseases, and make the benefits available to everyone. We work collaboratively with the community and consumers, other researchers, health services, government, industry and funders to achieve our purpose to enable healthier, longer and better lives through internationally significant medical research. We undertake excellent laboratory, clinical and population health research in themes that reflect the burden of disease in our community and our expertise in addressing these conditions. Our local research is of global significance.

Our multidisciplinary research program extends across our themes and includes health services research, epidemiology, chronic disease prevention, health economics, molecular biology, computational biology and bioinformatics.

## Research themes

### Public Health, Primary Care and Health Services

We work to improve prevention and management of important health problems that impact large sections of our population. We focus on lifestyle and environmental risk factors, obesity, multiple sclerosis and mental health.

Theme leader: Prof Andrew Palmer [andrew.palmer@utas.edu.au](mailto:andrew.palmer@utas.edu.au)

#### Available Projects:

Addressing high healthcare usage	Dr Claire Morley
Assisting working people with MS	Prof Ingrid van der Mei
Air pollution and childhood development	Prof Fay Johnston
Can better wood burners improve health?	Prof Fay Johnston
Finances, employment and prostate cancer	Dr Jessica Roydhouse
Improving data accuracy for economic evaluation	Dr Ingrid Cox
Interstitial lung disease: health economics	Dr Ingrid Cox
Lung cancer care pathways	Dr Ingrid Cox
Transforming lunch provision in Tasmanian schools	Dr Kylie Smith
Incentivising physical activity	A/Prof Verity Cleland
Walkability in rural communities	A/Prof Verity Cleland
The heart health benefits of fitness	Dr Brooklyn Fraser

## Brain Health and Disease

Brain diseases like multiple sclerosis and motor neurone disease affect many Australians and impact movement and memory. Our research focus is to discover the causes of each disease and develop effective treatments to guard the nervous system.

Theme leader: Prof Kaylene Young [kaylene.young@utas.edu.au](mailto:kaylene.young@utas.edu.au)

If you are interested in Neuroscience PhD, please contact the theme leader.

## Cardiovascular and Respiratory Health and Disease

We focus on the prevention and management of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. Our aim is to reduce the impact of stroke, heart, and lung disease in Tasmania.

Theme leader: A/Prof Seana Gall [seana.gall@utas.edu.au](mailto:seana.gall@utas.edu.au)

### Available Projects

Adiposity, mental health and CVD health	Dr Jing Tian
Sleep, obesity and heart health	Dr Jing Tian
eHealth interventions to prevent stroke	A/Prof Seana Gall
mHealth for stroke prevention	A/Prof Seana Gall
The clinical value of exercise BP	A/Prof Martin Schultz

## Musculoskeletal Health and Disease

Our research focuses on common bone and joint diseases, including osteoarthritis and osteoporosis. We work to improve pain and musculoskeletal health.

Theme leader: A/Prof Dawn Aitken [dawn.aitken@utas.edu.au](mailto:dawn.aitken@utas.edu.au)

### Available Projects

Multimomics of musculoskeletal disorders	Dr Feng Pan
Air pollution and bone health	Dr Lieke Scheepers
Musculoskeletal health in children	Dr Lieke Scheepers
Investigating chronic plantar heel pain	Dr Tania Winzenberg

## Genetics and Cancer

Our priorities are to understand the genetic and molecular cause of cancer, blinding eye diseases, cardiovascular diseases, and multiple sclerosis and share this knowledge to prevent, diagnose, and treat diseases.

Theme leader: Prof Kathryn Burdon [kathryn.burdon@utas.edu.au](mailto:kathryn.burdon@utas.edu.au)

### Available Projects

The evolution of multiple sclerosis risk	Dr Bennet McComish
Structural variants and CVD	A/Prof Phillip Melton
Familial interstitial lung disease genes	Dr Sionne Lucas
Epigenetic drivers of tumour metastasis	Prof Joanne Dickinson
Discovery of rare cancer risk variants	A/Prof Liesel FitzGerald
Genetics of childhood cataract	Prof Kathryn Burdon



### Graduate Research Co-ordinators

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