

Faculty of Medicine

# HDR Symposium

Tuesday 21 November 2023

TRI Auditorium, Woolloongabba



## 6th Annual Faculty of Medicine Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Symposium (2023)

### Program at a Glance

8.30-9.00am	Registration and Poster Set-up
9.00-9.10am	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
9.10-9.30am	2023 Faculty of Medicine PhD Graduate of the Year Award – Announcement & Presentation
9.30-10.45am	<p>Presentation session 1: <b>Decoding the HDR black box: Identifying and communicating your skills</b></p> <p>Have you ever found yourself struggling to describe to someone what you are doing as an HDR candidate? Or how you can use your skills and expertise beyond your thesis?</p> <p>This session uses the analogy of a black box* to highlight that the HDR process is opaque to those outside the box. This suggests that observers may struggle to appreciate your journey through the box and your transformation to become an independent researcher. Moreover, they may not easily see or appreciate the breadth of skills that you've developed along the way.</p> <p>At the conclusion of this session you will have strategies to assist you in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identifying the skills you are developing through your HDR experience,</li><li>• Investigating where you can use those skills, and</li><li>• Communicating those skills to observers outside the HDR black box</li></ul> <p>* <i>'... a system or process that uses information to produce a particular set of results, but that works in a way that is secret or difficult to understand ...'</i> (Cambridge Dictionary)</p> <p><b>Dr Rachel Pitt</b></p>
10.45-11.15am	Morning tea + Posters
11.15am-12.30pm	<p>Panel session: <b>Industry placements – how to make the most out of the experience</b></p> <p>This session is designed to guide you through the prerequisites and insights into securing an industry placement during your HDR journey. The Graduate School will provide an overview of the requirements for undertaking an industry placement, and current HDRs and alumni, who have successfully navigated this unique aspect of their doctoral experience, will share their valuable perspectives. The session will conclude with dedicated time for questions from the audience, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics involved in balancing academic work and engaging with industry.</p> <p><b>Jodie Brennan, Ara Cho, Aleysha Martin, Dr Samreen Naz Shaikh, Dr Selwin Samuel</b></p>
12.30-1.30pm	Lunch + Posters
1.30-2.45pm	<p>Presentation session 2: HDR Health &amp; Wellbeing <b>Optimising Wellbeing as a HDR Student</b></p> <p>This workshop covers general mental health strategies and mindfulness and aims to assist HDR students to manage stress, to open conversations about wellbeing and to access UQ support services and resources.</p> <p><b>Letitia Norton</b></p> <p><b>Sleeping for success: An essential pillar of wellbeing during the HDR journey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Why HDR students need enough, good quality sleep – sleeping for success</li><li>• Barriers to sleep health during HDR candidature</li><li>• Common sleep problems</li><li>• Sleep tips/advice/where to go if needing additional support.</li></ul> <p><b>Dr Dan Sullivan</b></p>
2.45-3.15pm	Afternoon Tea + Posters

3.15-4.30pm

**Presentation session 3:  
Generative AI: The dos and don'ts**

This session will provide an overview of the current capacities of Large Language Models (LLMs) like ChatGPT, and offer tips on how to leverage these capacities in your work. The session will also provide an overview of how AI and research integrity intersect. It will highlight points to be aware of and tips for good practice.

*Ryan Jesson & Lars Eriksson*

4.30-4.40pm

**Conclusion**

*Ida Tornvall*

5pm onwards

**Informal social networking at The Norman Hotel, 102 Ipswich Road, Woolloongabba**

## Speakers Bios



### Dr Rachel Pitt

Dr Rachael Pitt (BA Hons, DPsychEd) is an expert in researcher career development learning, doctoral education, and researcher development.

With 20 years' experience in both academic and professional roles at Australian universities, she has worked extensively across disciplinary and professional boundaries. Rachael's roles have included academic research positions, interdisciplinary undergraduate teaching and program coordination, higher degree by research (HDR) supervisor support, doctoral and supervisory training coordination, and project management.

Since 2017 she has been providing focused career development and employment support to The University of Queensland's HDR candidates through her role as HDR Careers Advisor. Within this role she enjoys using her expertise and research interests in higher education, doctoral education, and research careers to assist HDR candidates to explore their career options and identify strategies for moving forward.

Through her consultancy work, Rachael also provides researcher career development learning support via online workshops to users of the PostAc job search platform.



### Jodie Brennan

Jodie Brennan is the Team Leader for the HDR Liaison Officers (HLOs) that support Faculty of Medicine HDR students and their advisors. Jodie has supported HDR candidates at UQ for over six years, working closely with stakeholders across UQ to enhance the postgraduate research experience.



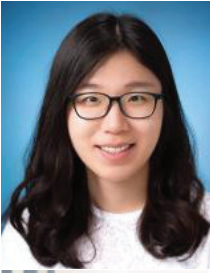
### Aleysha Martin

Aleysha is a final year Mater Research-UQ PhD student. She enrolled in her PhD after wanting to make a meaningful change in her clinical role as an occupational therapist at the Mater Hospital Brisbane. Earlier this year, Aleysha completed an international industry placement with the Royal College of Occupational Therapists in London. While overseas, she presented her research with the staff at the Royal College and at the International Conference on Integrated Care in Belgium. Aleysha has also presented at other national and international conferences and has published four first-author papers.



### Selwin Samuel

Selwin earned his PhD studying neurogenic heterotopic ossification under the supervision of Professor Jean-Pierre Levesque and Dr Kylie Alexander at the Mater Research Institute. During his PhD, he honed his skills with an internship at Microba. Selwin also led as Deputy Chair of the UQ Faculty of Medicine HDR Student Committee in 2020. Selwin is now a postdoctoral fellow at the Queensland University of Technology, where he is working in the field of cancer biology. Besides research, he's passionate about communicating science with school kids and the general public.



### Ara Cho

Ara Cho is a PhD Student at The University of Queensland. She completed her Masters degree of Public Health in Epidemiology and Health Informatics in 2019. After that she worked at Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine and Centre for Cohort Studies in Kangbuk Samsung Hospital in South Korea for three years, she started her PhD journey at UQ in 2020. Her research entails evaluating the impact of policy & regulatory environment on smoking and vaping patterns.



### Samreen Shaikh

Dr Samreen Shaikh is an Early Career researcher who works in Professor Brandon Wainwright's paediatric brain cancer laboratory at the UQ-Frazer Institute. She earned her PhD in neuroimmunology earlier this year from Associate Professor Jana Vukovic's laboratory in the School of Biomedical Sciences (SBMS). During her PhD, she focused on studying the response and differential roles of microglia, which are the brain's resident immune cells, in various neuroinflammatory conditions. Currently, Dr Samreen Shaikh is leading a project that is funded by 'The Kids Cancer Project' organisation. In this project, she is investigating the optimal dosage of craniospinal radiation and its combination with novel radiosensitising agents. The goal of this research is to enhance overall survival in mice that are harbouring patient-derived medulloblastoma, the most common malignant pediatric brain tumor and to limit long term toxicity associated with high dose radiation on the developing brain.



### Letitia Norton

Letitia joined UQ in 2017 and enjoys working with students to help them navigate life difficulties and optimise their mental health and wellbeing. Letitia offers a person-centred, neuroscience-based approach to counselling and the preferred practice of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). Her professional areas of interest include anxiety, depression, relationships, grief and loss, existential crisis and social justice. Outside work, she's into bushwalking, kayaking and strumming a guitar on her veranda.



### Dr Dan Sullivan

Dr Dan Sullivan is a Research Fellow at the UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, The University of Queensland. As part of the MRFF/NHMRC-funded Let's Yarn about Sleep project team, Dan's current program of research aims to improve the sleep health of First Nations Australians, through community co-designed sleep programs which are culturally responsive. Dan trained in Clinical Psychology at Griffith University, and maintains a part-time appointment as a Senior Psychologist in the sleep service at The Prince Charles Hospital. Dan's research and clinical practice focuses on clinical and health psychology, with specific interests in sleep health/disorders, headaches/persistent pain, and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).



### Lars Eriksson

Lars Eriksson is an Outreach Librarian based at the Herston Health Sciences Library and is also working as a Clinical Librarian with STARS, the Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service. Lars has extensive experience working with academics, students and clinicians in medicine and the health sciences.



### Ryan Jesson

Through his PhD in Cognitive Science, Ryan has explored mechanisms that drive high-quality reasoning and problem-solving. Bridging his passions for research and education, Ryan has held positions with the School of Psychology and The Learning Lab, where he has focused on understanding the transformative potential of AI technologies for learning and scientific progress.