



University of
South Australia

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



2017 Cohort Members



Dr Faisal Ahammed

Natural and Built Environments Research Centre, School of Natural and Built Environments

Dr Faisal Ahammed is a civil engineer who conducts multi-disciplinary research on infrastructure compliant stormwater management strategies for developed and developing countries. His current research focusses on economic analysis of water sensitive urban design technologies and the effectiveness of teaching-research nexus to enhance students' learning in higher education.



Dr Helen Banwell,

Sansom Institute for Health Research &, School of Health Sciences

Dr Helen Banwell's research focus is within the field of adult and paediatric lower limb conditions, primarily around the assessment and intervention methods used to manage symptomatic flat feet. Given the paucity of evidence in this area, Helen uses consensus surveys and systematically review the literature to a) investigate existing consistency between practitioners on assessment and intervention methods, and b) establish the level of evidence available to support the assessment and intervention methods used.



Dr Ryan Causby

Sansom Institute for Health Research, School of Health Sciences

Dr Ryan Causby is a lecturer, researcher and practicing podiatrist with an interest in clinical biomechanics, motor control and musculoskeletal disorders of the lower limb. In particular, Ryan is interested in psychomotor aspects including the sensory, cognitive and motor systems, their integration and how they contribute to lower limb function or dysfunction.



Dr Stephanie Centofanti,

School of Psychology, Social Work & Social Policy, Centre for Sleep Research

Dr Stephanie Centofanti is a sleep researcher who investigates the effects of sleep deprivation; in particular, the impact of shift work on sleep, cognitive function, mood and glucose metabolism, and the effectiveness of countermeasures and coping skills that may help to counteract these detrimental effects.



Dr Alyson Crozier

Alliance for Research in Exercise, Nutrition and Activity, School of Health Sciences

Dr Alyson Crozier's research focus is group dynamics; specifically, Alyson is interested in how the social environment relates to and influences individual behaviour in physical activity settings. Alyson has two areas that she is interested in specifically: (1) how an individual's perception of others behaviours/thoughts relate to that individuals behaviour (i.e., social norms/influence), and (2) how individual perceptions of the social environment (e.g., cohesion, groupness) relates to adherence in exercise and sport settings.



Dr Anna Dawson,

School of Health Sciences, Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit, Sansom Institute for Health Research

Dr Anna Dawson is a mixed method researcher who undertakes participatory research with Indigenous partners to investigate Indigenous inequities in health and employment in order to identify cultural safe policy and program responses to address this disadvantage.



Dr Preethi Eldi,

School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, Experimental Therapeutics Laboratory

Dr Preethi Eldi is a cellular immunologist with a fundamental research interest in understanding the immune parameters critical for inducing a robust and durable protective response following vaccination. Preethi's current work focuses on the development of novel vaccine platforms for use in the field of emerging infectious diseases and food allergy.



Dr Kate Fennell

Sansom Institute for Health Research, School of Health Sciences

Dr Kate Fennell is a clinical psychologist and researcher with interests in understanding addressing rural/urban health and well-being, and testing online, tele-health and telephone-based cancer support and mental health interventions. Kate is also interested in behavior change theory-informed intervention development and Participatory Action Research methods.



Dr Patrizia Furlan,

School of Communication, International Studies and Languages

Dr Patrizia Furlan's research examines medical-health news production and in particular reporters' relationships with public relations practitioners who often provide ideas and access to elite medical sources.



Dr Pablo Garcia Valtanen

School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, Sansom Institute for Health Research

Using a mouse model in the laboratory Dr Pablo Garcia Valtanen is investigating the role of the adipose tissue (i.e., fat) in the response to systemic viral infections. Therapeutics, nutritional interventions and vaccines that target the adipose tissue have the potential to improve the outcome of otherwise severe virus infections.



Dr Sai Anand Gopalan,
Future Industries Institute

Dr Sai Anand Gopalan is a material scientist who focuses on the development of novel multifunctional nanostructured materials exploring its widespread application in clean energy technologies such as solar cells, supercapacitors and fuel cells to address the global energy demands and environmental challenges.



Dr Joanne Harmon,
Safety and Quality in Health Research, Education in Nursing, Midwifery and Health Science Research Group, School of Nursing and Midwifery

Being in pain whilst hospitalised can lead to negative outcomes, and having pain is the main reason why an older person will initially present to hospital and be admitted into acute care. Little is known about how nurses assess and manage pain for the older hospitalised person. Dr Joanne Harmon is interested in exploring how nurses undertake pain care provision to gain insight and understanding into how an optimal outcome for the older person can occur.



Dr Nada Ibrahim,
School of Education, Centre for Islamic Thought and Education

Dr Nada Ibrahim is a research-active psychologist/criminologist that investigates issues related to multicultural communities, particularly, fostering healthy family relationships while addressing the issue of domestic and family violence at the micro/macro level while healing trauma.



Dr Ian Johnson,
School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, Mechanisms in Cell Biology and Diseases Research group

Dr Ian Johnson is a medical researcher with a focus on molecular biology and cellular machinery that drives disease pathogenesis. Ian is currently exploring novel biomarkers for prostate cancer diagnosis and prognosis, and molecular motor traffic within prostate cancer cells. He also has an interest in disease microenvironment and the interplay between normal cells and cancer cells.



Dr Jocelyn Kernot,
Sansom Institute for Health Research, Alliance for Research in Exercise, Nutrition and Activity

Dr Jocelyn Kernot is an occupational therapist whose research focus is on the development and evaluation of programs aimed at reducing the incidence of mental health problems in our society. Exploration of a variety of different program delivery methods which may enhance the engagement and reach of these programs is also an interest.



Dr Zohaib Khan,
Phenomics and Bioinformatics Research Centre, School of Information Technology and Mathematical Sciences

Dr Zohaib Zhan is an image analyst who designs, develops and tests algorithms for extracting meaningful information from images, useful for agriculture, medicine and security applications.



Dr Sanjaya Kuruppu,
School of Commerce, Centre for Sustainable Governance

Dr Sanjaya Kuruppu is a sustainability accountant who explores the way that the notions of accountability and governance are understood, operationalised and affect people and institutions in modern society.



Dr Kelvin Layton,
Institute for Telecommunications Research

Dr Kelvin Layton is a telecommunications researcher, with a background in electrical engineering. Kelvin develops new techniques for high-speed data transmission using mathematical models and test equipment. Kelvin's focus is developing communication technology for future earth-observation satellites.



Dr Dawei Liu,
Centre for Cancer Biology

Dr Dawei Liu is a biological scientist interested in cancer biology. Dawei's research interest is to investigate the function of circular RNAs which might open up a new area for cancer research and treatment



Dr Thomas Michl,
Future Industries Institute

Dr Thomas Michl is a material scientist who develops novel coatings. These coatings aim to prevent the spread of disease caused by microbes, such as bacteria and fungi.



Dr Rachel Milte
Institute for Choice, Commerce, UniSA School of Business

Dr Rachel Milte is a health economist with a background working in the health and aged care sectors, interested in economic evaluation of health and aged care program, measurement of quality of life, and incorporating consumers into design and evaluation of services.



Dr Laura Morrissey,
School of Natural and Built Environments Research Centre

Dr Laura Morrissey is a geologist who applies principles of metamorphic petrology to solve problems relating to ore deposit genesis. Laura is particularly interested in the source of highly saline fluids, which are known to drive the generation of IOCG deposits.



Dr Jasmine Palmer

Zero Waste SA Research Centre for Sustainable Design and Behaviour, Barbara Hardy Institute, & School of Art, Architecture & Design

Dr Jasmine Palmer is a research-active teaching academic with qualifications in Architecture and Sustainable Design. Jasmine's primary area of research interest is housing and, in particular, multi-unit housing. Within the frame of multiunit housing Jasmine researches processes of provision, design disruption, lived experiences, professionalisation, sustainability and self-organisation. She employs a combination of research methods and skills drawn from architecture and design as well as system/network theories and social sciences.



Dr Daehwan Park,

Future Industries Institute, Multifunctional nanomaterials research group

Dr Daehwan Park is a chemical engineer with a special interest in materials chemistry. Daehwan's previous research focus was hierarchical inorganic nanoparticles and bio-functionalized hybrid materials for healthcare and drug delivery system and now he is interested in designing multifunctional nanoporous hybrid materials for energy, environmental, and biomedical applications.



Dr Kathy Rao,

School of Commerce

Dr Kathy Rao is a social and environmental accounting researcher who has specific interest in investigating corporate board diversity characteristics, in particular, the effect of gender diversity on CSR decision making processes at board level. Kathy focuses on the reporting and disclosure made by major corporations on these issues.



Dr Aswathy Ravindran Girija,

Future Industries Institute, Multifunctional nanomaterials research group

Dr Aswathy Ravindran Girija is a BioNano science fusion researcher who works in the development of biocompatible nanomaterials for the theragnostic application in cancer therapy. Aswathy's research focuses on the (a) application of mesoporous nanomaterials as theragnostic agents in cancer, (b) development of Layered double hydroxide nanoparticles for anti-cancer drug delivery, (c) development of immunotherapy nanodrugs against cancer.



Dr Matt Selway,

School of Information Technology and Mathematical Sciences, Advanced Computing Research Centre

Dr Matt Selway is a Computer Scientist currently focused on capturing written task descriptions (e.g. cooking recipes) as computer-based process models. More generally, his research in the area of knowledge acquisition aims to obtain human-level knowledge as computer-based formalisms that can be used in various Artificial Intelligence applications. His long term goal is to use his research to address the Winograd Schema Challenge, a modern alternative to the Turing Test for Artificial Intelligence.



Dr Jamie Sisson,

School of Education

Dr Jamie Sisson is an educational researcher focused on early childhood and teacher education. Jamie's research interests include democratic/emergent curriculum and pedagogy, collaborative partnerships between university and field sites and human agency and identity formation.



Dr Natalie Stevens,
Future Industries Institute, Regenerative Medicine Laboratory

Dr Natalie Stevens is an immunologist who works on developing antibody therapeutics for different conditions, currently wound healing. Natalie thinks antibodies are amazing tools, and her work centres on adapting antibodies to improve the prognosis and quality of life for patients.



Dr Xanthe Strudwick,
Future Industries Institute

Dr Xanthe Strudwick is a biologist who investigates how wounds heal with an aim to develop new treatments which lead to tissue regeneration, either to stimulate healing when wounds fail to heal properly or to reduce scar formation which occurs during normal tissue repair and as a result of burn wound injuries.



Dr Giang Trinh
Ehrenberg-Bass Institute, School of Marketing

Dr Gring Thang's current research investigates changes in consumer behaviour over time, with a particular focus on developing and applying models to understand factors that affect these changes as well as to forecast future consumer behavior.



Dr Ben van der Hoek,
Future Industries Institute, Deep Exploration Technologies CRC

Dr Ben van der Hoek's research interests include real-time sensing, data analysis, and automation which have the potential for significant gains in safety and productivity. Current research is focused on the mineral exploration industry but Ben considers it applicable to other industries such as mineral processing, and waste and recycling management.



Dr Geetika Verma,
School of Information Technology and Mathematical Sciences, Centre for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

Dr Geetika Verma's primary focus is in but not restricted to the following four areas; seeking solutions of open problems in wireless networking using recently developed theory and comparing concepts from the literature; reconstruction of functions or signals using newly launched types of frames and wavelets; numerical solutions and construction of recursive algorithms for solving singular operator equations; developing techniques in recovering an input vector in Input-retrieval theory and the goal is to study conditions under which stable recovery is possible.



Dr Shelley Wright,
School of Health Sciences

As an occupational therapy researcher, Dr Shelley Wright's research focuses on the benefits of and possible precursors to playfulness in children and adults, both of which may assist in developing effective interventions. Shelley is particularly interested in the impact of trauma on people's lives, and the potential benefits of playfulness in promoting adaptability and well-being.