

# Research Report 2020

**The University of Melbourne  
School of Health Sciences  
Department of Nursing**

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE





## **Professor Marie Gerdtz**

### Head of Department of Nursing

At the beginning of 2020 The University of Melbourne published its vision and strategy for a new decade. Advancing Melbourne aims to benefit the community through discovery, innovation and the delivery of high-quality education. Importantly, Advancing Melbourne places students at the heart of the university and values the places in which we live and work, and the teaching and research partnerships we have with our hospitals, health services and the community.

Aligned to the release of Advancing Melbourne the Department of Nursing shaped a new research strategy with a strong focus on implementation science as a cross-cutting theme. Our research activities in the area of implementation science include studying best ways of translating knowledge into action for practices across the age spectrum. A second cross-cutting theme of our research strategy is digital health. Here our work includes developing approaches to enhance digital health literacy to optimise safety and quality of care and build capacity in digital health for innovations in care and nurse-led research.

Our research themes sit within three core research areas established within the Melbourne School of Health Sciences: Healthy Start to Life, Disability and Inclusion and Optimising Health and Well-being. In the Healthy Start to Life hub our researchers partner with paediatric and perinatal care centres and their associated research institutes. In the Disability and Inclusion hub researchers collaborate with the Centre for Mental Health Nursing, focusing their work on evidence-based strategies that support people experiencing long-term mental health challenges. Work in the Optimising Health and Well-being hub focuses on the sub-specialties of acute and emergency care, cancer, chronic disease and palliative care. More information about our research programs is now available on The Department of Nursing website at: <https://healthsciences.unimelb.edu.au/departments/nursing>

This year the World Health Organisation State of the World's Nursing Report released in April 2020 further sets the scene for the rapid expansion of nursing education including research. For the past three years the department has worked to support aspiring nurse researchers by strengthening our graduate research program and pathways to research through coursework. As a result, our PhD enrollments in particular have increased and are set to expand further in 2021.

## Melbourne School of Health Sciences Research Hubs



**Healthy Start  
to Life**



**Disability  
and Inclusion**



**Optimising Health  
and Wellbeing**

**Implementation and Health Services Research**

**Digital Health**



### **Department of Nursing**

- Infant, Child and Adolescent Health
- Cancer and Palliative Care Nursing
- Mental Health Nursing
- Emergency and Critical Care Nursing
- Informatics and Digital Health

The last 12 months, in particular, have tested the emergency preparedness and the response capacity of the health workforce in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. Alongside the current pandemic, mass population displacement caused by conflict and natural disasters continue to place unprecedented demands on health systems. Worldwide nurses make up between 60-70% of the regulated health workforce. The current nursing workforce therefore represents a vast resource with the potential to lead the health system developments necessary to achieve the WHO's sustainable development goals.

For nurses to lead such developments, higher education in leadership, innovation, health systems, and change management is required. This training is currently available in Advanced Nursing Practice Degrees, such as the Master of Advanced Nursing Practice. Additionally, many nurses are increasingly seeking training in public health skillsets, such as epidemiology and biostatistics, evaluation and implementation science, infectious diseases, and advanced research methods to expand their practice and leadership capability.

In response to demand brought about by the pandemic and an unprecedented global workforce shortage of nurses, work is underway for approval of a combined degree that teaches both Advanced Nursing Practice and Public Health at The University of Melbourne. This innovative new award will combine nursing and public health equipping nurses to take up leadership roles while also offering a robust pathway to PhD.

The pandemic has demanded nurses to rapidly adapt in practice. Many retired nurses have returned to work to help alleviate the strain on health care services. The last time nursing was under such pressure, collectively, was during World War Two, when provisions of the federal Manpower Act listed nursing as a protected occupation. Nurses go to work as professionals, deserving respect as does every healthcare worker. Stronger than any media campaign, what the COVID-19 pandemic has done is to remind the public about the value of nurses and nursing. If nurses have been almost invisible in scientific dialogue in the past, nurses' work in the last year has put them under a global spotlight, saving lives in life-threatening situations.

The world has always needed nurses to care for the ill and injured and run hospitals. In a post pandemic world increasingly, opportunities will emerge for nurses to lead multi-disciplinary innovations in health systems. Our work this year and going forward place The Department of Nursing at the forefront of nurse-led health services research and research training.

Our Department of Nursing acknowledges the traditional custodians of our land on which our Department of Nursing, within the Melbourne School of Health Sciences sits. We would like to especially acknowledge that our Department is on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders both past, present and future and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians present.



## Year of the Nurse and the Midwife

The years 2020 (International Year of the Nurse and Midwife) and 2021 (25 Years of Nursing at The University of Melbourne), were meant to be two years of celebration of Nursing; celebrating the vital work nurses have done in the past and continue to do. Such work includes research, clinical care in diverse settings and levels, teaching and leadership. However, the COVID-19 Pandemic put all celebrations on hold, and instead, nursing pivoted front and centre in the life saving, complex, heavy and, at times, seemingly relentless workload.

However, our Department of Nursing, University of Melbourne remained committed to ensuring high quality nursing education and research, supporting our graduate students, widely sharing our research, and nurturing current and developing new strategic partnerships with clinical and professional organisations and funding agencies. For the first time in our history, we delivered the inaugural online Marian Barrett Lecture. Dr Madonna Grehan, Nursing Alumni and Honorary Fellow in the Department of Nursing, delivered the inaugural online Marian Barrett (<https://healthsciences.unimelb.edu.au/news-and-events/nursing-and-epidemics-in-australia-since-1850,-a-historically-flavoured-marian-barrett-lecture-2020>) to an audience far larger and more widely dispersed than any in-person event could hope to achieve. In addition, the Department of Nursing led the Universitas 21 online webinar titled - Nursing in the New Era of Infection and Communicable Disease: 2020 and Beyond (<https://healthsciences.unimelb.edu.au/news-and-events/register-now-for-webinar-nursing-in-the-new-era-of-infection-and-communicable-disease-2020-and-beyond>). Sharing our research, running our teaching programs, networking, and supporting our graduate students in the annual colloquium and all the student's confirmation and completion seminars online has become our norm.

We have continued to support innovative nursing research, education and clinical placements, which are key to the future high quality knowledgeable and skilled nursing workforce in diverse areas of healthcare. We are therefore proud to present this 2020 Department of Nursing research report, which provides a snapshot of our research outputs, our research activities, our staff, our graduate students and our professorial honoraries.

### Denise Harrison, Chair, Nursing Research Working Group

Our Department of Nursing has five key programs of research; [Cancer and Palliative Care Nursing](#), [Emergency and Critical Care Nursing](#), [Infant, Child and Adolescent Health](#), [Informatics and Digital Health](#) and [Mental Health Nursing](#).

Our researchers' profiles can all be viewed on our Department of Nursing Find an Expert pages (<https://healthsciences.unimelb.edu.au/departments/nursing/about-us/our-people>). To highlight our programs of research, one of our leading researchers aligned with each of our research hubs is profiled as follows.

## Researchers in Profile

## Infant, Child and Adolescent Health



Denise Harrison, Professor of Nursing, commenced in the Department of Nursing in January 2020. For the last decade, she was the Chair in Nursing Care of Children, Youth and Families at the University of Ottawa and Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO), Canada.

Denise leads the Be Sweet to Babies program of research which focuses on improving pain management for neonates, infants and young children in partnership with parents, clinicians, interdisciplinary researchers and trainees. This work is aligned with the Department of Nursing's program of research Infant, Child and Adolescent Health as well as the School of Health Sciences' cross cutting theme of Implementation and Health Services Research. This work includes using social media as a medium for knowledge dissemination. Her team's parent targeted [YouTube videos](#) show ease and effectiveness of performing heel lancing or venipuncture while babies are being breastfed, held skin-skin and given sucrose and their [health-care provider targeted video](#) demonstrates best ergonomics for performing heel lancing while babies are being breastfed or held skin-skin. These videos are now being evaluated in the Australian context. Denise partners with parents of infants and children, and with her Australian partner group, the Miracle Babies Foundation, she has completed a study of Australia parents' perceptions of the parent-targeted video, and their previous involvement with pain management in the neonatal intensive care unit.



## Informatics and Digital Health



Dr Sophie Jones, Lecturer, joined the Department of Nursing on a permanent basis in 2019 after completing her PhD in 2017. Sophie's research aligns with her clinical role as an Anticoagulation Clinical Nurse Consultant at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. Sophie's most recent project developed a self-management program for children requiring long-term warfarin therapy. This project involved the development of a customised platform with the RCH's patient portal for families to upload point-of-care results from home to the electronic medical record.

Sophie is currently focusing on exploring patient, family and clinician perspectives of the accessibility of patient portals. This research is centred on the role of digital technology in facilitating communication between patients and clinicians and understanding the role of digital health in streamlining care and enhancing patient self-management. This work aligns with the Department of Nursing's focus on Informatics and Digital Health but also supports the theme of Infant, Child and Adolescent Health by promoting engagement with children and their families.

Much of Sophie's research has concentrated on understanding the needs and burden of therapy for children and families managing chronic health conditions. Sophie's research to date has been dedicated to empowering children and families to manage their health, improve children's quality of life and minimise the risks of long-term complications associated with thrombosis and anticoagulation therapy.

## Cancer and Palliative Care Nursing



Mei Krishnasamy is Professor of Cancer Nursing and Director of the Academic Nursing Unit at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne; and Research and Education Lead – Nursing, at the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Alliance. She has led or co-led successful research grants totaling AUD\$25.3m. Mei has supervised 14 nurses to successful completion of Master of Advanced Nursing Practice and four PhD multidisciplinary cancer clinicians. She is currently supervising six multidisciplinary PhD students.

Mei's research focuses on developing and translating knowledge into practice to improve experiences and outcomes of people affected by cancer, particularly for people with rare or less common cancers and cancers with poorer outcomes. Mei's research group works closely with people who have experienced cancer as a patient or carer – to develop research-based resources to improve and ensure equitable access to information, resources and services. Some examples of Mei's work include the Signpost study and the WeCan projects. Signpost: Many women living with metastatic breast cancer report a broad range of unmet supportive care needs, but are often challenged to find relevant support in a timely and accessible way. Mei's group, in collaboration with patients, conducted the Signpost study; a tailor-made postcard resource for women living with metastatic breast cancer that offers a clear directory of where to access supportive care organisations. The Signpost postcard was tested in four Victorian hospitals, with the majority of patients and clinicians reporting that it was valuable. Over 6,000 resource cards have since been distributed since its launch (<https://www.petermac.org/research/SIGNPOST>). The group also developed WeCan ([www.wecan.org.au](http://www.wecan.org.au)), a resource designed to ensure that every Victorian with cancer has equal access to information and support to help manage the day-to-day challenges of living with and beyond cancer. The project was funded by the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services and provides a portal to varied support needs including financial services, childcare, transport, accommodation, and emotional support. Over 13,000 WeCan resource cards have been distributed to clinicians and consumers since its launch.

*Professor Krishnasamy left the University of Melbourne in 2021 to focus full time on her work as Director of Academic Nursing at MacCallum, however retains an honorary appointment as Professor of Cancer Nursing.*

## Emergency and Critical Care Nursing



Professor Marie Gerdtz, Head, Department of Nursing. The focus of Marie's scholarship is clinical decision-making which centres on two main threads – safety and quality of emergency care and the prevention and management of acute behavioural disturbance in hospital settings.

Marie's most recent work has informed the development and evaluation of a new model of care for the prevention, assessment and management of acute behavioural disturbance in acute health (Royal Melbourne Hospital and Department of Nursing, The University of Melbourne). Working in collaboration with emergency medicine colleagues, and early career researchers in the Department of Nursing, Dr Cathy Daniel and Dr Celene Yap, this work included studies to establish the prevalence of illicit substance use among patients attending the ED and screening and referral outcomes for amphetamine-type stimulant use among patients admitted to a newly established Behavioural Assessment Unit. In a related body of work Marie is again collaborating with Dr Cathy Daniels, Dr Celene Yap and Associate Professor Bridget Hamilton on the evaluation of the [Safewards](#) model as it applies to emergency and general ward settings in Victorian Hospitals.

## Mental Health Nursing



Dr Bridget Hamilton, Associate Professor and Director of the Centre for Mental Health Nursing (CentreMHN), (formerly named the Centre for Psychiatric Nursing).

Bridget leads the Centre MHN and holds a clinical appointment as a Clinical Nurse Consultant at St Vincent's Mental Health Service. She has supervised the completion of 9 cross disciplinary PhDs, including several nominated for the Chancellor's Award. Bridget's work is aligned with the Department of Nursing's Mental Health Nursing program of research.

Leading a team of clinical nurse academics and consumer academics, Bridget's program of health services research at the CentreMHN has dual aims: to reduce harms associated with coercive practices and to advance practices that support personal recovery. This research agenda is highly valued by nurses and consumers, employing innovative coproduction methods. The impact of this program of work includes: enhancing and implementing Safewards across Victoria inpatient settings, articulating effective models of reflective supervision for mental health nurses, and establishing therapeutic use of sensory modulation by nurses.

Bridget also co-leads an interdisciplinary Mental Health and Society program of work at the Melbourne Social Equity Institute, with a focus on building research capacity and strengthening diversity within the academic community.

## The Centre for Psychiatric Nursing



The Centre for Psychiatric Nursing (CPN), led by Associate Professor Bridget Hamilton, was established at the University of Melbourne in 1999. It is well established as a research active centre and clinical academic resource in Victoria for the benefit of consumers of public mental health services. The CPN is uniquely positioned to advance mental health nursing practice and research centred on translation of evidence to practice and program evaluation. This research is carried out locally, nationally and internationally and has made a substantial contribution to the knowledge base of mental health and mental health nursing. The recently produced report of activities from 2017-2019 ([https://healthsciences.unimelb.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/3526855/CPN-Review-Report-Final.pdf](https://healthsciences.unimelb.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/3526855/CPN-Review-Report-Final.pdf)) highlight the work of 9 PhD candidates, 13 research projects, 54 publications, and over 2.6 million dollars in funding. In 2020 the CPN underwent an internal review as part of the university's scheduled process of reviewing its funded research centres. The review was led by Professor Lena Sancu (Head of the Department of General Practice in the Melbourne Medical School).

## Grants/Awards

Our Department of Nursing staff have been successful in diverse competitive grants and awards. In 2020, staff in the Department of Nursing were awarded \$1,430,588 in Category 2 and 3 income streams. This included grants awarded by the Medical Research Future Fund, Victorian Government, Victorian Cancer Agency, Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre, Nurses Board of Victoria, Department of Human Services, Rosemary Bryant Foundation, Safer Care Victoria, Australasian Society of Immunology, the Sax Institute, as well as industry funding.

We are proud to profile two specific funded projects led by our Early/Mid-Career researchers; the Melbourne Manchester Grant, co-led by Dr Suzanne Kapp, and a Rosemary Bryant Foundation Grant, led by Dr Rebecca Jarden.



### Suzanne Kapp: Melbourne-Manchester Research Grant

*"I'm willing to do anything that I think is going to help [my ulcer]. . . I know there's no guarantee that it won't happen again, but I'll do my best to stop it."*

Venous leg ulcers affect 500,000 Australians, cause significant pain and suffering, and cost the Australian healthcare system \$2.85 billion per annum. Nurses typically manage chronic wounds in the community care setting however patients should be engaged to the best of their ability in self-management to optimise patient satisfaction and wound outcomes.

Self-management of venous leg ulcers is an innovative approach to care and the possibilities for involving patients and informal carers in self-management are extensive. People with chronic wounds are often willing and enthusiastic

participants who learn and apply new knowledge and skills to improve the likelihood of quicker healing and prevention of reoccurrence. Numerous factors can positively affect wound healing (for example, understanding the cause of the wound, seeking professional help early, adherence to best practice treatments, eating and drinking well and exercising regularly). How well a patient and informal carer conducts wound treatment (when they clean the wound and apply and remove dressings and compression therapy themselves) is another important factor.

There are a plethora of opportunities for patients and informal carers to self-manage, be this in a small or large way. However, our understanding of self-management interventions for people who have chronic wounds, however, has to date been limited. The Department of Nursing together with Manchester University developed a new collaboration supported by the Melbourne-Manchester Research Fund. This partnership has brought together leading clinicians and researchers to advance the field of self-management of wounds. The work to date has scoped the key characteristics of the research and/or scholarly theoretical or conceptual work about people who self-manage, what self-management interventions have been studied in research and how the outcomes of self-management been measured. This work lays the foundation for the future development of a complex intervention for self-management of chronic wounds and a larger, international research program to evaluate clinical and cost effectiveness.



## Dr. Rebecca Jarden

Rebecca continues to build her profile as an early career researcher focusing on health workforce wellbeing since transitioning from Auckland New Zealand to Melbourne, Australia in 2018. Throughout 2020, Rebecca has extended her Doctor of Philosophy research findings in intensive care nurse wellbeing by leading a program of research funded by the Rosemary Bryant Foundation to investigate nurses' work wellbeing and mental health. As part of this mixed methods nurse wellbeing project, a review of qualitative and then quantitative research investigating new graduate nurses highlighted significant opportunity for strengthening support systems as these nurses' transition into the workforce and establish their professional identity. In a longitudinal survey and interviews of nurses working in Victoria, Australia, the team identified novel ways nurses were supporting their wellbeing during COVID-19.

Rebecca's broader engagement in the Trans-Tasman graduate entry nursing program research collaboration across 2020 has focused on exploring the motivations and experiences of students in accelerated graduate entry to nursing practice programs and the important contribution collaborative research offers. In this mixed methods program of research, the team has reviewed previous research and conducted an interpretive longitudinal case study both of which have identified novel motivations and experiences of this unique cohort of student nurses.

## PhD students:

Name	Thesis Topic	Supervisors
<b>Alysia Coventry</b>	Family-centred evidence-based model of care to improve the preparedness of family members for death, dying and bereavement in Australian adult ICUs	Professor Peter Hudson Professor Marie Gertdz Professor Elizabeth McInnes
<b>Andrea Bryk</b>	The experience of clinicians making decisions in community specialist palliative care to meet the holistic needs of clients and caregivers	Professor Peter Hudson Professor Marie Gertdz Professor Louise Harms
<b>Vrinda Edan</b>	What are the experiences of adult consumers in Victorian mental health services who have an advance statement and are admitted to an inpatient unit compulsorily?	Associate Professor Bridget Hamilton Professor Lisa Brophy Professor Bernadette McSherry
<b>Emma Jeffs</b>	Outcomes and experiences of morbidity and mortality meetings in paediatric acute care (POEM)	Associate Professor Sharon Kinney Professor Fiona Newall Professor Clare Delany
<b>Kerrie Curtis</b>	Central Venous Access Device (CVAD) Removal in patients with haematology malignancies	Professor Mei Krishnasamy Professor Samantha Keogh Associate Professor Karla Gough
<b>Louise Grant</b>	How is communication among health professionals in the operating room influenced by noise?	Professor Elizabeth Manias Associate Professor Patricia Nicholson Associate Professor Bronwyn Davidson
<b>Teresa Kelly</b>	Heartscapes: A new narrative for understanding the complex interplay of mental illness and cardiovascular health	Associate Professor Bridget Hamilton Professor Suresh Sundram Professor Sharon Lawn
<b>Margie McCormick</b>	Women's safety during labour and birth: A qualitative study	Professor Marie Gertdz Associate Professor Wendy Pollock Dr Suzanne Kapp
<b>Meredith Heily</b>	Agitation during anaesthetic emergence: an observational pilot study of intensive care patients post cardiac surgery	Professor Marie Gertdz Dr Rebecca Jarden Dr Celene Yap Professor Rinaldo Bellomo

Name	Thesis Topic	Supervisors
<b>Nicole Pope</b>	The use of electronic medical record systems in pain management for children	Professor Denise Harrison Dr Dianne Crellin Associate Professor Greta Palmer Professor Mike South
<b>Priscilla Gates</b>	Cancer related cognitive impairment in patients with newly diagnosed aggressive lymphoma undergoing standard chemotherapy	Professor Mei Krishnasamy Associate Professor Haryanna Dhillon Associate Professor Karla Gough Professor Carlene Wilson
<b>Rachael Sabrinkas</b>	Exploration of attempted suicide by hanging to inform the current prevention agenda	Associate Professor Bridget Hamilton Dr Cathy Daniel Professor John Oliffe
<b>Rachel Tindall</b>	Experiences of engagement with early intervention services for first episode psychosis	Associate Professor Bridget Hamilton Associate Kelly Allott Dr Magenta Simmons
<b>Erin Laing</b>	Understanding nutrition related symptoms, complications and quality of life in patients with gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumours	Professor Mei Krishnasamy Dr Nicole Kiss Professor Michael Michael
<b>Melissa Warren</b>	Understanding routes to diagnosis for colorectal cancer in one urban and one rural hospital in Central New Zealand	Professor Mei Krishnasamy Professor Jon Emery Associate Professor Karla Gough
<b>Helena Roennfeldt</b>	The lived experiences of people in mental health crisis who have accessed crisis care	Associate Professor Bridget Hamilton Dr Louise Byrne Dr Nicole Hill
<b>Polly Dufton</b>	Unplanned emergency department presentations by cancer patients receiving systemic anti-cancer therapy	Professor Mei Krishnasamy Professor Marie Gerdtz Dr Rebecca Jarden

## PhD Students in Profile

To demonstrate the breadth and depth of our PhD students' work in our programs of research, we profile the following PhD students and their work.

### Cancer and Palliative Care Nursing



#### Alysia Coventry

**Title: Development of a family-centred evidence-based model of care to improve the preparedness of family members for death, dying and bereavement in Australian adult intensive care units.**

In this project, a combination of published evidence and data collected from key stakeholders (bereaved family of intensive care patients, intensive care nurses, physicians, social workers and hospital executives) is used to develop a model of care that aims to improve the preparedness of family members for death, dying and bereavement in Australian adult intensive care units. In the ICU setting, a state of preparedness explains the circumstance in which the family of the dying person can manage, in the best way possible for them, the death and their sadness, loss and grief.

Alysia is supported by a Commonwealth PhD scholarship and stipend from the Centre for Palliative Care and Department of Nursing Studentship.



#### Kerrie Curtis

**Title: Explanatory, Sequential Mixed Methods Study of Central Venous Access Device (CVAD) Removal in Patients with Haematology Malignancies at the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre.**

Central venous access devices (CVAD) are inserted for the administration of intensive and prolonged anticancer therapy in patients with a haematological malignancy. However two in three CVADs can fail prematurely. This study will identify reasons for removal and the proportion of premature failure versus planned removal of CVADs in this patient cohort.

# Emergency and Critical Care Nursing



## Margie McCormick

### **Title: Women's safety during labour and birth: a qualitative study**

Safety in maternity care is a complex phenomenon. Preventable harm during childbirth is of significant concern to women and healthcare providers. For women the harm can result in maternal and/or newborn death or lifelong disability. For organizations this harm has led to significant increases in litigation claims and associated costs. The purpose of this thesis is to explore the construct of safety during labour and birth from two important perspectives; the woman, and the organization that cares for her during this significant time.

From focus groups, in-depth individual interviews and key stakeholder interviews, findings highlighted the disparity between women's and organisation's views of safety and the need for organisations to place the women's views of safety at the centre when developing and evaluating safety interventions. It is anticipated this work will positively influence health outcomes for women, newborns and their families and improve organizational processes.



## Meredith Heily

### **Title: Waking Up! Agitation During Anaesthetic Emergence: An Observational Pilot Study of Intensive Care Unit Patients Post Cardiac Surgery**

Anecdotal reports exist that after transfer to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), cardiac surgery patients may become agitated when the ICU nurses reduce the anaesthetic and implement the 'waking up' process. We aim to characterise and describe such events, impact, sequelae, cost of care and eventually, the prevalence of such agitation.

Meredith is supported by a Lynly and Yvonne Aitken Scholarship, through The Royal Melbourne Hospital.

## Infant, Child and Adolescent Health and Informatics and Digital Health



### Nicky Pope

**Title: Exploring the use of Electronic Medical Record Systems in Pain Management for Children: A Multi-site Study of Current Practice in Australian Paediatric Hospitals and Directions for Future Possibilities**

Over the last five years, Australian children's hospitals have begun using electronic systems, known as electronic medical records (EMRs), in place of paper-based systems to record medical information. This study will examine the uptake of EMRs in children's hospitals and explore how staff use EMRs to record and manage children's pain. Children and parents will also be involved in reporting their potential to report children's pain directly into EMRs

Nicky is supported by a Melbourne Research Scholarship and Department of Nursing, Be Sweet to Babies Stipend.

## Mental Health Nursing



### Rachael Sabrinkas

**Title: A qualitative exploration of attempted suicide by hanging to inform the current prevention agenda**

This research aims to collect and understand how the stories and experiences of those who have survived a suicide attempt by hanging may positively influence the current suicide prevention agenda. The research purposefully positions these survivors as the experts in their experiences to meaningfully understand how our therapeutic responses to those experiencing crisis can be improved.

Rachel is supported by a University of Melbourne Research Training Program Scholarship.

## Mental Health Nursing



### Rachel Tindall

**Title:** Experiences of engagement with early intervention services for first episode psychosis: A longitudinal, qualitative study

Rachel's PhD focuses on the experiences of engaging and disengaging with early intervention services for first episode psychosis, from the perspectives of the key people involved in the process, using qualitative metasynthesis and longitudinal, qualitative interview methods.

Rachel's PhD project is supported by an Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship, a HOSPIRA grant and The Windermere Foundation Doctoral Scholarship in Health Program.

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## Honorary Professors

The Department of Nursing is privileged to have several Honorary Professors, all of who contribute to our strong clinically relevant research culture. Our professorial honorary professors add to our graduate student supervision, mentoring of our early/mid-career professors and our local, national and international clinically relevant programs of research. We would like to thank all our honorary professors for their contribution and ongoing support.

**Nicky Cullum:** University of Manchester, UK. Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (UK) and Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

**Peter Hudson:** Professor, Director of the Centre for Palliative Care, St Vincent's Hospital and Collaborative Centre of the University of Melbourne, Australia.

**Elizabeth Manias:** Professor, Deakin University

**Fiona Newall:** Professor/Director of Nursing Research, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

**John Oliffe:** Professor, Men's Health Research Program, University of British Columbia

**Nick Santamaria:** Professor (Retired). Continues to be involved in pressure injury global advisory boards and committees

## Professorial Honoraries in Profile



**Fiona Newall** is the Professor/Director of Nursing Research at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. In this role, Fiona supports the nursing workforce to engage in evidence-based practice and promotes their involvement in research activities that have the potential to improve patient care and clinical outcomes. Fiona actively contributes to the organisation-wide approach to supporting and promoting interdisciplinary clinical research on campus. In addition to her honorary appointment with The University of Melbourne, Fiona continues her affiliation with the Clinical Haematology department at the Royal Children's Hospital and the Haematology Research Group within the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. Fiona is currently supervising 2 PhD students and has successfully supervised 8 research higher degree students and 12 Minor Thesis students to completion.



**Honorary Professor John Oliffe** is a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Men's Health Promotion, professor and lead of the Men's Health Research Program at the University of British Columbia. His focus in 2020 was primarily on men's mental illness and suicide with first authored publications addressing help-seeking prior to male suicide and lessons learnt about community-based men's health promotion programs. John also worked on the Bouy Project led by Dr. Jane Pirkis and continued to collaborate with Simon Rice and Zac Seidler at Orygen. In addition, John is working with Movember on their Men Building Better Relationships work, and he serves as a committee member for Doctoral student Rachael Sabrinskas.



**Professor Peter Hudson** is the Director of the Centre for Palliative Care, an academic unit based at St Vincent's Hospital and a Collaborative Centre of the University of Melbourne, Australia. In addition to being an Honorary Professor in the Department of Nursing, The University of Melbourne he is an Honorary Professor at Vrije University Brussels (Belgium).

Peter is a registered nurse with 30 years' experience in palliative care practice, education and research. He is currently Chair of the European Association for Palliative Care's International Palliative Care Family Caregiver Research Collaboration and a Director of the Board of the International Neuropalliative Care Society. He has authored numerous international journal publications and is an investigator on multiple competitive research grants including: National Health and Medical Research Council (Australia); The European Union and National Institutes of Health (USA). Peter is a past recipient of the Premier's Award for translating evidence into practice and is a USA Fulbright scholar. Peter's role at the Centre for Palliative Care is to oversee the strategic development of multidisciplinary education initiatives and research programs incorporating palliative care service delivery, psychosocial support and symptom management.

## In the News:

Our Department of Nursing has been active in the media. **Professor Marie Gerdzt** published the compelling article titled, **The world needs nurses now more than ever** in the University of Melbourne's multi-media platform, Pursuit (<https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/the-world-needs-nurses-now-more-than-ever>). In this article, Professor Gerdzt focused on International Nurses Day during the World Health Organisation's International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife. The role of nurses during the global health crisis of COVID-19 highlighted the essential yet changing role of nursing, acknowledging the integral part nurses play on the frontline.

**Dr Snezana Kusljic** featured on Dean's Corner in February 2020. Here is the news story, (<https://healthsciences.unimelb.edu.au/news-and-events/congratulations-mshs-winners-of-2020-deans-fellowships-for-learning-and-teaching-excellence>) and the video (<https://vimeo.com/389139638/e53a4f3129>).

**Professor Denise Harrison** partners with parents of sick infants in her program of research. This news story profiles Melinda Cruz, Founder and director of the Miracle Babies Foundation, who is a key partner on Denise's neonatal pain research (<https://healthsciences.unimelb.edu.au/news-and-events/interview-with-miracle-babies-melinda-cruz-a-parents-perspective-on-neonatal-research>).

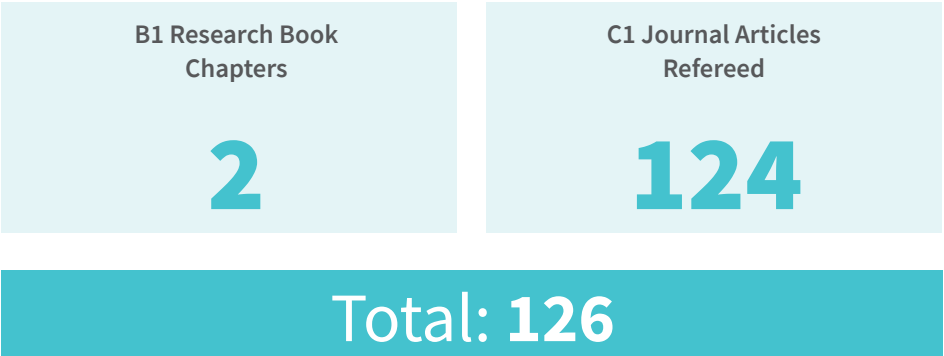
**Associate Professor Bridget Hamilton** and colleagues' research focused on peer support in hospital Emergency Departments, was featured in Pursuit. The article titled 'How could mental health peer support workers improve emergency departments?' highlighted that research suggests that people in mental distress seeking help at an Emergency Department would benefit from peer-support workers who understand their experience. Here is the link to the full news story <https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/how-could-mental-health-peer-support-workers-improve-emergency-departments>.



Publication  
Output:



ERA Eligible  
Research  
Outputs:



## List of publications for 2020

NB. This list includes our Department of Nursing honoraries whose primary affiliations are with other organisations but have double-badged to acknowledge their concurrent University of Melbourne appointments.

Adler KA; Adler NR; Moylan S; Kanaan RAA. A Systematic Review of Psychological and Pharmacological Interventions for the Management of Trichotillomania in Children and Adolescents. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*. 2020 29(4), 913-920.

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