

Scientific Committee

An independent Scientific Committee conducts an impartial and rigorous review of all research funding grant applications to ensure that St Vincent's Clinic Research Foundation supports the best research projects.

An individual's reputation and standing in the community (both internally and externally) are considered before their appointment to the Scientific Committee.

Dr Pamela Blaikie

Pamela is the Research Office Manager at St Vincent's Hospital and has been in this role since January 2014. Prior to this she worked for UniQuest as Manager of Innovation and Commercial Development based at the University of Technology Sydney and for New York University as Business Venture Analyst where she was responsible for intellectual property management and technology commercialisation. Pamela has a Bachelor of Veterinary Science from the University of Queensland and a PhD in molecular genetics from New York University. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre.

A/Prof Venessa Chin (Chair)

A/Prof Venessa Chin is a medical oncologist at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney and a postdoctoral researcher at The Garvan Institute of Medical Research. Her clinical practice and research are focused on cancers of the lung and head, and neck. She is a member of the Garvan-Weizmann Centre for Cellular Genomics and has several projects studying how single-cell genomics can be incorporated into oncological practice. She manages two large biobanking studies across the St Vincent's/Garvan precinct with the aim of facilitating translational research. She joined the St Vincent's Clinic Scientific Committee in 2021.

A/Prof Philip Cunningham OAM

A/Prof Philip Cunningham is Deputy Director of Research at St Vincent's Health Network and Chief Operating Officer for the St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research. The Centre for Applied Medical Research is the peak medical research enterprise for St Vincent's Hospital Darlinghurst campus and provides world-class research support and infrastructure. He is the Chief Scientist at the NSW State Reference Laboratory for HIV at St Vincent's, which plays a significant role in the diagnosis and management of people living with HIV and in informing the Australian Government's public health response. He has worked extensively throughout the Asia Pacific region, strengthening clinical laboratory capacity and quality management systems as a technical advisor to Kirby Institute UNSW, WHO and the US CDC.

His research interests include public health surveillance of target priority populations at risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, improving the demand for diagnostic testing. Philip was Vice President and Officeholder Board of Directors for the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM) for more than nine years. He holds a conjoint appointment at the Kirby Institute for Infection and Immunity in Society at UNSW and was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for services to medical research and sexual health medicine in the 2020 Queens Birthday Honours List.

A/Prof Andrew Jabbour

A/Prof Andrew Jabbour is an academic Cardiologist at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, and a conjoint Associate Professor of Medicine with the University of New South Wales. After completing cardiology training at St Vincent's, Dr Jabbour undertook a PhD at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute before moving to the United Kingdom to work at The Royal Brompton Hospital and Imperial College London.

A/Prof Jabbour gained further expertise in advanced cardiovascular imaging in his years overseas. At the world's largest and most established Cardiac MRI unit, he also conducted research with a particular focus on cardiomyopathy (from coronary artery disease and genetic causes), hypertension, valvular heart disease, and rarer infiltrative disorders such as cardiac amyloidosis and sarcoidosis. This work has been published in the highest-ranking medical journals, including *Circulation*, *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, *The Lancet* and *JAMA*.

He has received numerous awards for his work, including the University of New South Wales Foundation Year Graduates Medal, the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand President's Prize, and a prestigious National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia Neil Hamilton-Fairley Postdoctoral Clinical Research Fellowship.

His ongoing research explores the role of cardiovascular magnetic resonance in myocardial tissue characterisation in cardiomyopathy and transplantation rejection. A/Prof Jabbour is a member of the Heart Transplantation team at St Vincent's Hospital and joined the St Vincent's Clinic Foundation Scientific Committee in 2015. He also works as a general cardiologist, travelling with the New South Wales Royal Flying Doctors Service (Rural Doctors Network).

Dr Georgia McCaughan

Dr Georgia McCaughan is a clinical and laboratory haematologist with a clinical and research interest in plasma cell dyscrasias including multiple myeloma and AL amyloidosis. She runs the St Vincent's Myeloma Clinic and is a member of the St Vincent's Amyloidosis multi-disciplinary clinic.

Georgia has a passion for novel clinical trial design and increasing clinical trial access for patients. She is an active member of the Myeloma Working Group of the Australasian Lymphoma and Leukaemia Group (ALLG) and is on the steering committee of the Australian Myeloma Research Consortium (AMaRC) and Myeloma and Related Diseases Registry. She is a coordinating principal investigator and principal investigator on a number of multiple myeloma clinical trials.

Georgia is also a Senior Research Associate at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research and works collaboratively with Professors Peter Croucher and Professor Tri Phan on translational research in the areas of cancer cell dormancy and myeloma bone disease.

Dr Alan Meagher

Dr Meagher is a colorectal surgeon currently practicing at St Vincent's Clinic, St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney and St Vincent's Public Hospital Sydney. Dr Meagher is a current SVCRF Advisory Board member and his particular areas of specialty include colonoscopy quality standards and anal cancer.

Dr Meagher graduated from the University of New South Wales (M.B. B.S. (Hons)) in 1984, became a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Surgeons (General Surgery) in 1990, completed the Australian Colo-Rectal Training Program in 1991-1992 and was a Mayo Academic Fellow in Colon and Rectal Surgery in 1993 (Mayo Clinic, Rochester USA). Since joining St Vincent's as an intern in 1984, Dr Meagher's has spent most of his working life on the St Vincent's Darlinghurst campus. He has been the Supervisor Surgical Training at St Vincent's Hospital, Secretary Division of Surgery, Chairman of the St Vincent's Private Hospital Medical Board, Chairman of the Sydney Colorectal Society and a member of the Colorectal Surgical Society of Australasia Foundation and is currently the Chairman of the Diagnostic Endoscopy Unit of St Vincents Clinic Medical Advisory Committee. He has authored, co-authored over 90 academic articles.

Prof Phillip Newton

Professor Phillip Newton is a registered nurse with a strong academic track record. Professor Newton's research program demonstrates a strong interdisciplinary focus and emphasises the links between clinical research and translation into the health service. He has a distinguished and consistent record of obtaining competitive funding at the highest level. In total, he has been awarded over \$3 million in research support. He has been elected a Fellow of the ESC, AHA and CSANZ.

Dr Christine Shiner

Dr Christine Shiner is a Research Fellow at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney and a Conjoint Senior Lecturer with the University of New South Wales, School of Clinical Medicine. She has an academic background in clinical neuroscience and completed her PhD in 2016 focused on understanding neurophysiological variability and associated rehabilitation outcomes following stroke. In her current role, she leads a portfolio of health services research focused on optimising the delivery of evidence-based healthcare, particularly for people living with chronic conditions and complex disabilities. She has a particular interest in health equity and research that aims to overcome barriers to healthcare provision, including how digital technologies can be utilised to improve access to care. She is also passionate about building research capacity in the hospital setting, supervising research trainees and working in partnership with frontline clinicians and health stakeholders to embed research as a core part of health service delivery. She is a Research Team Lead with the St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research and holds joint academic appointments across the Departments of Rehabilitation, Pain Medicine and the Clinical Research Unit for Anxiety and Depression at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney.