



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

KEY THINKERS FORUM

What is Precision Medicine, will it benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and what's the next step?



When

Tuesday, 27th October 2020
09:30 – 12:00

Where

Via Zoom Link
To Be Sent at Later Date

More information

poche.admin@sydney.edu.au
02 9114 0829

Register

Information on how to register.
www.tinyurl.com/precision KTF

Prior Reading

[Genomic Partnerships
\(Guidelines for genomic
research with Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander peoples
of Queensland\)](#)

Other Poche Events

[Poche Indigenous Health
Network 9th Annual Research
Showcase](#)

[The 2nd National Fluoride
Varnish Workshop & Colgate
Oral Health Promotion
Conference](#)

Precision medicine involves tailoring medical treatment to the individual characteristics of each patient, based on their genetic makeup. It is poised to transform rare disease and cancer management - in the populations where sufficient genomic data exists - to inform diagnosis and is the gold standard treatment of rare disease and cancers. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples cannot access precision medicine in the same way as other Australians because there is no Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander genomic data in the international database gnomAD. Aboriginal people have an average ten year shorter life expectancy than non-Aboriginal people. Access to the latest therapies is critical to closing the gap in health outcomes.

The esteemed panel will discuss and explore the potential benefits of genomic medicine, what is happening in Australia and internationally to engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in genomic medicine and research and what role does government have to play to ensure all Australians can benefit equally from innovative medical interventions. Case studies will illustrate how to genuinely and respectfully engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to explain why precision medicine is important, how to collect and store samples and how people can become involved in genomics activities.

Panel Members (Facilitated by Prof. Tom Calma AO)

- Prof. Alex Brown
- Greg Pratt
- Emeritus Prof. Simon Easteal
- Tiffany Boughtwood



Professor Tom Calma AO

Poche Network Patron & Chair & Chancellor of the University of Canberra

An Aboriginal elder of the Kungarakan tribal group. Prof. Calma has dedicated his life to improving the lives of all Australians & particularly Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Australians, championing advocacy for human rights & social justice.

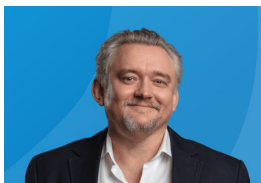
Former Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner & Race Discrimination Commissioner. Tom also served as a senior Australian diplomat in India & Vietnam. His landmark 2005 report calling for the life expectancy gap between Indigenous & non-Indigenous people to be closed within a generation laid the groundwork for the Close the Gap campaign & COAG's Closing the Gap response. Prof. Calma is the National Coordinator Tackling Indigenous Smoking & is Patron of Indigenous Allied Health Australia.

Professor Alex Brown

Aboriginal Health Equity Theme Leader, South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), Professor of Medicine - Aboriginal Health, University of Adelaide

Professor Brown is an Aboriginal doctor and researcher with one of the strongest track records nationally in Indigenous health research in urban, rural and remote communities. He received his PhD in 2010, and in addition to his medical training has an MPH,

is a Fellow of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand and an honorary fellow of the RACP. He has established an extensive and unique research program focused on chronic disease in vulnerable communities, with a particular focus on defining and overcoming health disparities. He leads projects encompassing epidemiology, psychosocial determinants of chronic disease, mixed methods health services research in Aboriginal primary care and hospital settings, and randomised controlled trials of pharmacological and non-pharmacological chronic disease interventions.



Greg Pratt

Manager of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Queensland, Australia

Descendant of the Quandamooka people of Moreton Bay, Greg grew up with the Ghughu Yalanghi people of Cape York.

He has extensive experience as an Indigenous mental health practitioner and has worked in policy, research and health services. Greg led extensive consultations across QLD in 2018 for "GenetiQs"; developing guidelines for genomic research involving Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples. In 2019, Greg led efforts to develop a suite of genomic health literacy resources for Indigenous peoples of QLD. In 2020-21 his team will work with community controlled, primary and public health services to identify workforce needs for a coordinated care model for precision medicine at the primary health intersect. Over the past 3 years, Greg has led more than 50 community engagements across QLD. As manager for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research at QIMR Berghofer, he supports the institute realise responsibility, benefit and impact for supporting Indigenous sovereignty, equity and access to health.

Simeon Easteal

Simon Easteal was the founding director of the National Centre for Indigenous Genomics (NCIG). He continues to be involved in the work of the Centre as an Emeritus Professor. NCIG was established in 2013, following recommendations from an Indigenous Consultative Committee, to manage an exceptional collection of biological samples obtained from approximately 7,000 Indigenous Australians. Under Indigenous Governance, NCIG is working with Aboriginal communities to create a genomic data resource to support research and clinical investigations that benefit Indigenous Australians. Simon also

researches how environmental factors influence the function of the human genome; how the human genome has evolved in response to environmental change; how individual differences in genome structure modify environmental influences on development, ageing, and health. He has served on numerous editorial boards, advisory committees, government taskforces, working parties and other bodies in public and private organisations, and he has provided expert opinion in relation to genetic evidence used in court cases in most Australian jurisdictions. He founded a personalised medicine company, and he has been a member of the scientific advisory boards of two biotechnology companies.



Tiffany Boughtwood

Program Manager of Australian Genomics, responsible for the executive operations of the research network across Australia

Tiffany has more than 20 years' experience in molecular biology and research management. She has led accredited genomic sequencing facilities, operated academic and accredited diagnostic laboratories, collaborated internationally in neurodegenerative diseases and cancer research, and consulted in genomic implementation and project management.

Over the past five years with Australian Genomics, Tiffany has managed the coordination, delivery and process evaluation of this \$55M program of work. In this time, the Australian Genomics collaboration has quadrupled in size, consolidated national and global genomic engagement, and worked to embed clinical genomic testing in Australian healthcare.