

INVITED SPEAKERS

RD Wright Lecture



Prof. David Ellison

Dr. Ellison joined the Division of Nephrology at OHSU in August 2000 as professor of medicine and division head. Dr. Ellison received his nephrology training at Yale University. Dr. Ellison's research investigates the molecular regulation of renal salt excretion and its impact on blood pressure. Specifically, his work focuses on electroneutral salt transporters and on Gitelman's and Bartter's syndromes, two inherited diseases caused by mutations in the genes responsible for mediating salt movement in the kidney. Dr. Ellison is also interested in the pathogenesis and treatment of edema. His work is funded by the NIH and Department of Veterans Affairs.

David is the Director, Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute and is a Fellow of both the American Heart Association and American Society of Nephrology.

Austin Doyle Lecture



Prof. Caroline McMillen

Professor Caroline McMillen joined the University of Newcastle as Vice-Chancellor and President in October 2011.

Professor McMillen has dedicated almost 30 years to the higher education sector, holding leadership roles across research, innovation and teaching. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and Doctor of Philosophy from Oxford University, and completed her medical training at the University of Cambridge.

As a biomedical researcher, Professor McMillen is internationally recognised for her work into the impact of the nutritional environment before birth on the risk of developing cardiovascular disease and obesity in adult life.

Over her career, Professor McMillen has trained more than 50 Honours and PhD students who have gone on to win national honours and fellowships and made significant contributions in diverse careers, including research, industry, medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and education.

The official meeting invitation will be available in the coming weeks and will include all details you need for the meeting including Abstract submission dates and process as well as registration details.

Colin I Johnston Lecture



Prof. Fadi Charchar

Fadi Charchar graduated from Melbourne University (PHD) 1998 and is currently Associate Dean (Research) at FedUni. He was a Wellcome Trust Research Fellow at University of Glasgow and a BHF Lecturer at the University of Leicester. His research interests centres on molecular genetics of complex disease. This includes the genetics of cardiovascular diseases, sexual dimorphism of cardiovascular risk and the contribution of changes in genomic structure to disease. He has recently been awarded the Okamoto Young Investigator prize for his research on the Y sex chromosome and coronary artery disease.

Fadi is the Associate Dean (Research) Professor in Biomedical Science and is an Honorary Research Fellow for both the University of Melbourne and the University of Leicester.

Education/training institution and location degree year(s) field of study: University of Melbourne BSc(Hons) 1993 Genetics/Physiology, University of Melbourne PhD 1998 Genetics/Physiology

BHS Award Winner



Dr Conor Kerley

Conor received his Bachelor's degree in Human Nutrition and Dietetics from Trinity College Dublin and Dublin Institute of Technology in 2010 and his PhD from University College Dublin in 2016. Conor has completed 2 post-docs, one with MedEx – a community based, exercise rehabilitation program for older adults with diverse chronic diseases and the second with the HeartBeat trust – a multi-disciplinary heart failure treatment and prevention foundation.

Conor has presented his award winning findings at multiple national and international nutrition and medical conferences. Conor has a specific interest in cardiovascular disease prevention and treatment, particularly hypertension and heart failure. Conor's research has been published in international peer-reviewed medical journals and has attracted over €210,000 in research funding to date.

In addition, Conor is chairperson of the Scientific and Research Steering Group of the Irish Nutrition and Dietetics Institute and an active member of several professional societies including the Nutrition Society and The National Blood Pressure Council. Conor is interested in all aspects of lifestyle and nutrition to enable a long and healthy life and to prevent and treat illness.

AHA Award Winner



A/Prof. Meena Madhur

Dr. Madhur graduated summa cum laude from Duke University with a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering and Biology before joining the MD/PhD Program at the University of Virginia. She obtained her PhD in Molecular Physiology and Biophysics in 2003 and graduated with honors from medical school in 2005. She then returned to Duke University for her internship and residency in Internal Medicine. In 2007, she joined the cardiology fellowship program at Emory University where, in the laboratory of Dr. David Harrison, she demonstrated for the first time that the newly discovered cytokine, interleukin 17 (IL-17), plays a critical role in hypertension. In 2012, upon completion of her clinical fellowship, she began her tenure-track appointment as Assistant Professor of Medicine with a secondary appointment in the Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics at Vanderbilt University.

The overarching goal of Dr. Madhur's research program is to determine how and why immune cells are activated in hypertension and how best to target the immune system to limit end-organ damage without causing global immunosuppression. Current projects in the lab focus on the role of the adaptive immune system and T cell derived cytokines such as IL-17, IL-21, and interferon gamma on blood pressure regulation and renal/vascular dysfunction. She has a career development award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study the role of IL-17 isoforms in the kidney and vasculature during angiotensin II induced hypertension. She has made significant advances in understanding which isoform of IL-17 is important in hypertension and how IL-17 modulates renal sodium transporters as a mechanism to regulate salt and water balance and blood pressure. She also recently received a prestigious New Innovator Award from the NIH to characterize immunological alterations in human hypertension.