

2022 Annual Scientific Meeting Report of the High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia

Melbourne Business School,

7 – 9 December 2022



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Annual Scientific Meeting Overview

In 2022, the High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia held its first face to face meeting since 2019 APCH. The meeting was held at Melbourne Business School, Carlton.

This meeting took place in-person only on the 7th, 8th, and 9th of December with additional events and symposiums held outside of the main meeting. The ASM program was created once again by our amazing Joint Program Managers A/Prof. Francine Marques and Dr. Bradley Broughton, with the addition of Dr Quynh Dinh pictured below.



Click [HERE](#) to view the PDF program of the Annual Scientific Meeting including all speakers and presentations.

A total of 81 abstracts overall, including invited speakers, were submitted for the meeting from the following locations:

NSW	16
QLD	2
TAS	13
VIC	42
WA	3
SA	1
International	4

Feedback received from the meeting attendees via the evaluation confirmed 100% of responders would prefer a face-to-face meeting in the future with 15% of these requesting a hybrid option. 92% of responders are likely to attend future HBPRCA Annual Scientific Meetings.

Some stand out points that were mentioned included the communication received regarding the meeting, the awards reception, the Women in hypertension session and of

course the meeting being face to face to mention a few. There is also a strong appetite to hold joint meetings in the future to provide more variety and increased attendees.

Our invited speakers included:

Prof. Tazeen Jafar (Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore) who delivered the R.D. Wright Lecture *Innovative health systems solutions for addressing global disparities in hypertension control*;

Prof. Rebecca Ritchie (Monash University) presented the Colin Johnston Lecture *Insights into protecting the function of the heart - the round-trip journey from patients to cells through to preclinical models back to human heart failure*.

Prof. Laura Mackay (University of Melbourne) gave the Austin Doyle Lecture *Tissue-Specific Immunity*;

Professor Geoff Head (Baker Heart & Diabetes Institute), the 2021 Paul Korner Awardee, presentation detailed the breadth of his work on *Novel mechanisms for sympathetic activation in hypertension*.

Meeting Highlights

The Arterial Pulse in Health and Disease: A Festschrift for Professor Michael O'Rourke and Professor Wilmer Nichols

Organised by Prof. Alberto Avolio, Dr. Isabella Tan and Dr. Audrey Adji

A hybrid symposium was held on 18 November 2022 on zoom and in person at St Vincent's Hospital Campus Sydney. The symposium was in celebration of the lifelong achievements in arterial haemodynamics of Michael O'Rourke and Wilmer Nichols. Their work has been at the forefront of the applications of the pulsatile function of arterial blood pressure and flow in understanding the physical principles underlying the normal and abnormal manifestation of the arterial pulse.

The symposium also commemorates the 60th anniversary of McDonald's "Blood Flow in Arteries" and the release of the book's highly anticipated 7th edition. Apart from the first two editions (1960, 1974), all editions have been curated and edited by Nichols and O'Rourke

For the full program click [here](#)

Pressure Wise – in partnership with the Heart Foundation

Pressure Wise is an excellent initiative of the Public Engagement portfolio, headed by Dr. Rachel Climie, and the ECR Committee. The free community event which was held on Tuesday the 6th of December had 21 participants and focused on improving the knowledge of blood pressure and heart health in the general community.

The high calibre of speakers included Prof. Claire Collins, Prof. Jim Sharman. Ms Saloni Shah, Dr Martin Schultz and Dr. Lisa Murphy. The session was chaired by Prof. Markus Schlaich and covered the following topics:

- What is high blood pressure and what are the risk factors for developing it?
- What is the best diet to eat for healthy blood pressure?
- What is the best activity to do for healthy blood pressure?
- What is a Heart Health Check?
- What has blood pressure got to do with stroke?

Members of the public were welcomed to join in and ask questions to our high blood pressure experts in the designated panel.

The session was well received by the attendees and generated some great discussion.



ECR Symposium

The meeting incorporated a very successful Early Career Researcher Symposium on Wednesday 7th of December, that was organised by the ECR committee. We thank and Dr Hamdi Jama and Rikeish R Muralitharan for their organisation of the event.

The symposium included following presentations, followed by a networking morning tea:

Prof. Tazeen H Jafar of Duke-NUS Medical School Singapore spoke on *How to Establish and Drive a Mentor-Mentee Relationship?*

Prof. Stephen Harrap of Department of anatomy & Physiology, The University of Melbourne spoke about *Being a Mentor*

Dr Rikeish R Muralitharan, School of Biological Sciences, Monash University, spoke on the *Mentee Perspective*

Women in Hypertension Session

Carrying on from last year's highly successful Women in Hypertension (WiH) Spotlight Session, the 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting featured another session to highlight the women in hypertension, developed and chaired by Dr Audrey Adji and Dr Isabella Tan. The session included the following presentations:

- Dr Jess Borger from Monash University spoke about – *Breaking the bias in medical research funding to retain women in STEMM*
- Prof. Madhu Bhaskaran from RMIT spoke on - *multi-sector collaborations enable lab to market technologies*

These presentations were followed by a panel which generated some fantastic discussion!

The WiH session was considered to be a standout session for a number of attendees as part of the evaluation.

Paediatric Symposium

Organised by A/Prof Jonathan Mynard

The Paediatric Blood Pressure Symposium was held in person at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) on the 5th of December 2022. This is a joint initiative of Hypertension Australia and the Blood Pressure in Australian Children Network (BPOzKids) and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI).

Please click [here](#) for the full program.

Speakers

Our 2022 HBPRCA keynote and invited name lecturers delivered a plethora of important and engaging presentations that were highly received by this year's attendees. All of our invited speakers were captivating and we were very fortunate to hear from the following HBPRCA keynote invited named lecturers:

The 2022 RD Wright Lecture was given by **Professor Tazeen Jafar** of Duke-NUS Medical School Singapore. Professor Jafar's presentation, *Innovative Health Systems Solutions for Addressing Global Disparities in Hypertension Control* was extremely well received by all.

The 2022 Austin E Doyle Lecture was given by **Professor Laura Mackay** of the University of Melbourne. Professor Mackay's presentation *Tissue-Specific Immunity* was fascinating and enjoyed by all.

The 2022 Colin I Johnston Lecture was given by **Professor Rebecca Ritchie** of Monash University. Professor Ritchie's presentation *Insights into protecting the function of the heart - the round-trip journey from patients to cells through to preclinical models back to human heart failure* was very well received.

The 2021 Paul Korner Medal Awardee **Professor Geoff Head** was invited to speak as a recognised senior scientist who is an active researcher and has made a significant contribution to high blood pressure and the HBPRCA. He shared his wisdom on: *Novel mechanisms for sympathetic activation in hypertension*.

HBPRCA were pleased to receive a splendid lecture from the 2021 American Hypertension Association (AHA) award winner **Dr Stephen Juraschek** of Harvard Medical School in the USA. Dr Juraschek gave a highly engaging presentation on *Orthostatic Hypotension in Adults with Hypertension: A Complex Union*.

We are delighted the 2021 British and Irish Hypertension Society (BIHS) winner, **Dr Luca Faconti** from King's College London was able to attend. Dr Faconti's presentation on *Pre-load reduction augments the early phase of left ventricular contraction and improves diastolic function in hypertension* was well appreciated.

We were also fortunate that the following speakers accepted invitations to speak on key topics of relevance:

Kristen Bubb - Investigating Novel Therapies for Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

Tony Walton - Current results of renal denervation

Aaron Sverdlow - Hypertension and targeted cancer therapies: what do we know?

Alison Venn - Childhood Cardiovascular Risk Factors

Yen Chin Koay - Uncovering metabolic drivers of Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction (HFpEF)

HBPRCA Awards 2022

A host of talent within HBPRCA membership was again recognised and rewarded in 2022 including the presentation of a range of oral and poster awards. A hearty congratulations goes out to all the worthy recipients below.

The Robert Vandongen award:

The Robert Vandongen award is presented for the highest scoring abstract submitted by a member from Western Australia.

The 2022 Robert Vandongen award went to **Prof. Markus Schlaich from University of Western Australia.**

The Judith Whitworth award:

Prof Judith Whitworth was the first woman to be elected as the president of the HBPRCA (1999-2001). Throughout her career, Prof Whitworth not only contributed to a major way to high blood pressure research herself, and to the mechanisms involved in steroid-related hypertension, but broke numerous barriers and paved a path for women in research, clinical practice and policy making. The Judith Whitworth award goes to the highest ranked HBPRCA member abstract for which the first author is a woman.

The 2022 Judith Whitworth award winner was **Dr Bhavisha Bakrania** from the University of Queensland.



The Jaye Chin-Dusting Mid-Career Scientist award:

Prof Jaye Chin-Dusting was the second woman to be elected as the president of the HBPRCA (2011-2016). As a founder of the Australian Cardiovascular Alliance, Prof Chin-Dusting was deeply concerned with the funding available for cardiovascular disease, which affects particularly those in the early- and mid-stages of their career. During her presidency of the

HBPRCA, she also established the young investigator subcommittee of the HBPRCA, to improve training, networking, and opportunities for early and mid-career high blood pressure researchers.

A mid-career scientist (between 5-20 years post PhD) who is an active researcher will receive the Jaye Chin-Dusting Award. The 2022 Winner of the Jaye Chin-Dusting Mid-Career Scientist in High Blood Pressure Research award went to **Dr Antony (Bill) Vinh** of La Trobe University.



The Paul Korner Senior Scientist in High Blood Pressure Research award:

Prof Paul Korner was one of the founders and a former president of the HBPRCA (1987-1989). He devoted a large part of his career to researching the causes of essential hypertension, with a special focus on underlying neural and cardiovascular mechanisms. A senior scientist (>20 years post-PhD) who is an active researcher and has made a significant contribution to high blood pressure and the HBPRCA receives the Paul Korner Senior Scientist in High Blood Pressure Research Medal.

This year's worthy recipient is **Prof. Lawrie Beilin** from the University of Western Australia.

Student and Early Career Researcher Awards:

2022 saw a great range of high-quality Student and Early Career Research oral and poster submissions. The effort in their work have been appreciated by all, and congratulations extend to the following winners:

The HBPRCA 2022 Student Poster award went to: **Hericka Bruna Figueiredo Galvao** of La Trobe University

The HBPRCA 2022 Student Oral award went to: **Crisdion Krstevski** of Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute who also won the opportunity attend to present at the 2023 AHA meeting.

The HBPRCA 2022 Early Career Researcher Poster award went to: **Ashenafi Betrie** of Florey Institute

The HBPRCA 2022 Early Career Researcher Oral award went to: **Jun Yang** of Hudson Institute of Medical Research who also won the opportunity to attend and present at the 2023 BIHS meeting.



From left: Lawrie Beilin, Jun Yang, Michael Stowasser, Hericka Bruna Figueiredo Galvao, Markus Schlaich, Crisdion Krstevski and Ashenafi Betrie

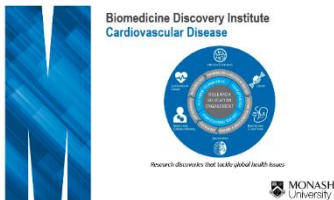
Sponsors

HBPRCA would like to extend a huge thank you to our sponsors who have continued supporting us through this year and without whom none of this would be possible. Sponsors for the 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting are as follows:

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Also supporting the meeting this year is the:

The Foundation for High Blood Pressure Research

We thank you all for attending and participating in our 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting.

The High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia
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