



**A Note from the Associate Dean Research, the Faculty of
Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, the University of
Melbourne.**

Prof Mike McGuckin.

As ADR in MDHS I have responsibility for the strategic direction of research in the University of Melbourne's largest Faculty, which is ranked as the 9th best Faculty of Medicine internationally by the Times Higher Education Rankings. While this is a lofty position, we face many challenges to keep our research at the cutting edge and to enhance the development of innovations in healthcare and our impact on community health. I look forward to helping all our researchers meet these challenges.

By way of history, my previous role was as the Deputy Director (Research) at Mater Research Institute – The University of Queensland (MRI-UQ) where I was also a NHMRC Principal Research Fellow, with my research team based at the Translational Research Institute (TRI). In that role I oversaw a portfolio covering all biomedical and clinical research activities at the Mater public and private hospitals and MRI-UQ at TRI.

My research interests are focused on mucosal infection, chronic inflammation and cancer in the gastrointestinal tract, and on inflammation in diabetes. I have collaborated with multiple pharmaceutical companies, and have been a key opinion leader for industry for successful licensing applications to the US FDA and Australian TGA. I am heavily involved in national and international peer review, and have served on the NHMRC Academy for both Gastroenterology and Oncology. I am an elected Councillor and President-Elect for the International Society for Mucosal Immunology.

As the University of Melbourne is one of the three stakeholders of AIMSS I am a representative on the Advisory Council of AIMSS, and look forward to helping AIMSS continue to develop its impact in an important area that doesn't receive the amount of attention the scale of the problem deserves. I attended the Forum held at AIMSS in August and was heartened to see the approach to gather multiple disciplines around tackling musculoskeletal disease, and look forward to seeing these collaborations develop and prosper.

From our Director:

AIMSS is "On the Road"

There is a significant gap between major discoveries and their application in clinical practice. For instance, despite having very effective drugs to treat the disease, osteoporosis is only identified and treated in 20% of high-risk patients. Another example is sarcopenia, which despite having an ICD10 code for 2 years, it has not been recognised as a disease in Australia thus limiting the capacity of our general practitioners (GPs) and specialists to identify and treat this disease.

Trying to close this diagnostic and therapeutic gap, and aware that our Australian older population is falling and fracturing at higher rates than other developed countries, AIMSS is now organising the Osteosarcopenia Roadshows as a continuing medical education (CME) workshop designed to update and explain to our GPs the biological mechanisms, diagnostic methods, and treatment of osteoporosis and sarcopenia in older persons, which is relevant and applicable to their own clinical practice. Our team at AIMSS, led by Dr. Sharon Brennan-Olsen and composed by our Exercise Physiologist/Researcher Steven Phu and our Radiographer/Researcher Ebrahim Bani Hassan have done a superb job organising our pilot Roadshows: two in Melbourne and a recent one in Adelaide with a regional one being planned for Ballarat (Victoria) this October. The feedback from the GPs in attendance and their measured learning have been outstanding.

We expect to expand this Roadshows to all over Australia. Don't we surprised if our AIMSS team is passing by near your door one of these days!

Prof. Gustavo Duque – Director AIMSS



Team Member of the Month

Dr Sara Vogrin
AIMSS Biostatistician

Sara completed her medical degree in Slovenia. Since relocating to Australia 7 years ago Sara completed the Masters of biostatistics at the University of Melbourne and has been working as a biostatistician at AIMSS and St Vincent's Hospital.

Sara aims to support AIMSS members in all stages of their research, from study design, ethics and grant applications to analysis and preparation of publications.

Our International Collaborator of the Month.



A/Prof Debra Waters

Director of Gerontology Research, School of Physiotherapy and Department of Medicine, Dunedin School of Medicine at the University of Otago.

Debra's broad research area is gerontology with a special emphasis on sarcopenia and frailty. Her studies focus on community-based falls prevention, self-management of chronic conditions, and life-style interventions for obese, frail older adults. She also holds research appointments at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, School of Medicine and Veterans Administration Health Systems Center, both in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She also collaborates with colleagues at the Institute of Aging in Toulouse, France. In addition to research, she is actively involved with Age Concern Otago and Otago Partners for Elder Needs.

AIMSS Publication of the Month



High parathyroid hormone levels are associated with osteosarcopenia in older individuals with a history of falling.

Suriyaarachchi P, Gomez F, Curcio CL, Boersma D, Murthy L, Grill V, Duque G.

Maturitas. 2018 Jul;113:21-25.

AIMSS congratulates:

A/Prof Keith Lim and his team, selected for the APLAR Center of Excellence for Research, Training and Education and Patient Care Award 2018. Prof Lim's rheumatology center demonstrated high standards in the above three pillars of excellence and will serve as a reference center for rheumatology centres across the region.



Dr Michael Bullen: AIMSS MiT. Awarded 2019 Brendan Dooley Gordon Trinca Research Scholarship "Evaluation of Vitamin D supplementation on fracture Healing in a Vitamin D deficient paediatric population using pQCT - a randomised trial" . \$ 10,000

Visitors - New signage for directions AIMSS facilities, WCHRE.



AIMSS Seminar Series

The monthly AIMSS Seminars continued with their high standard of excellence in 2018.

National and international guest presenters included:

A/Prof Anita Wolka

"An Update on Osteoarthritis and its management"



Dr Alison Beauchamp is welcomed as an AIMSS 2018 Project Director by Prof Duque



Prof Markus Herrmann: Head of Institute: Clinical Institute for Medical and Chemical Laboratory Diagnostics Medical University of Graz Auenbruggerplatz, Austria. **"On The Long Run - Exercise and Genomic Ageing."**



AIMSS Short News

The second AIMSS retreat was held at Seaview, Williamstown - September 14th 2018. It was well attended by AIMSS members including Program, Project Directors and Members in training. A very worthwhile, collaborative function moving forward for the future of AIMSS.



Reminder: ANZSSFR Annual conference Dunedin NZ, November 23rd-25th 2018

The AIMSS Osteosarcopenia Roadshow® team presented in Adelaide Saturday 4th August. Designed to educate General Practitioners to the biological mechanisms, diagnostic methods, & treatment of osteoporosis and sarcopenia in older persons.

