



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

School of Allied Health,
Human Services and Sport

**RESEARCH
CAPABILITY**

AUDIOLOGY



Acknowledgement of Country

LaTrobe University proudly acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands our campuses are located on.

We recognise that Indigenous Australians have an ongoing connection to the land and the University values their unique contribution both to the University and the wider Australian society.

We are committed to providing opportunities for Indigenous Australians, both as individuals and communities through teaching and learning, research and community partnerships across all our campuses and online.

We pay our respects to Indigenous Elders, past, present and emerging.

Indigenous art by Dixon Patten of Bayila Creative





OUR VISION

To enhance the hearing health and wellbeing of communities via bold, evidence-based research that is focused on prevention of hearing loss, diagnostic and holistic rehabilitation.

OUR FOCUS

Our research seeks to transform the landscape of hearing prevention, hearing care and audiology services through impactful, internationally-recognised applied research. Through our research, we aim to reduce communication disability and improve health and wellbeing of individuals with hearing loss and tinnitus. We collaborate with interdisciplinary teams and industry partners to create and implement innovative, impactful research that address real world problems.

Hearing loss prevalence, risk factors and prevention

Assessment of hearing loss, tinnitus and balance

Rehabilitation of hearing loss and tinnitus

World class and evidence-based education

RESEARCH CAPABILITY

OUR OBJECTIVES

- Shape the way hearing care and audiology services are delivered by producing applied research of international significance and impact.
- Support the development of the outstanding clinicians and leaders in the field of Audiology through innovative real-world research and education, informed by evidence, and delivered in contemporary learning environments.
- Reduce the communication disability and advocate for health and wellbeing of individuals with hearing loss and tinnitus.
- Promote hearing health and hearing loss prevention.
- Engage collaboratively with our industry partners to find solutions to the challenges associated with hearing loss and tinnitus.

OUR STAFF

Our team consists of highly skilled researchers in the field of audiology, hearing science and neuroscience. We are involved in fundamental, applied and translational research, with a focus on improving diagnostic and rehabilitation practices for individuals with hearing loss and tinnitus.

Our research spans a wide range of topics, including diagnosis and rehabilitation of hearing loss, tinnitus, and auditory perception. In addition to our research, we are dedicated educators and clinicians, providing evidence-based training to the next generation of audiology professionals.

OUR GRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

Our graduate research students (higher degree research students), benefit from competitive scholarships funded by both government and industry, enabling them to conduct highly impactful applied research. Current PhD projects encompass a diverse array of topics, such as:

- developing and evaluating innovative diagnostic and rehabilitation methods for hearing loss and tinnitus
- investigating factors that affect speech-in-noise comprehension in individuals with normal hearing
- exploring barriers to cochlear implantation
- improving hearing aid fitting outcomes for individuals with steeply sloping hearing losses, with and without cochlear dead regions.

STAFF PROFILES



Emma Laird

Dr Emma Laird is a Senior Lecturer and Discipline Lead in the Discipline of Audiology. Emma's research focuses on psychologically informed practice, person-centred care and counselling. Emma has worked as a clinical audiologist specialising in diagnostic, vestibular and electrophysiological services, and has research interests in tinnitus, hyperacusis and digital health interventions.

Key research interests:

- psychologically informed practice
- person-centred care and counselling
- vestibular, tinnitus, hyperacusis and digital health interventions.



Alicja Malicka

Associate Professor Alicja Malicka is an Associate Professor in the Discipline of Audiology and Director of Graduate Research in the School of Allied Health, Human Services and Sport. Alicja's research falls within two themes that can be classified as auditory science (fundamental research) and translational hearing science (applied research) and is focused on diagnosis and rehabilitation of people with hearing loss and tinnitus. Her research in diagnosis and rehabilitation of cochlear dead regions, diagnosis of conductive conditions in children and tinnitus services involves several national and international collaborations and has a world-wide impact on clinical practice.

Key research interests:

- diagnostic and rehabilitation of patients with hearing loss
- basic research on auditory perception
- clinical practice in tinnitus rehabilitation.



Richard Anderson

Dr Richard Anderson is a Senior Lecturer in Audiology. Richard has an extensive clinical experience in paediatric audiology, diagnostic audiology, and aural rehabilitation. He also has significant research experience in developmental neuroscience. His research focuses on paediatric hearing loss, and he is committed to advancing the understanding and treatment of auditory conditions in young children.

Key research interests:

- congenital, progressive or late-onset hearing loss in young children
- syndromic and non-syndromic hearing loss
- clinical practice in tinnitus rehabilitation.



Michelle Loeliger

Dr Michelle Loeliger is a Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Audiology and the Course Coordinator of the Master of Audiology program. Michelle has an extensive research background in developmental neuroscience with specific interest in prenatal compromise and the effects on the developing auditory and visual system. Her current research relates to prevalence and management of middle ear disease in children.

Key research interests:

- middle ear disease in children
- tinnitus management
- improving hearing aid fitting in individuals with hearing loss.



**Nikhitha
Betty Theruvan**

Nikhitha Betty Theruvan is a sessional teaching academic and a PhD candidate in the Discipline of Audiology. Nikhitha holds a Masters in Audiology and a Bachelors in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology. Before joining La Trobe, she worked as an assistant professor at Manipal University, India and has extensive experience in diagnosis and rehabilitation of adults with hearing impairment. Her PhD research aims to determine why some individuals have difficulty understanding speech in noisy environments, despite having normal hearing.

Key research interests:

- factors affecting listening in noise
- objective evaluation of listening effort
- cognition and hearing.



Michelle Le

Michelle Le has extensive clinical experience in both diagnostic and vestibular audiology in infants, children and adults. Through her PhD research, Ms Le will investigate the current audiological practices in Australia for the management of severe to profound hearing loss in adults.

Key research interests:

- diagnostic and vestibular audiology
- audiology service delivery
- hearing aids in severe to profound hearing loss.

WORLD CLASS RESEARCH AND TRAINING FACILITIES

LA TROBE AUDIOLOGY CLINIC

The La Trobe Audiology Clinic provides services to the La Trobe community at the Bundoora campus.

It is equipped with three soundproof suites specifically for audiology assessments, practical classes, simulations, and practical exams.

Students work under the direct supervision of highly qualified accredited and experienced clinicians and clinical educators.

It is part of our mission to ensure that students develop the competencies, skills, and experience they need to provide safe and effective audiology services to the community upon graduation.



HEARING RESEARCH LAB

The Hearing Research Lab, established in 2018, is located within La Trobe's Audiology Clinic. It boasts two sound-treated experimental spaces equipped with state-of-the-art multidisciplinary equipment. This research environment allows for range of research related to auditory science, hearing aids, diagnostic rehabilitation research, and research related to balance disorders.



WHY CHOOSE AUDIOLOGY AT LA TROBE?



1st in Victoria

We're the best in Victoria and third in Australia for employer satisfaction, with a rating of 88.1 per cent.

Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT), 2023, [2022 Employer Satisfaction Survey \[PDF, 812 KB\]](#)



#4 in Australia for good health and wellbeing

We're ranked fourth in Australia and twelfth in the world for our research on key diseases and conditions, our support for healthcare professions, and the health of our students and staff.

Times Higher Education (THE), 2024 [Impact Rankings 2024: good health and well-being](#)



Real work settings

Our students learn in Victoria's leading hospitals through our on-site clinical schools and work placements.

[Find out more](#) about our health placements



Leading research

Our researchers are working to improve health and wellbeing across communities and the lifespan.

Find out more about [our research](#)

INDUSTRY RELATIONSHIPS

We engage collaboratively with a diverse range of Australian and international organisations ensuring that our work remains at the forefront of the field. By working together, we aim to address the challenges associated with hearing loss and enhance the lives of those with hearing impairments.

The Discipline of Audiology is partnering with industry to translate our research findings for commercial and health-related outcomes by partnering with a broad range of clinical and academic partners.

We collaborate with hearing aid and cochlear implant manufacturers on a wide range of clinically- and industry-relevant research projects. Currently our PhD students are enrolled in La Trobe Industry PhD programs and they undertake research projects that address real-world challenges identified by, and of critical importance to, clients with hearing loss, clinicians and industry partners. During industry PhDs, students are co-supervised by La Trobe staff and the industry partner, and their PhD scholarships are co-funded by both.





OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE WITH OUR RESEARCH TEAM

There are numerous opportunities to partner with us on research ideas and projects, including:

- Audiology Masters projects (12 months' duration)
- Masters by Research/PhD projects (2–3.5 years duration)
- Collaborative grant applications
- Research consultancy

CONTACT US

If you are interested in working together but don't know where to start, please just email or give us a call:

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WANT TO KNOW MORE? GET IN TOUCH

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