



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

School of Allied Health,
Human Services and Sport

**RESEARCH
CAPABILITY**

ORTHOPTICS



Acknowledgement of Country

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

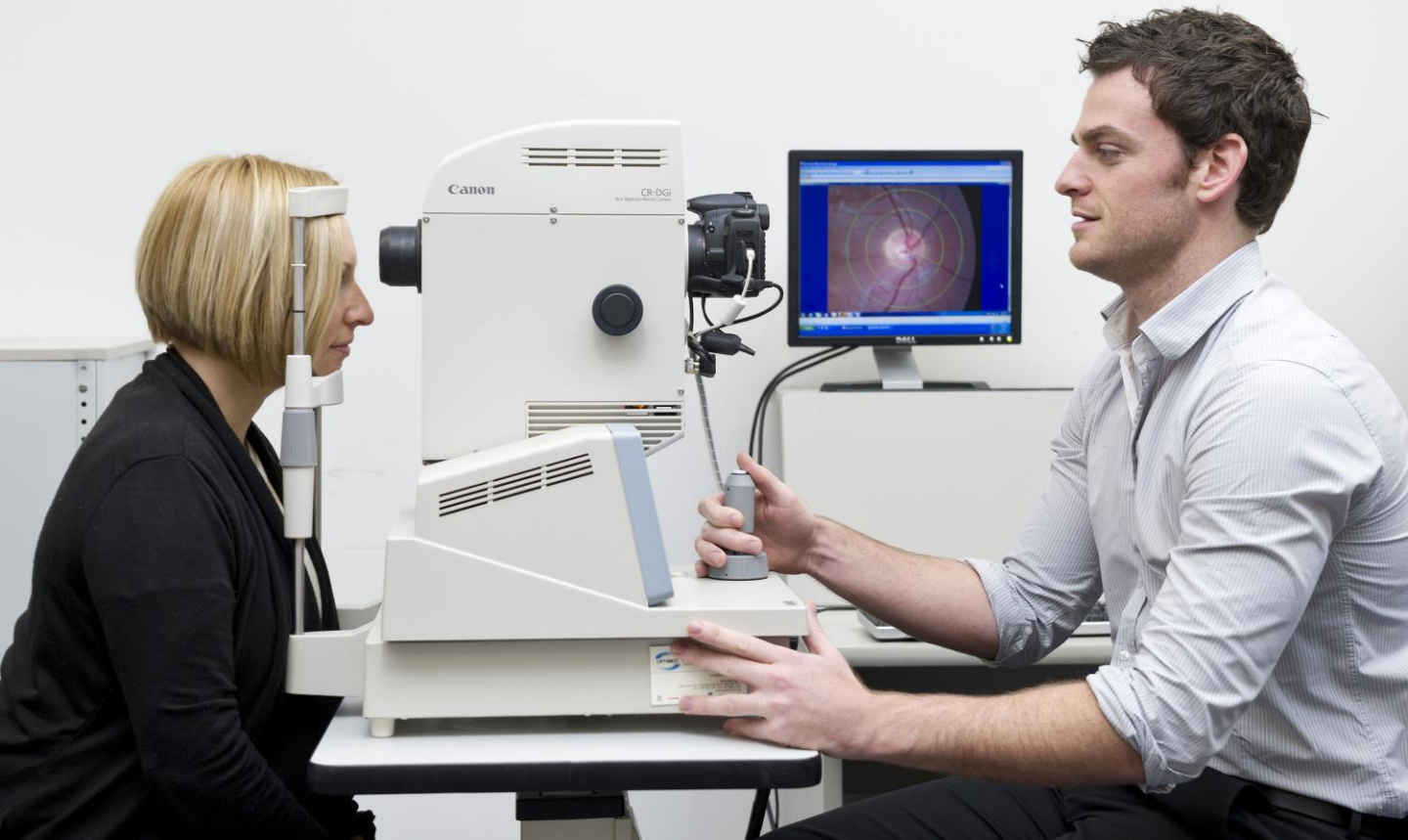
We recognise that Indigenous Australians have an ongoing connection to the land and the University values their unique contribution both to the University and the wider Australian society.

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 improve vision care for all individuals and communities by driving innovative, impactful research that empowers individuals and communities to reach their full potential.

OUR FOCUS

Our research focuses on advancing the understanding of vision-related disorders and their consequences, and creating innovative solutions to management, rehabilitation and service delivery models to improve patient outcomes. By focusing on real-world applications, we aim to translate our research into effective interventions that enhance vision care, support long-term functional outcomes, and contribute to the broader field of orthoptic and vision sciences. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, we ensure that our research leads to tangible benefits in clinical practice.

RESEARCH CAPABILITY

OUR OBJECTIVES

- Advance the understanding of vision-related disorders and their consequences and explore innovative solutions to improve patient outcomes.
- Develop and refine assessment techniques, treatment methodologies, and rehabilitation strategies to enhance vision care and clinical practice.
- Collaborate with clinical partners, healthcare providers, and industry to translate research findings into real-world applications that improve vision health.
- Build research capacity and strengthen our global reputation by fostering national and international collaborations.
- Train and mentor the next generation of researchers, practitioners, and leaders in the field of orthoptics, preparing them for impactful careers in vision care and research.

OUR STAFF

Our staff includes a diverse group of researchers who specialise in various vision-related fields. Our team has extensive experience in a wide range of research methodologies, including clinical research, survey studies, qualitative research and systematic reviews with a strong focus on advancing the understanding and practice of orthoptics and vision care.

We also collaborate extensively with a variety of healthcare organisations, including public hospitals and private eye clinics, and work with experts in various subspecialty areas, fostering interdisciplinary partnerships that enhance the relevance and application of our research.

OUR GRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

Our graduate research students (higher degree research students), including those pursuing Masters by Research and PhD degrees, contribute to advancing knowledge in orthoptics and vision science through highly impactful research projects.

These projects encompass a wide range of areas, including:

- patient outcomes of orthoptic and ophthalmic interventions
- paediatric orthoptics with a focus on ocular motility and their sensory consequences and effects on learning
- neuro-orthoptics, low vision and vision rehabilitation strategies
- psycho-social and functional impact of ocular disorders, including falls risk and prevention
- evaluation of clinical services and emerging technologies in vision care.

Our graduate research students are immersed in a dynamic and collaborative research environment, working alongside clinical partners and industry stakeholders. This enables them to produce research that directly influences real-world vision care and improves clinical outcomes.

STAFF PROFILES



Meri Vukicevic

Associate Professor Meri Vukicevic is an Associate Professor in the Discipline of Orthoptics and the Course Coordinator. Meri has worked in higher education for 20 years and her teaching focus includes ocular anatomy and physiology, eye disease and clinical investigations, with an emphasis on retinal disease. Meri's research investigates treatment interventions for macular disease caused by age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and diabetic retinopathy. Her research focus is on the patient journey and persistence with treatment. More recently she has been researching eye movements and gaze patterns on patients with AMD.

Key research interests:

- macular disease
- eye movement tracking and gaze patterns
- systematic reviews.



Connie Koklanis

Associate Professor Konstandina (Connie) Koklanis is the Head of the Discipline of Orthoptics and Deputy Head of Clinical Education. With extensive experience in higher education and in managing orthoptic services within the public hospital sector, she has expertise in the assessment and management of ocular motility disorders and their sensory consequences and in developing and implementing innovative service delivery models in orthoptic care. Drawing on this experience, she was instrumental in establishing La Trobe University's on-campus orthoptic clinic, where students gain practical experience by providing supervised eye care services to the community. Connie's research focuses on paediatric orthoptics, vision related challenges resulting from acquired brain injuries, such as concussion and stroke, as well as those arising from ocular diseases and disorders.

Key research interests:

- paediatric-orthoptics and neuro-orthoptics
- innovations in models of care
- psychosocial impacts of ocular disorders and their management.



Linda Malesic

Dr Linda Malesic is a Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Orthoptics, serving as the Clinical Academic Coordinator and First Year Discipline Coordinator. With extensive experience in both private practice and hospital settings, Linda has worked in higher education for over 20 years, focusing on ophthalmic clinical teaching, eye disease, and neuro-ophthalmology. Her research interests include congenital nystagmus, glaucoma service delivery models, paediatric vision health, and mitigating fall risk in vision-impaired individuals. Linda is also involved in interdisciplinary collaborations, including decolonising curricula in line with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander frameworks.

Key research interests:

- service delivery models
- congenital nystagmus and eye movement analysis
- falls risk in the vision-impaired
- paediatric vision health.



Kylie Gran

Kylie Gran is the Clinic Coordinator for the La Trobe Eye Clinic, a student-led clinic located at La Trobe University's Melbourne campus, and a Lecturer in the Discipline of Orthoptics. Kylie's research is influenced by orthoptic and ophthalmic experience in the public and private sector and clinical problems. Research into the vision and binocular vision of children with learning difficulties is aimed at improving the evidence in this field.

Key research interests:

- vision and binocular vision anomalies in children with learning difficulties
- amblyopia and visual development
- binocular functions in the presence of latent and intermittently manifest strabismus.

WORLD CLASS RESEARCH AND TRAINING FACILITIES

LA TROBE EYE CLINIC

The La Trobe Eye Clinic is dedicated to delivering high-quality, patient-centred care rooted in evidence-based practice for the Victorian community. Our clinic serves children and adults with a wide range of ocular motility and vision-related conditions, working to enhance patient health outcomes and prepare future orthoptists in specialised areas including paediatric eye care, strabismus, and eye movement disorders.

In partnership with the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, the clinic provides coordinated, high-quality paediatric orthoptic care, offering students valuable exposure to complex cases and collaborative healthcare practices.

As we expand our services to include low vision care, neuro-orthoptics, and management of vision difficulties related to stroke and concussion, our clinic will continue to lead in comprehensive, interdisciplinary care.



WHY CHOOSE 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 partner with a diverse range of Australian and international organisations to advance teaching, training, and collaborative research. Together, we are educating the next generation of orthoptists and conducting research projects that enhance vision care.

OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE WITH OUR RESEARCH TEAM

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

- Honours projects (12 months duration)
- Masters/PhD projects (2-3 years duration, may require some funding)
- Orthoptic placements (ranging from 1-5 weeks dependent on year level)
- Collaborative grant applications
- Research consultancy
- Professional education and short courses

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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Discipline Lead, Orthoptics

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WANT TO KNOW MORE? GET IN TOUCH

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