



LATROBE
UNIVERSITY

Violet Vines
Marshman Centre
For Rural Health
Research

Violet Vines Marshman Centre
for Rural Health Research

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



2022

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It is once again time to reflect on the year that was and celebrate the achievements of the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research. I'd like to begin what is our third annual report by acknowledging the work of my predecessors Professor Emerita Amanda Kenny, whose drive and energy led to the establishment of the VVMCRHR in late 2019, and Professor Jane Mills, who guided us through the University's Centre renewal process following Mandy's departure from La Trobe in November 2020.

When writing about 2021 Jane noted that not a lot had changed since Mandy's inaugural report in terms of our contextual environment, and much the same could be said for 2022; the pandemic raged on, yet we continued to find ways around the obstacles left in its wake doing what the VVMCRHR was established to achieve, conducting high impact research aimed at making a difference to the health of rural communities.

Since taking over the reins from Jane at the beginning of 2022 I have been impressed with the resilience and tenacity of VVMCRHR researchers as they go about their business under such conditions. It requires grit and determination to keep gathering, analysing, and reporting on data, forging new partnerships, and applying for new funding when the best laid plans are more than likely delayed, or turned on their head entirely. But to keep doing so after a period of substantial structural change across the University more broadly, and all that that entails, makes this even more commendable.

So, we have much to be proud about. In January we advertised globally to fill the position of Violet Vines Marshman Chair of Rural Health vacated by Mandy. In February we welcomed Dr Fiona Dangerfield to the Centre to work on an important project for the VVMCRHR, the Rural Health Consumer Panel.

In April we completed a series of open forums for VVMCRHR members to flesh out plans for the year ahead across each of our three research streams. By May we had launched the Rural Health Consumer Panel and completed interviews for the VVM Chair of Rural Health and in July the Vice Chancellor, Professor John Dewar announced over drinks just prior to the 2022 Violet Vines Marshman Oration that La Trobe Alumnus Professor Leigh Kinsman would be Mandy's successor, commencing later in 2022. I am particularly excited by this appointment and look forward to working closely with Leigh on growing the Centre in coming years. You can read more about Leigh's achievements in this report.

The 2022 oration itself was delivered by Australia's National Rural Health Commissioner, Professor Ruth Stewart, who was introduced by Dr Neil Marshman to an enthusiastic auditorium. Titled "Transforming rural health outcomes through research, collaboration and community engagement", this event concluded Day 1 of the 2022 La Trobe Rural Health School

Conference and was the first major physical gathering for much of the broader La Trobe rural health research community since the easing of pandemic restrictions. It was great to be able to rub shoulders with colleagues and discuss the possible implications for rural health following the recent change in government nationally.

The Vice Chancellor made another important announcement that evening by declaring Northern District Community Health and Echuca Regional Health grant recipients as part of the third round of the VVMCRHR Partnership Funding Stream. This follows three grants awarded in the second round and one in the first. You can read more about these projects in the following pages. The VVMCRHR Partnership Funding Stream was established with an initial \$0.5 million donation from Neil, Ian and Ken Marshman in 2019, and received a further gift of \$5000 from the Australian Philanthropic Services Foundation at the recommendation of the Marshman brothers and Sarto Advisory Client Endowment (a giving fund in the APS Foundation) in August 2022. We are extremely grateful to our benefactors for supporting this important partnership-building initiative and look forward to announcing possible further funding rounds in 2023.

In August several VVMCRHR members presented at 16th National Rural Health Conference in Canberra and in September we welcomed Ms Sandra Mesic to the Centre; Sandy brings with her years of experience in practice management and is providing much needed administrative support to us two days a week. Leigh joined us at our Bendigo campus in October and in November we commenced discussions about the possible addition of new research foci on rural health workforce and First Nations health. We wrapped up the year by finalising, with Neil and our colleagues in the Alumni and Advancement Office, documentation on the case for additional philanthropic investment in the VVMCRHR. We look forward to exploring these and other ideas on how to grow the Centre and work effectively together at a staff retreat in early 2023.

Our strategic intent is clear and unwavering, and we enjoy continued support from both the Marshman family and La Trobe University. With several key appointments now in place and an expanding portfolio of funded projects, collaborations and ideas under our belt, much of which you can read about in the following pages, we remain well positioned to becoming recognised as a leader in efforts to eliminate disparities in rural health and wellbeing. Having grown to 39 members and 58 HDR students over the course of 2022, we are confident of accelerating the rate at which we deliver on this vision in the year ahead.

Dr Stephen Begg
Director Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health



WELCOME PROFESSOR LEIGH KINSMAN

Professor Kinsman has joined the School as the Violet Vines Marshman Chair of Rural Health Research. This is a homecoming for Leigh who previously studied at the Bendigo campus and was a Lecturer in Nursing from 1998 to 2006. Leigh brings an outstanding record of community engagement and industry partnerships in rural health to translate research into practice and build the capacity of rural researchers to conduct and implement meaningful research.

“The Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research has the capability to become a world-class rural health research centre through its support from the Marshman family and the extraordinary expertise and energy in the La Trobe Rural Health School. I look forward to building on the exceptional work led by Jane Mills (Acting Director), Steve Begg (Centre Director) and theme leads Evelien Spelten, Virginia-Dickson-Swift and Tim Skinner.” Professor Kinsman said.

“Ultimately, we’re working toward ensuring research is relevant to local communities and translated quickly and effectively to achieve the best possible outcomes for rural people. Our consumer panel, industry partnerships and capacity-building programs will be central to bringing research to real life for rural communities.”

Joining the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research from his most recent position as Joint Chair with the University of Newcastle and Mid North Local Health

District, Professor Kinsman’s impressive career has reflected a whole-of-community approach to addressing health disparities, particularly for our most disadvantaged and vulnerable. Most recently, Leigh partnered with the NSW Mental Health Commission to improve the responsiveness of health and community organisations for people with lived experience of mental ill-health and their carers. Resources were codesigned with a diverse range of people experiencing mental ill-health, including rural, LGBTQI, those whose first language was not English and people with a physical disability. The resources, available through the NSW Mental Health Commission’s website, have been incorporated into commissioning processes and training provided through NSW’s Primary Health Networks and are directly influencing the responsiveness of health and community services to people with lived experience of mental ill-health and their carers. Leigh’s previous appointments include the University of Tasmania, University of Saskatchewan and Monash University.

Professor Kinsman’s track record comprises \$9.8 million in competitive research funding, 139 publications and supervising 20 research students to completion. Leigh’s office is at the Flora Hill campus, and he would love the opportunity to meet and speak with all staff, students and members of the community.

“Our consumer panel, industry partnerships and capacity-building programs will be central to bringing research to real life for rural communities.”



A MESSAGE FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR



Dr Neil Marshman
Advisory Committee
Chair

The Advisory Committee met three times since the last Report was prepared. It has been a pleasure to welcome Stephen Begg (the Centre's Director), Leigh Kinsman (VV Marshman Chair of Rural Health) and Megan Fisher (Pro Vice Chancellor) onto the Committee. I also acknowledge the roles played by Jane Mills (ex-acting Director) and Amanda Kenny (ex VV Marshman Chair of Rural Health) both on the Committee and in the Centre's design.

Each committee meeting commences with a research presentation. This provides a linkage back to the real-world purpose of the committee and also a taste of the problems and solutions on which the Centre is working. The innovation, enthusiasm and value-add of the researchers is clear.

Over the reporting period the Committee has had three main foci:

- It has embedded funding stream processes and six implementation projects have been approved. Thanks to good work by Virginia Dickson-Swift, the process is smoother, the quality of applications more consistent and above all else, rural people are being helped through the translation of research into early-stage deployments.
- Through the auspices of Stephen May and Stephen Begg the case for philanthropic funding for both the funding stream and the Centre has been documented.
- Providing guidance to the Centre, through discussion surrounding the Director's report at each meeting. During these discussions the non-La Trobe members are bringing their work experiences and connections.

Overall, it is pleasing that the University has renewed and reviewed the Centre; through the Centre's leadership a distinctive shape and style is evolving, and above all new researchers are being trained and new solutions to entrenched problems are emerging.



PURPOSE, VISION AND MISSION

The Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research was established to narrow the gulf between metropolitan health outcomes and those in regional, rural, and remote areas. Based in the La Trobe Rural Health School, our vision is to be a world leader in the elimination of disparities in rural health and wellbeing by facilitating high impact research that is rurally focused, collaborative and pragmatic. We define rural as being outside of a major Australian metropolitan city and are proud to work with communities and partners throughout the country and globally. We are distinctive for being entirely focused on making a difference, and for putting the needs of rural communities at the forefront of our work.

OUR VISION

To be a world leader in the elimination of disparities in rural health and wellbeing by facilitating high impact research that is:



Rurally focused - We focus on the issues for people living outside of metropolitan areas acknowledging that experiences of rural life are geographically, economically, environmentally, sociologically, and culturally diverse.



Collaborative - We work together with our rural communities using partnerships and innovative methods of co-design.



Pragmatic - We work with rural communities to address real world issues and to develop practical local solutions.

OUR OBJECTIVES



To **demonstrate** the University's four cultural qualities in all that we do



To **partner** with rural people and their families, rural communities, and key stakeholders (governments, industry partners, peak bodies) to co-design research that addresses rural health inequity.



To **conduct research** that facilitates opportunities for uptake, translation and real-world impact.



To **identify and secure sources of funding** that will sustain and grow the VVMCRHR.



To **foster an environment** that facilitates world-class research outputs, leadership in knowledge translation, and high-quality research training opportunities.

2022 SNAPSHOT



39

active
researchers



58

HDR
students



13

current
research projects



189

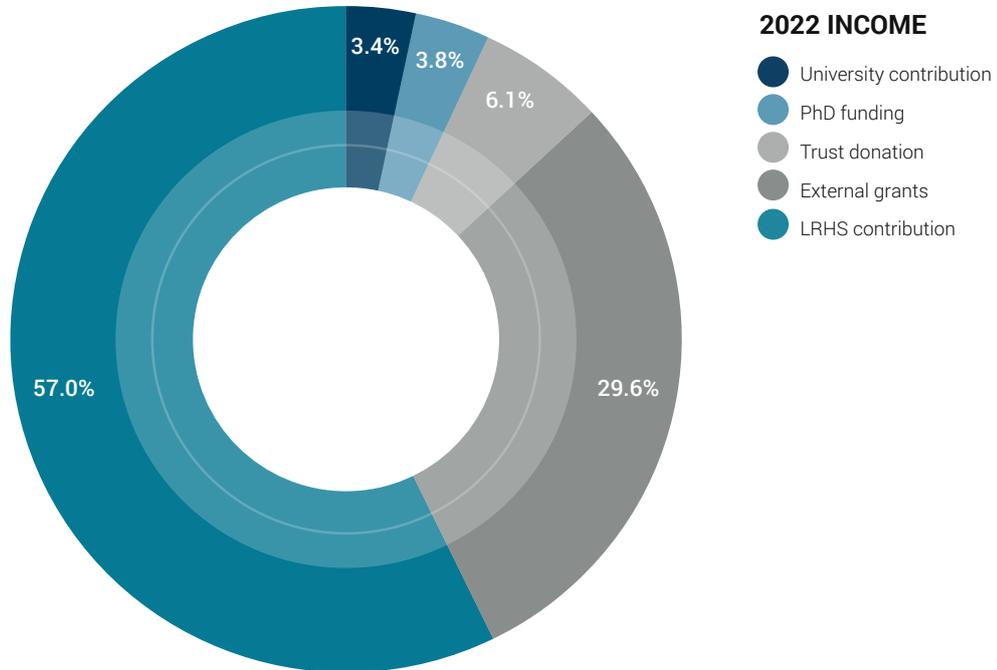
research
publications



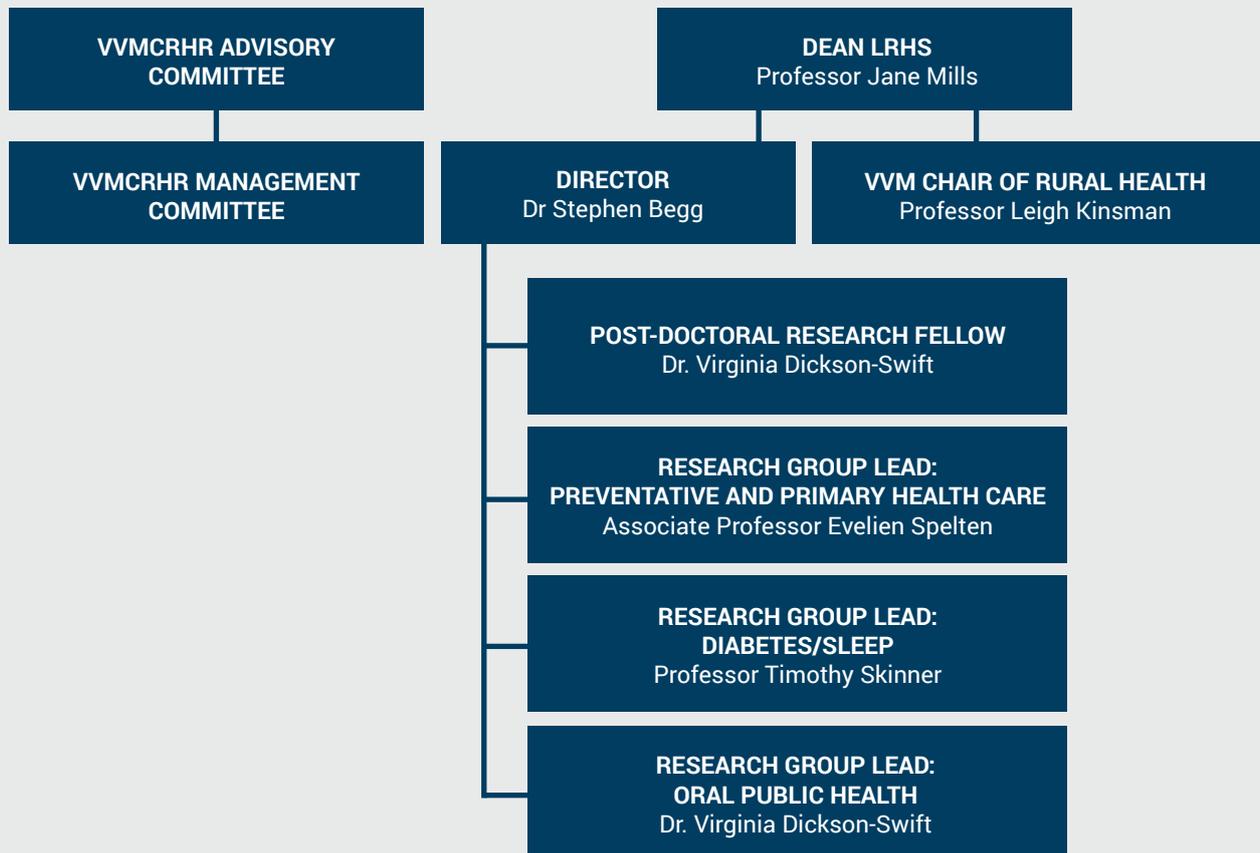
20

conference
presentations

INCOME



ORGANISATION CHART



HOW VIOLET VINES MARSHMAN RESEARCHERS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO THE ORAL HEALTH OF COHUNA – AND BEYOND

Violet Vines Marshman Centre of Rural Health Research stream lead, Virginia Dickson-Swift, has been recognised for outstanding advocacy and research in rural communities as part of a team of research experts who have been instrumental in bringing fluoridated water and improved oral health literacy to the people of Cohuna and surrounds.

Mandy Hutchinson, CEO, Northern District Community Health Service reported "Virginia was able to provide evidence of difference in oral health between our community and the rest of Victoria. As well as evidence about the benefits of fluoridated water. Because the evidence was so strong and she presented it so well, we suddenly had an educated community. It shifted people's minds."

The opening of Cohuna's water fluoridation plant in 2021 was a key impact of the approach to research and community partnerships that took several years to achieve.

Which brings us to the "and beyond" part of this work, including the success in Cohuna being adopted as a case study report by Dental Health Services Victoria to guide other rural communities to successfully lobby for improved oral health and water fluoridation. A highlight of the report is the prioritisation of the local wisdom and recommendations of local consumers. It is a great [read](#).

Virginia continues to advocate for rural communities as a member of the Department of Health's Steering Committee on Water Fluoridation, including leading a comprehensive study of the availability of fluoridated water in rural Victoria. Her work highlighted unacceptable inequities for rural Victorians with one-third of towns with a population greater than 1,000 not having access to fluoridated water. Affected towns, such as Heathcote, experienced extremely poor oral health, especially for children who were being hospitalised for avoidable dental conditions. Children under the age of five had rates of tooth decay and missing teeth that were 78% above the state average. This profile of deplorable inequity for rural communities gained state-wide media attention through ABC news and local radio. Along with Len Crocombe, Virginia published her findings in the Health Promotion Journal of Australia with resultant interest from local, state and national policymakers.

Virginia's contribution to the oral health of rural people exemplifies the ambition of the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research to partner with rural service-providers in consumer-driven research that brings university expertise and global evidence together for local benefits and broader policy influence.



Gannawarra Shire Council: from left to right: Narelle O'Donoghue (Gannawarra Shire Council Manager Community Health), left, Stacy Williams (Gannawarra Shire Council Director Community Wellbeing), Danny McLean (Coliban Water Executive General Manager Service Delivery) and Anthony Carbines (Parliamentary Secretary for Health) toured the Cohuna Water Treatment Plant last week following the introduction of fluoride into the town's water supply.

HOW OUR RESEARCH MADE A DIFFERENCE TO JOHN FROM RED CLIFFS

The story of John Bunney, as featured in ABC news, exemplifies our commitment to partner with rural health services to conduct high quality, relevant research that improves equity and access for rural people.

John, a 78-year-old who had heart surgery 5 years earlier and lives with a chronic lung condition, was struggling to breathe. Fortunately, he called the local Community Paramedic who talked him through his concerns, explained how to use his medications and linked him into local resources, including a group chronic disease program. For John, the Community Paramedic provided a trusted and accessible service. He felt he was too unwell for the anticipated waiting time for a General Practitioner, but not severe enough to call an ambulance or travel to the emergency department.

The Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research provided pivotal research evidence for how, when and why the Community Paramedic role can make a difference to rural communities experiencing a shortage of General Practitioners. Centre members Evelien Spelten, Brodie Thomas and Leigh Kinsman partnered with Sunraysia Community Health Services, Ambulance Victoria and

international experts to comprehensively review the world-wide evidence and evaluate the impact of a local pilot project. The team found that a Community Paramedic role that combined assessment, referral, education and communication improved the health of individual patients and the efficiency of the health system. Remarkably, the local pilot in palliative care showed cost savings for the health system of \$6,800 per patient.

So, John from Red Cliffs believes the local Community Paramedic may have saved his life, and the Community Paramedic role that made a difference to John was embedded in the best possible global evidence and local research. The Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research sees this type of innovative, evidence-based approach as core to our role and will continue to partner with rural health services and communities to produce solutions and better outcomes for rural people.

See the full ABC story online [here](#)



RURAL HEALTH CONSUMER PANEL



Rural Health Consumer Panel

Evelien Spelten has led a team of researchers to establish Australia’s first Rural Health Consumer Panel (RHCP). The Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research team of Fiona Dangerfield, Virginia Dickson-Swift and Steve Begg are working with Evelien on this initiative that puts rural people front and centre of research initiatives to overcome the unacceptable disparities they face when trying to access healthcare. While government grants and relevant policies are often years behind the challenges facing rural people and health service providers, this initiative puts real-time lived experience and wisdom of service users in the driver’s seat, guiding where and how our research can make a difference.

The panel allows for the systematic involvement of rural health consumers in improving rural health care delivery and rural health outcomes. People living in rural areas often have a close connection to their community, driving them to participate more readily in initiatives to improve their health status. The panel ensures an equal partnership in research between consumers and researchers and is guided by contemporary principles for consumer engagement in research. It makes the Centre the envy of other researchers

struggling through the bureaucratic and organisational barriers commonly associated with consumer partnerships.

The panel is developed in close collaboration with NIVEL Health Care Research in the Netherlands who have a strong consumer panel that has been going for over 30 years, with around 12,000 members.

The panel was launched in 2022 through media attention, conference presentations, and development of a website. The panel is building and has 70 members who have provided vital information through online survey, predominantly focusing on struggles to access the right care at the right time in the right place.

Ambitiously, we aim to have 1,500 rural people on our panel within five years, and to give voice to those experiencing the worst outcomes and most social disadvantage. Evelien is leading the development of four working streams (see Figure 1): (1) recruitment and retention, (2) health surveys and consumer-led health research, (3) dissemination and integrated knowledge translation, and (4) data brokerage and sustainability.

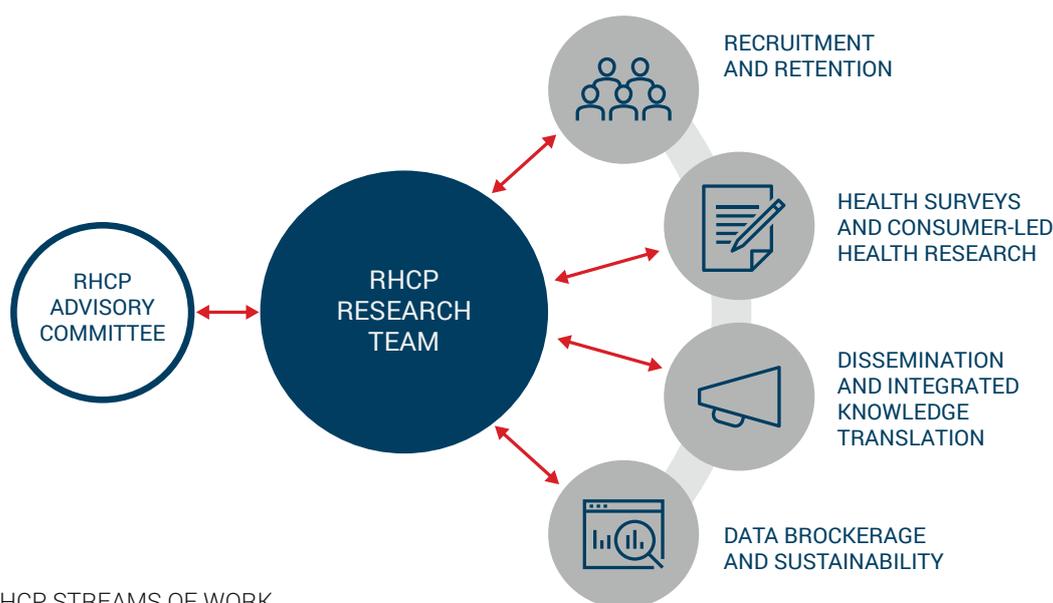


FIGURE 1: RHCP STREAMS OF WORK

The Rural Health Consumer Panel is core to the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research vision to invest in research that is driven by consumers and rapidly translates into benefits for rural communities. Its growth will play a vital role in the Centre becoming a world leader in rural health research.



ONGOING OR COMPLETED FUNDED PROJECTS IN 2022

Addressing Health Inequalities in the Murray PHN Catchment Area: ENT Hotspots (Industry PhD Scholarship)

Project number	180628
\$ Awarded to LTU	\$57,600
Current La Trobe Lead CI	Evelien Spelten
Start Date	01/01/2019
End Date	17/01/2025
Competitive	No
Primary FOR Code	320217 - Otorhinolaryngology
Main Funding Body	Murray PHN
Funding Opportunity	N/A
Administering Organisation	La Trobe University

Evaluation of integrated area-based health systems for children and young people

Project number	190967
\$ Awarded to LTU	\$81,100
Current La Trobe Lead CI	Corina Modderman
Start Date	12/02/2020
End Date	01/12/2022
Competitive	No
Primary FOR Code	420321 - Rural and remote health services
Main Funding Body	Sunraysia Community Health Service
Funding Opportunity	N/A
Administering Organisation	La Trobe University

Community Based Health Promotion in the Wimmera (Industry PhD Scholarship)

Project number	190875
\$ Awarded to LTU	\$64,080
Current La Trobe Lead CI	Evelien Spelten
Start Date	19/11/2019
End Date	28/02/2023
Competitive	No
Primary FOR Code	420603 - Health promotion
Main Funding Body	West Wimmera Health Service
Funding Opportunity	N/A
Administering Organisation	La Trobe University

Evaluating the youth-at-risk mentoring program - Aldara Yenara

Project number	200822
\$ Awarded to LTU	\$41,000
Current La Trobe Lead CI	Corina Modderman
Start Date	15/07/2020
End Date	30/04/2022
Competitive	No
Primary FOR Code	420321 - Rural and remote health services
Main Funding Body	Aldara Yenara Aboriginal Corporation
Funding Opportunity	N/A
Administering Organisation	La Trobe University

The GH-6D: A multi-domain measure of harm to gamblers and CSOs

Project number	201140
\$ Awarded to LTU	\$10,000
Current La Trobe Lead CI	Stephen Begg
Start Date	24/09/2019
End Date	24/02/2022
Competitive	Yes
Primary FOR Code	420699 - Public health not elsewhere classified
Main Funding Body	Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation
Funding Opportunity	Grants for Gambling Research Program
Administering Organisation	Central Queensland University

Breast cancer screening motivation and behaviours of women over 75 years

Project number	213596
\$ Awarded to LTU	\$254,920
Current La Trobe Lead CI	Virginia Dickson-Swift
Start Date	21/05/2021
End Date	30/06/2023
Competitive	Yes
Primary FOR Code	420319 - Primary health care
Main Funding Body	Australian Government Department of Health
Funding Opportunity	Tender
Administering Organisation	La Trobe University

Evaluation of the Australian Government's Investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care through the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme

Project number	201141
\$ Awarded to LTU	\$131,700
Current La Trobe Lead CI	Stephen Begg
Start Date	01/11/2019
End Date	30/04/2023
Competitive	Yes
Primary FOR Code	450417 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public health and wellbeing
Main Funding Body	Australian Government Department of Health
Funding Opportunity	Tender
Administering Organisation	Central Queensland University

Loddon Mallee Healthcare Worker COVID Study

Project number	202645
\$ Awarded to LTU	\$115,000
Current La Trobe Lead CI	Mark McEvoy
Start Date	01/09/2020
End Date	31/12/2023
Competitive	Yes
Primary FOR Code	420321 - Rural and remote health services
Main Funding Body	Victorian Department of Health and Human Services
Funding Opportunity	Victorian COVID-19 Research Fund
Administering Organisation	Bendigo Health

**Measuring effectiveness of service streams
(Industry PhD Scholarship)**

Project number	214294
\$ Awarded to LTU	\$75,600
Current La Trobe Lead CI	Evelien Spelten
Start Date	17/05/2021
End Date	17/05/2025
Competitive	No
Primary FOR Code	440902 - Counselling, wellbeing and community services
Main Funding Body	FamilyCare
Funding Opportunity	N/A
Administering Organisation	La Trobe University



NEW FUNDED PROJECTS IN 2022

SCRIPT (Pilot of anticipatory medication provision in community based palliative care)

Project number	227129
\$ Awarded to LTU	\$43,000
Current La Trobe Lead CI	Evelien Spelten
Start Date	01/02/2022
End Date	01/03/2023
Competitive	No
Primary FOR Code	420321 - Rural and remote health services
Main Funding Body	Sunraysia Community Health Service
Funding Opportunity	N/A
Administering Organisation	La Trobe University

Queensland Burden of Disease by Indigenous status and Health Service Districts

Project number	227173
\$ Awarded to LTU	\$106,854
Current La Trobe Lead CI	Stephen Begg
Start Date	01/04/2022
End Date	01/03/2023
Competitive	No
Primary FOR Code	450417 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public health and wellbeing
Main Funding Body	Queensland Health
Funding Opportunity	Requested Tender
Administering Organisation	La Trobe University

Online virtual first aid training (Industry PhD Scholarship)

Project number	216802
\$ Awarded to LTU	\$64,800
Current La Trobe Lead CI	Lisa Hanson
Start Date	01/07/2022
End Date	19/12/2025
Competitive	No
Primary FOR Code	320224 - Rural clinical health
Main Funding Body	St John Ambulance
Funding Opportunity	N/A
Administering Organisation	La Trobe University

SuPportive cAre for Rare Cancer patients (SPARC project) developing and evaluating supportive care for (urban and rural) people living with a rare cancer in Australia (Industry PhD Scholarship)

Project number	227133
\$ Awarded to LTU	\$75,600
Current La Trobe Lead CI	Evelien Spelten
Start Date	31/10/2022
End Date	30/4/2026
Competitive	No
Primary FOR Code	321102 – Cancer Diagnosis
Main Funding Body	Rare Cancers Australia
Funding Opportunity	N/A
Administering Organisation	La Trobe University



CENTRE MEMBERS

Name	Relationship to LTU if not employee	Membership type	Status
Professor Hanny Calache		Core	Existing
Professor Len Crocombe	Adjunct Professor	Affiliate	Existing
Professor Bircan Erbas		Affiliate	New
Professor Mark Gussy	Honorary Visiting Professor	Affiliate	Existing
Professor Amanda Kenny	Emerita Professor	Affiliate	Existing
Professor Leigh Kinsman		Core	New
Professor Carol McKinstry		Core	Existing
Professor Jane Mills		Core	Existing
Professor Timothy Skinner		Core	Departing
A/Professor Carina Chan		Affiliate	Existing
A/Professor Mark McEvoy		Core	New
A/Professor Evelien Spelten		Core	Existing
A/Professor Santosh Tadakamadla		Core	New
A/ Professor Joseph Tucci		Affiliate	New
Dr Jo Adams		Core	New
Dr Karen Anderson		Affiliate	New
Dr David Azul		Affiliate	Existing
Dr Stephen Barrett	Adjunct Research Fellow	Affiliate	New
Dr Stephen Begg		Core	Existing

Name	Relationship to LTU if not employee	Membership type	Status
Dr Lauren Booker		Core	New
Dr Fiona Dangerfield		Core	New
Dr Virginia Dickson-Swift		Core	Existing
Dr Sarah Down		Affiliate	New
Dr Lisa Hanson		Core	Existing
Dr Ruth Hardman	Casual Academic	Affiliate	New
Dr Brad Hodge		Affiliate	Existing
Dr Nerida Hyett	Adjunct Lecturer	Affiliate	Existing
Yangama Jokwiro		Core	New
Dr Susan Kidd	Adjunct Lecturer	Affiliate	Existing
Dr Ron Knevel		Affiliate	Existing
Dr Natasha Long		Affiliate	Existing
Dr Mohd Masood		Affiliate	Existing
Dr Yaghma Masood		Affiliate	Existing
Dr Mishel McMahon		Core	New
Dr Corina Modderman		Core	Existing
Dr Lyndal Sheepway		Affiliate	Existing
Dr Jyothi Tadakamadla		Affiliate	New
Dr Marietta Taylor		Affiliate	New
Dr Brodie Thomas	Adjunct Research Fellow		
Dr Emma Zadow		Affiliate	Existing

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SANTOSH TADAKAMADLA

Associate Professor Santosh Kumar Tadakamadla is the Discipline lead of Dentistry. He has a solid research background and is a prolific researcher with >140 peer-reviewed publications. He is a recipient of the NHMRC Early career fellowship. He serves on editorial boards of several journals, most notable being BMC Public health, PLoS One and Frontiers in Public Health. His research leadership has been acknowledged by several awards, of note is the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) centennial emerging leader award for the Asia Pacific region.

His research interests include health promotion; health-related behaviour; health inequalities; oral epidemiology; oral-systemic link; and quality of life. Some of his current work focusses on improving the oral health of underserved populations, including people living in rural areas and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. He has strong research collaborations with researchers in Europe, Saudi Arabia, US and India and holds adjunct professorial appointments in Universities outside Australia.



A/P Santosh Tadakamadla at the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) Conference 2022

POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

(P)= principal supervisor, (C)=Co-supervisor, E=External to La Trobe

Dalya Alzard

(Master of Applied Science Candidate)

Supervision team: Virginia Dickson-Swift (P), Leonard Crocombe (C)
Knowledge, attitude, and practice of Victorian general medical practitioners toward common adult and paediatric dental problems

Nesa Aurlene Jayadhas

(PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Santosh Tadakamadla (P), Melanie Bish (C)
Barriers and Facilitators to Implementing Oral Health Programs in Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF) in Rural Victoria, Australia, and Comparison of Oral Health Outcomes between RACF's with and without Integrated Oral Health Programs

Sudheer Babu Balla (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Santosh Tadakamadla (P), Jyothi Tadakamadla (C)
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Oral Needs of Migrant Children in the City of Bendigo

Mehak Batra (PhD Candidate)

Supervision Team: Bircan Erbas (P), Donato Vincendese (C)
Role of aeroallergen exposure on childhood asthma at the timing of a thunderstorm event

Rebecca Blake

(Professional Doctorate Candidate)

Supervision team: Carol McKinstry (P), Nerida Hyett (E)
Evaluation of the School-based Occupational Therapy AWARE Program

Siann Bowman (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Carol McKinstry (P), Linsey Howie (E)
The Impact and Experience of Mental Health Problems for Secondary Schools in Regional and Rural Victoria

Stacey Bracksley-O'Grady

(PhD Candidate - submitted)

Supervision team: Virginia Dickson-Swift (P), Karen Anderson (C), Mohd Masood (C)
Exploring the role of health promotion in improving oral health (Workforce development)

Yvonne Burns (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Evelien Spelten (P), Kornelisje Modderman (C)
Let's Deliver and Measure What Matters to Clients and Stakeholders

Rahila Christian (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Hanny Calache (P); Mark Gussy (C); Teresa Iacono (C)
Exploring Access to Dental services for Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Rural Victoria, Australia

Cassandra Cianciarulo

(PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Helen Irving (P), Terri Meehan-Andrews (C), Joseph Tucci (C)
Repurposing drugs to modulate immune responses

Michele Conlin (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Evelien Spelten (P), Sean MacDermott (C)
New Approaches to Health Promotion in the Wimmera

Sandra Connor (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Evelien Spelten (P), Kristina Edvardsson (C), Christopher Fisher (C)
Adolescent Rural Male's Health: In the Context of Emergent Masculinities

Emma Cordon (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Mark McEvoy (P), Carina Chan (C), Timothy Skinner (C)
Investigation into Rural Healthcare Workforce Pandemic and Crisis Preparedness Through a Salutogenic Approach

Anushka Date (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Helen Irving (P), Terri Meehan-Andrews (C), Joseph Tucci (C)
Modulating the innate immune response

Maureen Dillon (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Jane Mills (P), Lisa Hanson (C), Helen Wright (E)
Early Career Registered Nurses in Rural, Remote and Regional Victoria: What Factors Influence Their Decision to Leave or Stay?

Karly Edgar (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Bruce Rumbold (P), David Azul (C), Fiona Gardner (C)
Storytelling for Life and Death

Tracey Farrell

(Professional Doctorate Candidate)

Supervision team: Fiona Gardner (P), Natasha Long (C)
Exploring the impact of an attachment focused trauma informed critical reflection model in a rural setting

Jarrah Fitzgerald (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Yvonne Wells (P), Jane Mills (C)
Self-efficacy and wellbeing in the aged care environment

Marcus Gardner (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Carol McKinstry (P), Byron Perrin (C)
Improving the Quality of Clinical Supervision for Health Professionals

Gigi Guan (MAppSc Candidate)

Supervision team: George Mnataganian (P); Stephen Begg (C); Crystal Lee (C); Angela Crombie (E)
Comparison of Early Warning System Scores for Detection of Clinical Deterioration for Patients in Hospital Emergency Departments

POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

Setho Hadisuyatmana (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: James Boyd (P),
Gulzar Malik (C), Sonia Reisenhofer (C),
Timothy Skinner (C)

*Reinventing Health Care Delivery for
Indonesian Men Living with Diabetes
Mellitus and Sexual Dysfunctions: Mixed
Method Study*

Christopher Harvey (Professional Doctorate Candidate)

Supervision team: Fiona Gardner (P),
Carina Chan (C), Sean MacDermott (C)
*What Effect Does Assertive Holistic
Aftercare have on Suicidality Rates in a
Regional Location?*

Kimberley Hitchens (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Beverley Copnell (P),
David Azul (C), Karen Lawrence (C)
*Diversity in undergraduate nursing
curriculum: impacts on students'
perception and ability to provide
inclusive healthcare*

Michelle Hood (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Virginia Dickson-
Swift (P), Fiona Gardner (C)
*Who cares for the carer? The Caregiver's
Perspective: Supporting Regional
Victorian Caregivers during End-of-Life
Care Pre and Post Loss*

Yangama Jokwiro (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Melanie Bish (P),
Elena Wilson (C)

*An exploration of nurse's perceptions
of person-centred care (PCC) for older
people with cognitive impairment in acute
and sub-acute settings*

Kathy Jordan (PhD Candidate and VVM Scholarship holder)

Supervision team: Amanda Kenny (P);
Carina Chan (C); Virginia Dickson-
Swift (C)
*Exploring, Understanding, and Addressing
Loneliness in Rural Communities*

Alexandra Kitching (Professional Doctorate Candidate)

Supervision team: Virginia Dickson-
Swift (P), Melissa Graham (C)
*An Investigation into the Impact of
Providing Advice on Modifiable Lifestyle
Factors to People with Multiple Sclerosis
and How this Information can Affect Their
Long-Term Health Outcomes*

Soorya Kumar (Professional Doctorate Candidate)

Supervision team: Melanie Bish (P),
Jane Mills (C)
*Post operative pain management:
surgical nurses' knowledge and attitude
towards pain management*

Richard Larsen (Professional Doctorate Candidate)

Supervision team: Glenda Verrinder (P), Stephen
Begg (C), Julie Rudner (C)
*Climate Change, Air Quality and Human
Health*

Nicola Lloyd (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Amanda Kenny (P),
Nerida Hyett (E)
*Evaluating impacts of public involvement
in health service design*

Philip Lyrstakis (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Brett Gordon (P),
Stephen Cousins (C), Daniel Wundersitz
(C), Emma Zadow (C)
*Manipulating the Resistance Training
Prescription to Optimally Restore
Function*

Jill Maglio (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Carol McKinstry (P),
Tracy Lee Fortune (C)
*The utilisation of circus as a tool to
address occupational participation
issues within individual, community, and
socio-political contexts: A collective study*

Rachael McAleer (PhD Candidate and VVM Scholarship holder)

Supervision team: Amanda Kenny
(P), Lisa Hanson (C)
*Recruitment and
Retention of the Rural Health Workforce*



(P)= principal supervisor, (C)=Co-supervisor, E=External to La Trobe

**Gayle McKenzie
(Professional Doctorate Candidate)**

Supervision team: Jane Mills (P),
Brad Hodge (C)

*Rural Nursing Workforce Implications
Post Pandemic: Are School Leavers
Choosing Nursing as a Profession?*

Lorraine Michael (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Eades Quinn (P),
David Azul (C)

*Becoming Human: A Transdisciplinary
Consideration of a Practitioner's
Narratives*

Rebecca Millar (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Amanda Kenny (P),
Virginia Dickson-Swift (C), Susan
Kidd (E)

*The Development of the Forensic Mental
Health Complementary Assessment Tool*

**Sowmya Nagappa Malamardi
(PhD Candidate)**

Supervision team: Bircan Erbas
(P), Katrina Lambert (C), Mahesh
Padukudru Anand (E)

The role of air pollution in Mysore India

Cheryl Neilson (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Leanne Carey
(P), Carol McKinstry (C) *Sustainable
Translation of Knowledge to Practice in
Regional Australia*

Salatiel Ngezi

(Professional Doctorate Candidate)

Supervision team: Evelien Spelten
(P), Ashleigh Butler (C) *From palliative
care to death and bereavement: a study
into experiences and practices among
sub-Saharan Africa refugee and migrant
communities living in Goulburn valley
Victoria in their access and utilisation of
end-of-life care services*

Charlotte Nutting (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Heidi Probst (P),
Christine Bigby (C), Julie Skillbeck (C),
Evelien Spelten (C)

*Living With and Beyond Cancer:
The Experience of Patients with an
Intellectual Disability*

**Susan O'Neill
(Industry PhD Candidate –
Murray PHN)**

Supervision team: Evelien Spelten
(P); Stephen Begg (C), Nerida Hyett
(E) Australia: Investigation of the
Current Issues Around ENT Care, and
Development, Implementation, and
Evaluation of Health Interventions.
*Optimising Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)
Care in Rural*

George Petrou (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Mark McEvoy (P);
Stephen Begg (C); Angela Crombie (C)
*Examining the Impact of the COVID-19
Pandemic on the Health and Well-Being of
Rural and Regional Healthcare Workers*

Nicole Preston (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Carol McKinstry (P),
Nerida Hyett (E)
*Policy to People, Exploring the Social
Inclusion Landscape: An Occupational
Therapy Perspective*

**Vatsna Rathore
(PhD Candidate)**

Supervision team: Santosh
Tadakamadla (P), Newell Johnson (E),
Amy Mitchell (E), Alina Morawska (E)
*Evaluating the Efficacy of Healthy Habits
Triple P for Promoting Oral Health of
Young Australian Children: A Randomised
Controlled Trial*

**Tammy Rendina
(PhD Candidate)**

Supervision team: Carol McKinstry (P),
Brad Hodge (C)
*To explore the role of hope and its impact
on the student engagement and attrition
for first year health students*

Stephanie Resciniti (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: George Moschonis
(P), Jessica Biesiekierski (C), Bircan
Erbas (C), Joanna McMillan (C)
*Effects of lactobacillus strains probiotic
supplement on bone metabolism and
bone mass in Australian early post-
menopausal women. Randomised,
placebo-controlled intervention study*

**Tejashree Shashank Kangutkar
(PhD Candidate)**

Supervision team: Hanny Calache (P),
Mark Gussy (C), Ron Knevel (C)

*Oral health, quality of life and related
interventions in people who use
addictive drugs*

Anton Sklavos (MPhil Candidate)

Supervision team: Kai Lee (P),
Mohd Masood (C)

*Orofacial Infection of Odontogenic
Origin Requiring Surgical Management
in a Metropolitan and Regional Tertiary
Hospital in Victoria: Comparison of
Service Provision and Healthcare Cost*

Cathryn Street

(Professional Doctorate Candidate)

Supervision team: Jane Mills (P),
Lisa Hanson (C)

*The impact of notification on the
personal and professional lives of
nurses and midwives*

Julia Tanase (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Jennifer Oates (P),
David Azul (C), Sabine Corsten (E)

*Identity, Voice, and Wellbeing: Insights
from Gender Diverse Individuals and
Speech Language Therapists*

Melanie Tassos (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Lindsay Carey (P),
Brad Hodge (C)

*Positive pedagogy in death, dying and
grief: Enhancing tertiary education*

Hiu Tat Chan (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Steve Petrovski (P),
Ashley Franks (C), Joseph Tucci (C)
*Bacterial Vaginosis – New Paradigms
through Bacteriophage, Evolution
and Ecology*

Prabhakar Veginadu

(PhD Candidate - submitted)

Supervision team: Mohd Masood (P);
Hanny Calache (C); Mark Gussy (C)
*Understanding the Factors Influencing
Access to Public Dental Services for
Refugees in Victoria*

POSTGRADUATE COMPLETIONS SINCE PREVIOUS REPORT

Tara White

(Professional Doctorate Candidate)

Supervision team: Fiona Garner (P),
Mishel McMahon (C)

Racism in the Workplace

Tara Williams (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Evelien Spelten (P),
Ali Lakhani (C)

*The Health Impacts of Loneliness and
Social Isolation in Rural Populations*

Matthew Woliansky (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Kai Lee (P), Santosh
Tadakamadla (C)

*Alcohol Support in Patients Following
Alcohol-related Facial Trauma*

Akihiro Yorita (PhD Candidate)

Supervision team: Simon Egerton (P),
Carina Chan (C), Rebecca Flower (C),
Naoyuki Kubota (E)

*Robotic Companions: a Stress Management
System for Medical Practitioners*

Tamsin Farrugia

(Industry PhD Candidate with Rare Cancers Australia (RCA))

Supervision team: Evelien Spelten
(P), Carlene Wilson (C), Christine
Cockburn (RCA) (E), Saskia Duijts (IKNL
Netherlands) (E)

*SuPportive cAre for rare Cancer Patients
(SPARC): Developing and evaluating
supportive care for (urban and rural) people
living with a rare cancer in Australia*

POSTGRADUATE COMPLETIONS SINCE PREVIOUS REPORT

John Baker, PhD

Supervision team: Stephen
Begg (P), Mohd Masood (C);
Muhammad Rahman (C);
Lukar Thornton (E)
*Limited Regulatory Oversight of
Tobacco Retailers in an Already
Disadvantaged Community:
Lessons from Regional Victoria*

Stephen Barrett, PhD

Supervision team: Michael
Kingsley (P), Stephen Begg (C)
*The Effects of Behaviour Change
Interventions on Physical Activity
and Health-Related Outcomes in
Ambulatory Secondary
Care Patients*

Melissa Deacon-Crouch, PhD

Supervision team: Joseph Tucci
(P), Stephen Begg (C), Isabelle
Skinner (C), Timothy Skinner (C)
*How do medications fit into the
lifestyles of Indigenous people,
with an emphasis on the efficacy
of smoking cessation therapy in
this population?*

Ruth Hardman, PhD

(Industry PhD – Sunraysia Community Health Services)

Supervision team: Evelien Spelten
(P), Stephen Begg (C) *Social
determinants of self-management
capacity*

Graham Munro, PhD

Supervision team: Stephen Begg
(P), Peter O'Meara (E) *Paramedic
Transition into an Academic Role
in Universities: Issues Related to
Paramedic Clinicians Transitioning
into Academic Roles in Universities
in Australia and New Zealand*

Brodie Thomas, PhD

Supervision team: Evelien Spelten
(P), Margit Edvardsson (C), Peter
O'Meara (E)
*Interventions for workplace violence
in emergency healthcare: new
directions for persistent problems*



COLLABORATORS AND PARTNERS

Centre researchers have extensive collaborative links with external organisations, industry partners and the wider community. These include (but are not limited to) the following:

CURRENT HEALTH SERVICE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Albury Wodonga Health	Castlemaine District Community Health	Northern District Community Health Services
Alice Springs Hospital	City of Greater Bendigo	Queensland Health
Australian Government Department of Health	Department of Fairness, Families and Housing	Rochester and Elmore District Health Service
Barwon Health	Echuca Regional Health	Sunraysia Community Health Services
Benalla Health	Gannawarra City Council	Swan Hill District Health
Bendigo Bank	Heathcote Health	Victorian Department of Health
Bendigo Community Health	Kyabram Health	West Wimmera Health Service
Bendigo Health – Aboriginal Services, Diversity & Health Promotion Division	Loddon Campaspe Primary Care Partnership	Western Alliance
Bendigo Health – Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit	Mildura Rural City Council	Western PHN
	Murray PHN	

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY AND INSTITUTES PARTNERS

Australian Dental Association	Flinders University	University of New South Wales
Central Queensland University	Hunter Medical Research Institute	University of Newcastle
Deakin University	James Cook University	University of Queensland
Dental Health Services Victoria	National Ageing Research Centre	University of Sydney
Dental Health Tasmania	Olivia Newton John Cancer Centre	University of Tasmania
Diabetes Victoria	Sax Institute	University of Western Australia
Edith Cowan university	University of Adelaide	Western Sydney University

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS/COLLABORATORS

IKNL The Netherlands	McMaster University	University of Auckland
Kings College London	NHS UK	University of Bangor
Lincoln University Centre for Global Rural Health	NIVEL	University of New York
Manchester University	Turku University Finland	University of Sheffield
	University College London	

GRANT ACTIVITY

Name of funder	Grant/Tender title	Amount	Awarded Y/N/R
MRFF	Preventive and Public Health Research Initiative- Consumer Led Initiative Stream 1	\$600,000	R
MRFF	Preventive and Public Health Research Initiative- Consumer Led Initiative Stream 2	\$1,000,000	R
La Trobe University	Large Collaborations Grant Scheme	\$100,000	N
HCF Research Foundation	Translational Grant Scheme	\$250,000	R
NHMRC	The Targeted Call for Research (TCR): Loneliness, social isolation and chronic disease management	\$1,527,000	R
Dept of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund: Flooding in LMR	\$393,184	R
Dept of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund: Developing the Rural Health Consumer Panel	\$240,000	R
LTU ABC	Exploring the academic teaching of future health professionals to support the needs of people with intellectual disability.	\$20,035	N
Bendigo Health/Loddon Mallee Health Network Virtual Care Office	Telehealth Industry PhD	\$45,000	Y
MRFF	iBREAST: Integrated Breast Cancer Survivorship Interventions in Primary Care	\$1,491,111	R
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation	Innovation Sprint in the Mallee region	\$5,000	R
NSW Government	Regional Youth Investment Program	\$300,000	R
NHMRC	Promoting healthy behaviours in early childhood through an integrated approach to prevent dental caries and obesity	\$1,576,390	N
NHMRC	A novel approach to confirm the causal effect of chronic periodontitis on inflammatory bowel disease	\$287,255	N
Australian Dental Research Foundation	The impact of periodontal treatment on the gut expression of Treg/Th17 axis. A study in rats with DSS-induced colitis	\$10,000	R
MRFF	Models of Care to Improve the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Acute Care (University of Sydney Lead)	\$2,818,124	Y

Y=Yes, N=No , R=Under review

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee of the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research provides strategic advice on the Centre's vision and agenda. The group met in February and July of 2022. The February meeting focussed on the importance of returning more activities to a face-to-face format and building awareness around what the Centre is doing. The meeting in February also acknowledged a change of hands where Associate Professor Steve Begg, as the new Director, offered thanks to outgoing acting Director, Professor Jane Mills. The July meeting paid respect to outgoing member Professor Emerita Amanda Kenny and welcomed incoming Chair Professor Leigh Kinsman who was set to begin in October and who provided a brief overview of his research and how it would align with the Centre's strategic vision. We also welcomed Associate Professor Leesa Hooker and Dr Megan Fisher as important new advisory committee members.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr Neil Marshman is Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research. Dr Marshman obtained a PhD in soil microbiology from the University of New South Wales. His career spanned forty years in the mining and electricity sectors where he worked in environmental, health and safety roles in Australia, Papua New Guinea, the United Kingdom and India. Dr Marshman, together with his brothers and mother, became a trustee of the VV Marshman Charitable Trust in 2006 and continues to promote the rural health improvement originally envisaged by the Trust. He participates in several postgraduate and early career mentoring programs and sits on two sub-committees of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand, and the Melbourne University Office of Environmental Programs Community and Industry Advisory Board.

Associate Professor Steve Begg is the Director of the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research. He is one of Australia's most experienced academics in the field of population health assessment and burden of disease analysis, a field he helped introduce to Australia in the 1990s and to which he has contributed through positions at Harvard University and the World Health Organization. He is a trained epidemiologist with over 25 years' experience in international research and consultancy and has led and managed teams in both academia and the public sector. Associate Professor Begg manages a diverse industry-driven research portfolio with a focus on rural and Indigenous health inequalities and health system strengthening.

Professor Leigh Kinsman is an outstanding nurse academic specialising in reducing the unacceptable gap in health outcomes between rural and metropolitan Australians. Leigh leads teams from academic, industry and consumer backgrounds to conduct priority research that is translated into real change for rural health services and communities. Leigh's work is industry-informed and consumer-driven and includes partnerships with the Royal Flying Doctor Society, Tasmanian Health Services, Victorian Government, Saskatchewan Health Quality Council and the NSW Mental Health Commission. Leigh has secured NHMRC, MRFF and international funding to test innovations to improve access to care for rural communities for diverse conditions such as brain haemorrhage and chronic lung disease, and for end-of-life care.

Associate Professor Leesa Hooker is a rural nurse/midwife and is currently Associate Dean Research and Industry Engagement at the La Trobe Rural Health School. She is a Principal Research Fellow at the Judith Lumley Centre, leading research streams on Preventing and Reducing Violence against Women and Children and Child, Family and Community Health. She has established expertise in the epidemiology of family violence, women's mental health, sexual and reproductive health and parenting. Her research includes intervention trials, observation studies and systematic reviews with a focus on improving maternal and child health outcomes, and the healthcare service response to abused women and children.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr Megan Fisher is the La Trobe University Pro Vice-Chancellor. In her previous role as Director of Research, Innovation and Commercial Engagement at the University of Melbourne, Dr Fisher led a large team of business development, intellectual property and commercialisation professionals responsible for partnering with university stakeholders, to support industry engagement and increase industry related revenue. She has held previous roles as Director of Business Development and Commercialisation within the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and as Vice President of Research and Development for an ASX and NASDAQ listed Australian biotechnology company. Dr Fisher has a PhD in Organic Chemistry and a Bachelor of Science (First Class Honours) from the University of Sydney, as well as qualifications in business and executive management.

Emeritus Professor Stephen Duckett is an Honorary Enterprise Professor at the University of Melbourne. He was previously the director of the Health Program at the Grattan Institute, an independent think tank dedicated to developing high quality public policy for Australia's future. He has a reputation for creativity, evidence-based innovation and reform in areas ranging from the introduction of activity-based funding for hospitals to new systems of accountability for the safety of hospital care. From 1996-2006 he was Dean of the then Faculty of Health Sciences at La Trobe University, and a Pro-Vice-Chancellor for much of that period. He was appointed an Emeritus Professor of the University in 2014. An economist, he is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.

Adjunct Professor Catherine Lees is the Director of Integrated Projects and Partnerships, Murray PHN. Dr Lees completed her PhD in tumour immunology at Victoria University. She worked in cancer education at the Cancer Council Victoria before moving to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners to manage the College's national research, grants, and ethics program. In 2004, Dr Lees joined the Ethics and Research Department at the Royal Children's Hospital, where she remained for 12 years before moving to regional Victoria to pursue a career in rural and regional workforce development. Dr Lees is the acting Executive Director for Human Resources at Echuca Regional Health and currently completing an MBA.

Professor Toby Wilkinson is the fellow for Development at Clare College, University of Cambridge. Before re-joining the College in 2022 he held a series of senior leadership roles in higher education: inaugural Director of International Strategy at the University of Cambridge, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Egyptology at the University of Lincoln, and Vice-Chancellor and Professor of History at the Fiji National University. Toby was previously a Fellow of Clare from 2003 to 2017 and a Bye-Fellow from 2018 to 2022. He is an Egyptologist and the prize winning author of 13 books which have been translated into 12 languages.

Mr Stephen May is the Chief Advancement Officer of Alumni and Advancement at La Trobe University. He is a highly successful senior advancement executive with extensive experience in fundraising, alumni relations, strategic marketing, financial management and business development. He has built significant expertise and experience in international markets by growing engagement with international alumni, students and their families.

Mrs Marie Aitken is a member of the Western Victoria PHN (Primary Health Network) Board and was previously a member of the Rural Northwest Health Board. Marie has a wealth of experience working professionally with individuals and as a volunteer with various community groups. She is keenly aware of the disparities that exist between the health outcomes of rural people when compared to city people and believes that rurally focused research is central to finding urgent solutions to these health inequities.

Dr Virginia Dickson-Swift is the postdoctoral research fellow at the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research at La Trobe University. She is a public health researcher with over 20 years' experience working in rural communities. Dr Dickson-Swift specialises in public health approaches to health and wellbeing challenges, oral health, qualitative research methodologies, sensitive research, ethics and working with vulnerable rural communities to solve local health issues.

3IN1 TOWARD A HEALTHY TOWN

3in1 Toward a Healthy Town has, like so many community-based projects, faced significant challenges as it attempts to deliver locally based activities designed to mobilise and empower Wimmera and southern Mallee citizens to address the three regional priorities of physical activity, healthy eating, and social connection. Of course, these challenges are also impacting on the West Wimmera Health Service and La Trobe University partnership project, generously funded by the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research, that aims to evaluate the 3in1 program. 3in1 was originally designed to be a series of steps towards self-efficacy and self-determination in health behaviours and decision-making for community members, building on, but exceeding, more traditional models of clinician-led activity groups. In itself, this posed challenges to effective and insightful evaluation, as the measures required extend beyond the scope for current validated, and thus comparable, benchmarks and processes.

After careful consultation and deliberation, the partnership has elected to revise the theoretical framework for the evaluation process to better capture and describe the unique elements of this project. This revision has now been applied. Delays in the implementation of 3in1 and significant changes to patterns of community behaviour (including elements such as: reduced social activity, reduced volunteerism, individual self-protective measures, and/or greater autonomy developed during Covid isolation periods), coupled with COVID-hesitancy to restart active participation in group activities are variables that must now be accounted for as we enact a Realist Evaluation Framework. These community-based changes are confounding, but not insuperable, barriers. An unintended outcome of this evaluation may be that we capture additional data that will be instructive for many health and community services struggling to re-structure pre-COVID program design within a COVID endemic pattern of community behaviour.

THE HEPATITIS C MICRO ELIMINATION

The Hepatitis C Micro Elimination in Mildura project seeks to highlight the need for a new model of care, to markedly increase treatment uptake and achieve elimination of Hepatitis C viral infections (HCV) in a relatively isolated regional community. MRCC, as the lead agency, will work with consortium stakeholders to use a 4-stage approach to identify, counsel, treat and follow up, using a coordinated and collaborative health model, to reduce the prevalence and spread of HCV and increase testing rates for HCV throughout the Murray PHN region. The \$50,000 grant funding will assist to cover the employment and labour cost 'gaps' associated with the employment of a nurse coordinator (0.5 FTE) to

assist general practitioner clinics to identify, contact, test and treat community members with Hepatitis C. To date, the project has unfortunately experienced a number of delays attributed to the availability of key Project Control Group members and sourcing of additional funding. The project has however successfully secured a \$100,000 cash donation from the Mildura Base Public Hospital Foundation with these funds planned to provide additional resources for participation and engagement during the first 12-month period or alternatively to extend the employment of the nurse for the second 12-month period.



CULTIVATE FARMS

Cultivate Farms supports farmers to 'age on farm' and stay a part of their farm's ongoing success – a strategy they feel will improve Australian farmers' potential for physical, social, and mental health and wellbeing. As well as providing an extensive communication network through social media, newsletters and a website, Cultivate Farms has designed an accelerator program for next-generation farmers. CEO of Cultivate Farms, Sam Marwood, said the aim of the Ageing on Farm Research Project is to inform and understand the barriers to farming transition for aspiring farmers and farmers considering ageing on farm.

"Our work is focused on enabling farmers to realise their farming vision and understand potential health and wellbeing impacts of farm transition, whether a retiring or next-generation farmer," Mr. Marwood said.

Resourced by the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research partnership fund Cultivate Farms is asking the question, 'How can retirement-aged farmers age on farm, which includes transitioning ownership to next-generation farmers?'

Partnering with researchers from John Richards Centre at La Trobe University, ten farmers from around Australia have participated in a series of interviews to understand the complex barriers that farmers approaching retirement age to transition their farm. The research project aims to understand retirement-aged farmers' needs to age in place, maintain their health and well-being and stay active and productive in their rural communities. Research findings of the unique Ageing on Farm research project are anticipated mid-2023.

CARE FOR COMPLEXITY IN COMMUNITY HEALTH

Care for Complexity in Community health (the 3C trial) is a care coordination project for people with multiple chronic health conditions. People are often overwhelmed by health conditions especially if they are also experiencing poverty or low social support and this can lead to disengagement with health care. The project is supported by the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research and Sunraysia Community Health Services in Mildura. It involves connecting people who have complex health issues and social vulnerability with nurse or allied health care coordinators. The co-ordinators use structured assessment tools to work with their clients in identifying their priorities and the barriers to managing their health. Care co-ordinators are assisted by regular supervision, case conferencing and resource documents which have been developed specifically for the trial.

Currently we have three care coordinators working with 24 clients. The care coordinators perform a wide variety of roles which may include health coaching for diet, exercise or mental health, or onward referrals. By focussing on the clients' priorities and barriers, they have also been involved in tasks such as locating affordable and timely medical specialists, negotiating housing maintenance issues, providing food security resources, and linking clients and carers to social support networks. We are collecting qualitative and quantitative data from both clients and care coordinators which will enable us to evaluate the effectiveness and sustainability of this approach. We expect data evaluation to commence in the middle of 2023.

The project has included training for both the care coordinators and across the wider organisation. The development of a document providing local resources for health literacy, referral pathways and local champions has been useful for both the care coordinators and the wider organisation. To complement the trial, the organisation has also commenced formal screening for social determinants of health for all clients, with the 3C trial acting as an onward referral pathway for vulnerable individuals.



ORATION

The 2022 VVM oration was held on July 14th, 2022, as part of the annual La Trobe Rural Health School Conference. This year we were very excited to welcome the National Rural Health Commissioner Professor Ruth Stewart to the Bendigo campus to provide the oration. Ruth delivered an inspiring and thought-provoking speech focused on current policy directions to improve rural health outcomes. She reflected on her participation in the Ngayubar Gadan Summit held in Cairns on June 30th and July 1st where representatives from peak rural health groups came together to discuss the role of multidisciplinary rural health teams and the policy developments that would be needed to enable them. Ruth outlined some of the key documents that are being used

to drive rural health workforce reform including Australia's Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan 2022–2032, the National Medical Workforce Strategy 2021–2031, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan 2021–2031 and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2021–2031. Her passion for improving rural health outcomes through continued workforce policy reform will guide the future development of a rural health workforce stream within the VVMCRHR. We look forward to working with Ruth as she continues her work to improve rural health policies and ensure there remains a strong focus on the health needs of rural communities.



National Rural Health Commissioner Professor Ruth Stewart during her oration in Bendigo

IN THE COMMUNITY

IN THE MEDIA

DATE	MEDIA	RESEARCH TOPIC	RESEARCHER
4th May	Article in Shepparton News	Community feedback sought on poor regional health outcomes	A/Prof. Evelien Spelten
4th May	Article in Wangaratta Chronicle	Public input sought for new public health panel	A/Prof. Evelien Spelten
5th May	Article in Shepparton News	Have a say on a rural health panel	A/Prof. Evelien Spelten
5th May	Article in Border Mail	La Trobe University seeks input for community driven health panel	A/Prof. Evelien Spelten
6th May	Radio interview on ABC Ballarat	Rural Health Consumer Panel	A/Prof. Evelien Spelten
27th June	Radio interview on Triple M Bendigo	Innovation Sprint	Dr Brad Hodge
28th June	Radio interview on ABC Goulburn Murray	Innovation Sprint	Dr Brad Hodge
28th June	Article in The Border Mail	Innovation Sprint	Dr Brad Hodge
28th July	Radio interview with Pip Mooney on Triple M Bendigo	Water Fluoridation and Dental Health Week	Dr Virginia Dickson-Swift
29th July	Radio interview with Fiona Parker on ABC Central Vic	Water Fluoridation and Dental Health Week	Dr Virginia Dickson-Swift
29th July	Radio interview on ABC Seymour	Water Fluoridation and Dental Health Week	Dr Virginia Dickson-Swift
1st August	Radio interview with Sarah Moon on ABC Wodonga	Water Fluoridation and Dental Health Week	Dr Virginia Dickson-Swift
2nd August	Radio interview with Tom English on 3SH Swan Hill	Water Fluoridation and Dental Health Week	Dr Virginia Dickson-Swift
5th August	Article in the Mildura Weekly	Gums, teeth in spotlight	A/Prof. Santosh Tadakamadla
8th August	Website – The Conversation	Curious kids: what is inside teeth?	A/Prof. Santosh Tadakamadla
10th August	Article in The Adviser	Dental week brings advice to smile	A/Prof. Santosh Tadakamadla
7th November	Article in Mirage	Students take on mental health challenge	Dr Brad Hodge
7th November	Article in La Trobe News online	Students take on mental health challenge	Dr Brad Hodge
8th November	Article in the Bendigo Advertiser	Coalition dental vouchers welcome but won't fix the system, expert says	A/Prof. Santosh Tadakamadla
15th November	Article in the Bendigo Advertiser	La Trobe University students create pop-up mental health hub	Dr Brad Hodge

CONFERENCES

CONFERENCE	DATE	PLACE	TYPE OF PRESENTATION	PRESENTATION TITLE AND AUTHORS
La Trobe Rural Health School Conference	14th – 15th July	La Trobe, Bendigo	Face-to-face Oral	Spelten, E., Dickson-Swift, V., Dangerfield, F. & Begg, S. (2022) <i>Connecting with Consumers: the first Australian Rural Health Panel</i>
La Trobe Rural Health School Conference	14th – 15th July	La Trobe, Bendigo	Face-to-face Oral	Dickson-Swift, V. Spelten, E. Blackberry, I. Wilson, C. Yue, E. Adams, J. (2022) <i>Breast screening in older Australian women: Key motivations and behaviours</i>
La Trobe Rural Health School Conference: New Frontiers	14th – 15th July	La Trobe, Bendigo	Face-to-face Poster	Dickson-Swift, V., Crocombe, L, Bettiol, S. <i>Access to community water fluoridation in rural Victoria: It depends where you live</i>
National Rural Health Alliance Conference	2nd – 4th August	Brisbane Convention Centre	Face-to-face Oral	Dickson-Swift, V. Crocombe, L, Bettiol, S. (2022) <i>Community water fluoridation in rural Victoria: Well, it depends where you live!</i>
National Rural Health Alliance Conference	2nd – 4th August	Brisbane Convention Centre	Face-to-face Oral	Spelten, E., Dickson-Swift, V., Dangerfield, F. & Begg, S (2022) <i>Connecting with consumers: the first Australian Rural Health Consumer Panel</i>
International Association for Dental Research (IADR/ANZ)	23rd – 26th September	Melbourne University	Face-to-face Oral	Dickson-Swift, V. Crocombe, L, Bettiol, S. (2022) <i>Community water fluoridation in rural Victoria: Well, it depends where you live!</i>
International Association for Dental Research (IADR/ANZ)	23rd – 26th September	Melbourne University	Face-to-face Oral	Bracksley-O’Grady, S, Anderson, K, Dickson-Swift, V, Masood, M. <i>Curriculum mapping of health promotion competencies in dental and oral health training programmes in Australia</i>
International Association for Dental Research (IADR/ANZ)	23rd – 26th September	Melbourne University	Face-to-face Oral	Azard, D., Dickson-Swift, V., Crocombe, L., <i>Child oral health knowledge and professional practice of General Practitioners: a scoping review</i>
Western Alliance Research Symposium	21st – 22nd November	Dunkeld	Face-to-face Oral	Spelten, E., Dickson-Swift, V., Dangerfield, F. & Begg, S (2022) <i>Connecting with consumers: the first Australian Rural Health Consumer Panel</i>
National Rural Health Conference	2nd – 4th August	Brisbane Convention Centre	Face-to-face Oral	McKinstry, C., Quilliam, C. & Crawford, N. (2022) <i>Availability of Australian Health Courses Outside Metropolitan Locations</i>

IN THE COMMUNITY

CONFERENCE	DATE	PLACE	TYPE OF PRESENTATION	PRESENTATION TITLE AND AUTHORS
National Rural Health Conference	2nd – 4th August	Brisbane Convention Centre	Face-to-face Oral	Quilliam, C., McKinstry, C. & Crawford, N. (2022) <i>Rural, mature-aged nursing and allied health student supports: a novel workforce approach</i>
WFOT Congress	28th – 31st August	Paris	Face-to-face Oral	McKinstry, C., Gustaffson, L., Brown, T. & Poulsen, A. (2022) <i>Characteristics of the Australian occupational theory academic workforce</i>
SARRAH Conference	15th – 16th November		Face-to-face Oral	Gardner, M., McKinstry, C. & Murray, F. (2022) <i>Strengthening and supporting allied health by working towards a common approach to clinical supervision</i>
56th Japanese Occupational Therapy Congress & Expo	2nd September		Virtual Oral	McKinstry, C. (2022) <i>Occupational therapy in Australia: Current status and issues</i>
Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch Annual Convention	20th August	Melbourne	Face-to-face Oral	Tadakamadla, S. (2022) <i>Improving oral health and well-being of rural Victorians through effective training and development of rural oral health workforce</i>
Child Oral Health Symposium/IADR ANZ Conference	28th September	Melbourne	Face-to-face Oral	Tadakamadla, S. (2022) <i>Factors affecting morning and night toothbrushing routines in a sample of Australian pre-school children</i>
4th International Congress	9th September	University of Bari	Virtual Oral	Tadakamadla, S. (2022) <i>Clinical efficacy of a new Cetylpyridinium chloride- Hyaluronic acid-based mouth rinse for long-term oral disease protection</i>
Clinical RCB Conference	2nd – 3rd June	Hunter Valley	Face-to-face Oral	Kinsman, L. (2022) <i>Conference convenor</i>
Graduate Research Conference	21st February	Queen's University, Ontario	Virtual Oral	Kinsman, L. (2022) <i>Complexities in health services research</i>
Northern Health Research Week Medical Grand Round	13th October	Online	Virtual Oral	Kinsman, L. (2022) <i>From emergency department to the shed: social determinants in rural health</i>

AWARDS

NAME	AWARD	DESCRIPTION
Professor Evelien Spelten	Industry and Engagement Award (LRHS)	Multidimensional Meanings of Water for the Albury Wodonga Community Team
Dr Heather Downey	Industry and Engagement Award (LRHS)	Multidimensional Meanings of Water for the Albury Wodonga Community Team
Corinna Modderman	Research Award (LRHS)	Aboriginal Youth Mentoring: A Pathway to Leadership
Mishel McMahon	Research Award (LRHS)	Aboriginal Youth Mentoring: A Pathway to Leadership
Dr Jyothi Tadakamadla	Investigator Award	International Association for Dental Research (IADR)
Dr Stephen Barrett and A/ Professor Stephen Begg	Winner of the Leading Health Promotion Research Award category, 2022 Vic Health Awards	Making every consultation count: integrating preventive health into routine hospital care is a cost-effective method to improve physical and mental health outcomes



Mishel McMahon and Corinna Modderman receiving a Research Award (LRHS) for Aboriginal Youth Mentoring: A pathway to Leadership



IADR Conference from left to right: Dr Santosh Tadakamadla (Discipline Lead, Dentistry), Dr Virginia Dickson-Swift (VVM Research Fellow), Stacey Bracksley-O'Grady (PhD student), Tejashree Kangutkar (PhD student), Dalya Alzard (Masters student)



A VVM Project won the Leading Health Promotion Research Award category of the 2022 Vic Health Awards.

"Research changes lives. This category recognises a Victorian researcher/team that has conducted invaluable health promotion research, contributing significantly to our knowledge about what works to prevent chronic disease and improve health and wellbeing of Victorians."

- Agatonovic-Kustrin, S., Gegechkori, V., Morton, D. W., **Tucci, J.**, Mohammed, E. U., & Ku, H. (2022). The bioprofiling of antibacterials in olive leaf extracts via thin layer chromatography-effect directed analysis (TLC-EDA). *Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis*, 219, 114916.
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