DIU News Digest
15 December 2025

Austin HEALTH

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Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the DIU News Digest.

It's been a busy few weeks since we last touched base, with lots of activity in the research space at Austin Health.

We've had a wrap on ResearchFest 2025 with a slightly different approach this year resulting in bumper attendances and a broader appeal, highlighting our Austin Health champions. We'd love to know what you thought about this year's event – the good, the bad, the ugly. Please give us ten minutes of your time to fill out our feedback survey and help us plan for ResearchFest 2026. More details below.

In other news for the research community, we're excited to announce the incoming Clinical Director of Research is Professor Jason Trubiano. A very warm welcome to Jason who will be starting with the team on 12 January 2026. Read more about his credentials in the article below. This new appointment signals the end of Professor Paul Johnson's rein as Interim Clinical Director of Research. We were lucky to have Paul step into the role (for the second time!) to help guide the team whilst the hunt for a new director took place. A big thanks to him for his support and encouragement over this time, especially as an active participant in ResearchFest.

The DIU team has had some further comings and goings with our resident Scotsman Kevin Myers moving on to a new role at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. We wish him all the best and thank him for his good humour and helpful approach.

As for the comings – some of you will remember Jac Kee Low, Ethics, Integrity & Governance Advisor. We're thrilled she has returned from parental leave so you'll be sure

to see her name pop up as she transitions back into work. We've also created a new role to help you more broadly in your research matters and are excited to introduce Samantha Somers who has joined us as Principal Advisor – Research Contracts and Partnerships. Sam brings a wealth of knowledge in research contracting and sponsorships, most recently at Peter Mac. Find out more about her experience below.

In office news, we continue to strive for the best ways to respond to your queries in a timely and efficient manner. To give us the space and capacity to review your cases with the care and attention they deserve, we will now be available to take phone calls on (03) 9496 4090 from Monday – Thursday between 10am - 2pm. Outside of these hours, you can reach us by email (research@austin.org.au) or submit on online query through Research Architect. Thank you for your understanding.

And lastly, as we take a break from HREC reviews until February, I'd like to thank you all for your support, patience and professionalism throughout the year. It's been one of change and transition as we've worked to further embed Research Architect into our systems and hone our policies and processes to harness best practice. We'll continue to fine tune our templates and streamline our systems with one objective in mind: to support you in providing best patient care through research.

Warm regards,
Heidi

Heidi Gaulke
Director, Operations
Discovery & Innovation Unit
Austin Health

ResearchFest 2025: Celebrating research in the age of AI

17 November 2025

After two bumper weeks of engaging, challenging presentations, ResearchFest has wrapped up and sent local researchers on their way with lots of food for thought.

The Melbourne Brain Centre played host to a number of in-person and hybrid sessions as we explored the timely theme of *Data to Decisions: Research in the Age of AI.* Perceptions were challenged, minds were broadened and questions pondered as audience members from across the Austin Health research ecosystem gathered to celebrate and critique what we're currently doing in the research space – and what we could be doing better.

Starting with a bang

The program kicked off on Wednesday 5 November with a thought provoking and future facing keynote by **A/Prof Fiona Brownfoot** and **Dr Deb Karmakar** who tackled the topic *Humans, Machines and the Future of Care: Research in the Age of AI.* It was a compelling look at how emerging technologies are reshaping medicine and research, with the pair exemplifying a powerful blend of clinical expertise, scientific rigour and technological

innovation. Their work is transforming how we diagnose, monitor and treat women's health conditions - and this keynote set the tone for the entire ResearchFest program.

Homegrown heroes

Next on the agenda was the *AI in Action at Austin Health panel* hosted by Interim Clinical Director, Discovery & Innovation Unit, **Prof Paul Johnson** on Thursday 6 November. His Star Wars-infused introduction helped set the scene for an insightful discussion between panellists **Alan Pritchard**, Director IT Services, **A/Prof Natasha Holmes**, Infectious Diseases Physician and Acting Director (DARE), **Prof David Berlowitz**, Professor of Physiotherapy (University of Melbourne) and Research Fellow (IBAS) and **Mozhdeh Dehghani**, Digital Resources Librarian.

The panel explored how artificial intelligence is reshaping healthcare, from predictive analytics to natural language processing. Speakers highlighted that AI is not replacing clinicians but acting as a powerful assistant – helping predict risks like hospital readmissions and recognising conditions such as delirium through electronic notes. A recurring theme was the need for robust governance, ethical use, and transparency, alongside building AI literacy across the organisation. The big takeaway? AI offers enormous potential, but success depends on collaboration, data security, and keeping humans firmly in the loop.

From innovation to impact

Quality Improvement was up next with five outstanding projects showcasing how Austin Health teams are driving innovation to improve patient care. **Katherine Cherry** presented an interdisciplinary approach to reducing inpatient falls through team-based strategies and patient engagement. L**aura Bengisano** was joined by **Bina Shrestha** and **Branka Djordjic** who introduced a sensory garden and cooking program at the Secure Extended Care Unit, enhancing recovery through hands-on, therapeutic activities. **Ellen Bradbury** and **Liam Wilson** shared their emergency department initiative to improve ambulance offload times, achieving a dramatic rise in timely patient transfers. **Caroline Chao** highlighted Virtual VRSS, a digital model enabling home-based ventilation sleep studies for patients with chronic respiratory failure, while **Esti Adithama** outlined a new plant-based meal protocol she's been working on with **Jessica Hamilton** that expands access to eating disorder treatment.

After a close audience vote, the winner was Ellen and Liam's Emergency Department ambulance offload project, recognised for its significant impact on patient flow and care outcomes.

A lasting legacy

Later that day, we honoured the late **Professor Rinaldo Bellomo** in an emotional ResearchFest tribute, celebrating his profound impact as a clinician, researcher, and mentor. **Professor Carol Hodgson** led us through a conversation with three colleagues who each knew Rinaldo through a different lens: **Prof Sue Berney**, **A/Prof Glenn Eastwood**, and **Prof Elif Ekinci**. The panel shared stories of his intellect, generosity, and unwavering focus on patient care, best summarised as "intellect without ego, humour

without limit, and a relentless drive for better care." His family reflected on his spirit of exploration, quoting his favourite Star Trek mantra: *"to boldly go where no one has gone before"* and we heard from **A/Prof Ary Serpa Neto** via video about the future of critical care at Austin Health. The session concluded with Austin Health CEO **Jodie Geissler**'s announcement of the Rinaldo Bellomo Fellowship, ensuring his legacy of curiosity and collaboration continues to inspire future generations.

An outside perspective

Week two of ResearchFest focused on Austin Health's craft groups with the Physiotherapy Research Symposium welcoming **Prof Kim Delbaere** to present the Sue Berney Lecture. Prof Delbaere discussed her *Standing Tall* project and how accessible digital innovation has helped her and her team reimagine falls prevention.

Collaboration is key

Wednesday 12 November kept audiences busy with the Consumer Partnership Awards in the morning, celebrating 11 entries that focused on improving the patient experience at Austin Health. The online webinar featured video testimonials from consumers and awarded the winning project to Team 'Patient Portal – Best thing since Penicillin' project.

Congratulations to **Kate Reimers**, **Sally Mitchell, Ummy Amin, Emily Joules, Vanessa Griffiths, Cheree Porter** together with consumer partners for their collaborative approach to improved patient communications.

Tomorrow's leaders today

Hosted by **Prof Mark Howard**, ResearchFest Grand Rounds celebrated those carving a name for themselves within the Austin Health research community - and beyond. Four early career researchers shared their recent work in ten minute presentations, with questions from the audience. Thanks to the Austin Medical Research Foundation, Dr Chee Loong (Dominic) Chow was crowned the Young Investigator of the Year for his project "Conduction System Pacing – novel approach to pacemaker" and awarded a prize valued at $2,500 to go towards travel and professional development expenses. Congratulations to our finalists **Elise Mitri, Dr Riva Porwal** and **Dr Morgan Rose** who all impressed with their presentations.

Nurs-led research excellence

Later that day, the focus turned to the Nursing Research and Innovation Symposium with a keynote presentation from **Professor Fiona Newall** of the University of Melbourne. The Nurse-led Research Award was presented to **Kate Schimmelbusch** for her project 'Enhanced recovery after surgery in total joint arthroplasty: Nurses experiences of a pilot model of care.'

From poster to presentation

The ResearchFest activities rounded out with the Allied Health Oral Poster Session on Thursday 13 November with presentations from finalists **Leona Dowman, Bec Jamwal, Nicola Burgess, Belinda Johnston** and **Kate Desneves**. The Allied Health Research Award

went to **Nicola Burgess** for her presentation on *"It's about providing the best service, tailored to what they need": A qualitative study exploring stakeholder perceptions of prehabilition for total hip and knee arthroscopy.*

Well done to all presenters, award winners and session hosts – the energy around the almost two weeks of activities was inspiring and celebratory and we look forward to carrying that enthusiasm into further research-related projects and events over the next year.

Tell us what you think: ResearchFest 2026 survey

3 December 2025

The dust has settled on ResearchFest 2025 with a slightly different approach this year resulting in bumper attendances and a broader appeal, highlighting our Austin Health champions.

So it's time to start thinking about next year!

We'd love to know what you thought about this year's event – the good, the bad, the ugly. What did/didn't you like? What did you think of the theme? The venue? The catering, even?!

Please give us ten minutes of your time to fill out our feedback survey and help us plan for ResearchFest 2026. Your answers can be anonymous (unless you want to make yourself known) and you don't need to answer every question - only a few are required fields.

Even if you didn't attend, you might have some opinions you'd like to share. Send them through!

Help us shape ResearchFest for next year - your input is valuable.

[Take me to the survey](#)

Prof Jason Trubiano announced as new Clinical Director for Research

26 November 2025

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Professor Jason Trubiano as our new Clinical Director for Research. While Jason is known to many of you at Austin Health it is worth highlighting the credentials and experience that he will bring to this role.

Jason is an infectious diseases physician and Professor/Director of Infectious Diseases and Immunology at Austin Health and is also the Head of Infectious Diseases at Melbourne Medical School (University of Melbourne). His career has provided him with a deep understanding of research strategy, connections with major university partners and a passion for supporting early to mid-career multidisciplinary clinician researchers.

Professor Trubiano has demonstrated his research leadership through roles including co-lead of the Drug Allergy Stream at the National Allergy Centre for Excellence, which has provided him with insights into national research strategy and policy, and as Head of the Centre for Antibiotic Allergy and Research, a multidisciplinary research group founded since 2017 that has produced the first international randomised antibiotic allergy control trials that have changed global practice (papers in top 5% of research).

With over 240 journal publications Jason is ranked in the top two per cent of scientists globally (nationally ranked first for drug allergy). He has held and currently holds MRFF and NHMRC competitive research grant schemes, is involved in international reviews of research programs (Te Niwha in New Zealand) and academic programs and has ongoing partnerships with international implementation trials through the Network of Antibiotic Allergy Nations and government with Safer Care Victoria's Check Again Program.

Jason was awarded his PhD from the University of Melbourne in 2017, received a Melbourne Genomics Health Alliance Fellowship in 2017 and was a post doctoral fellow at the National Centre for Infections in Cancer in 2018.

He was the recent recipient of the prestigious Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases 2025 Frank Fenner award and was a finalist for the 2025 Eureka Prize for Emerging Leader in Science.

With the announcement of this appointment, Jason is resigning from the Divisional Medical Director of Medicine and Cancer Services role that he has held since August 2024. Further information about the recruitment process for this role will be shared in due course.

Please join us in congratulating Jason on his appointment and welcoming him to this new role when he commences on Monday 12 January 2026.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and deeply thank Professor Paul Johnson who has been interim Clinical Director for Research over the past few months following the resignation of Professor James Best. Paul remains a strong advocate for research; he will stay in the interim role until Jason commences.

Jodie Geissler
Chief Executive Officer

Cameron Goodyear
Deputy CEO & Chief Operating Officer

CCTC wins 2025 AGITG Excellence in Site Performance Award

26 November 2025

Professor Niall Tebbutt, Director of Medical Oncology at Austin Health and Gastro-Intestinal Principal Investigator (PI) lead, with Meg Donovan-Hayes, Clinical Trials Nurse Coordinator at the Awards in Adelaide

The GI Tumour Stream Cancer Clinical Trials team

Last night, the Austin Health **Cancer Clinical Trials Centre** (CCTC) was recognised with the Australian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group (AGITG) Excellence in Site Performance Award (Metropolitan), celebrating its outstanding contribution to gastro-intestinal cancer research and patient care.

The award, presented at the **AGITG Annual Science Meeting** in Adelaide, acknowledged the site that demonstrated exceptional commitment and performance in clinical trial conduct. It is the team's second win in recent years, receiving a similar award in 2018, validating their continuous commitment and high-level of quality in clinical trial management and patient care.

CCTC has a long-standing partnership with AGITG, spanning more than 20 years encompassing numerous past landmark studies, as well as the ongoing VADER and BIL PPP trials. These trials are being conducted by Austin CCTC in partnership with Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute (ONCRI) and the AGITG. This strong track record demonstrates the team's commitment to advancing treatment options for cancer patients.

A key strength of the submission was CCTC's inclusive approach with their creation of *Is a clinical trial right for you?* multilingual brochures and QR-coded posters located around the Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre to enhance awareness and accessibility for patients. These resources help patients make informed decisions about trial participation and are available on the ONJ Centre website.

Anne-Marie Woods, Manager of CCTC, shared her delight in CCTC receiving this award.

"This award is a testament to the dedication, expertise, and collaborative spirit of our entire team. Their commitment to research excellence ensures patients receive world-class care and access to innovative treatments," she said.

The Award was accepted in person by Meg Donovan-Hayes, Clinical Trials Nurse Coordinator and Professor Niall Tebbutt, Director of Medical Oncology at Austin Health and Gastro-Intestinal Principal Investigator (PI) lead.

Well done to the whole team!

Working with templates

1 December 2025

More often than not, starting a research submission with a blank page can be quite daunting. So we're here to make things easier for you with by providing a suite of handy templates to cut down the time it takes for you complete your submissions – and reduce the chance of us having to loop back to chase more information.

Not only is it more efficient for you, it also makes life a lot easier for the HREC who have to review your applications. Templates ensure you've addressed all criteria, followed correct processes and provided the relevant information. It streamlines the review process.

All of the templates you'll need when working with the Discovery and Innovation Unit (DIU) are available on Knowledge Base in Research Architect. They are very thorough and sometimes might ask for information not relevant to your particular matter, but please don't delete the irrelevant sections. Instead, please mark them as 'Not applicable' so we know that you've considered the question and consciously moved past it.

Submissions must either use the template or include all sections of the template for the protocol to be considered 'complete' – if they don't, they won't be accepted.

Here's a list of the most commonly-used templates:

Activity	Template
Audit	Observational, audit and non-interventional studies protocol template
HSR or clinical research project	Observational, audit and non-interventional studies protocol template
Clinical trial	Protocol template

A full list of templates is available on Research Architect. If you have any suggestions for further templates we can add, or changes to existing ones, please reach out to the DIU and we'll work with you to update Knowledge Base to make it a trusted and helpful resource for your team.

Growing DIU's capability to help you accelerate impactful research outcomes

24 November 2025

The Discovery & Innovation Unit is building a team to help you more broadly in your research matters.

Above and beyond our existing ethics and governance expertise, we are excited to welcome **Samantha Somers** to a newly created role as **Principal Advisor – Research Contracts and Partnerships**. Samantha joins Austin Health on 24 November, bringing more than a decade of expertise in research contracting and sponsorship, most recently at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre where she navigated complex agreements and compliance frameworks across national and international settings.

Sam's career reflects deep experience in balancing sponsor obligations with institutional priorities, fostering collaborative partnerships with universities, hospitals, research institutes, and industry stakeholders. Her strategic insight and solutions-focused approach have enabled robust governance as a driver of research success.

Sam's appointment strengthens our capability in delivering high-stakes research contracts with integrity, agility, and innovation. She will work closely with our Austin Health research teams to embed sponsor responsibilities, mitigate risk throughout the contract lifecycle, and accelerate impactful research outcomes.

Please join us in welcoming Sam!

2026 HREC dates are live!

26 November 2025

To help plan for the new year and manage workflows and project expectations, we have finalised next year's HREC meeting dates and submission deadlines.

In 2026, we are moving to a fortnightly roster (rather than a set two meetings per month) which will add two more meetings into the calendar year. The other change is that the submission cutoff is 9am every second Monday (rather than 12pm).

These dates have been updated on [Research Architect](#).

Could you be the next winner of a Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research?

1 December 2025

Applications are now open for the 2025-26 Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research.

Proudly supported by the Victorian Government, the awards recognise Victoria's most talented early career health and medical researchers (Early Career Researchers), supporting and inspiring them to build a successful long-term career.

This is a great opportunity to capitalise on the great work we shared at ResearchFest, and get further recognition for our research strengths at Austin Health.

This year's awards will include five categories of awards:

- Aboriginal Researcher in any field of health and medical research - $5,000
- Basic Science Researcher - $5,000
- Clinical Researcher - $5,000
- Health Services Researcher - $5,000
- Public Health Researcher - $5,000

The prestigious Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research Excellence will be selected from the five category award winners and will be awarded an additional $15,000 in prize money and a trophy.

Health and medical researchers in Victoria are encouraged to apply. Applications close at **11.59pm Sunday 21 December 2025**. Award finalists and winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in May 2026.

For more information and to apply, please visit the [Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website](#).

Need some help polishing your submission?

If you'd like another pair of eyes to review your submission from a grammatical and style point of view, our Comms team is happy to proof-read. Please send through your submission in a Word document to Kate Trescowthick by Sunday 14 December and we'll review your application before due date. Remember - you're the subject matter expert and will need to create the content; but we are here if you need help polishing it up in its final stages.

[Find out more](#)

Applications now open for new research fellowships

1 December 2025

During ResearchFest last month, Austin Health - partnering with the Department of Medicine at University of Melbourne - celebrated the launch of three new research fellowships, marking a major milestone in our commitment to nurturing the next generation of clinician scientists.

Applications for those positions are now open, with the advertisement [available online](#).

Each position offers 0.4 FTE protected research time for three years, bridging academia and healthcare and supporting early career researchers in chronic disease research. These fellowships are designed to foster collaboration, innovation, and leadership in clinical and scientific research at Austin Health.

Roles on offer

- Research Fellow/Senior Research Fellow

- Scientific Research Fellow

- Senior Clinical Research Fellow – The George Jerums Fellowship

At the announcement of the fellowships last month, Chief Executive Jodie Geissler celebrated Austin Health's rich legacy of translating research to improved patient care.

"I am incredibly proud that we are supporting our reputation for research at Austin Health through these fellowships and encourage our researchers to seize these opportunities," she said.

Don't miss this opportunity to be part of something bigger, where your research is valued, supported, and celebrated.

Find out more

Austin Health staff selected for MACH-Track program

1 December 2025

Austin Health clinician researchers are making a name for themselves, with one quarter of the participants accepted into next year's prestigious Melbourne Academic Centre for Health (MACH) Track program hailing from Austin Health.

The MACH-Track program is a career development pathway that supports clinician researchers to combine research training with clinical practice, fostering innovation and improving healthcare outcomes.

Austin Health is thrilled to see Min Hu, Margaret Phillips and Thomas Wilson selected for the highly-sought after training which will support on them on their PhD journey as they balance research with clinical work.

Meet the Austin Health 2026 MACH-Track participants

Min Hu – Nursing

Min Hu, Clinical Support Nurse SAPM and Clinical Nurse Specialist on Ward 5 East, is taking part in the program to further her research skills and support her PhD endeavours.

She plans to explore how artificial intelligence can empower nurses to lead safe, data-informed clinical decisions. Her research will focus on cardiac monitoring and aims to strengthen nurse-led decision-making, enhance efficiency, and improve patient care and outcomes.

"Pursuing a PhD has been my dream for a long time," Min shares.

"As AI rapidly advances, I want to embrace it to empower nurses and improve patient care rather than replace the human connection at the heart of nursing. Being accepted into MACH-Track is an incredible honour and an opportunity to transform my clinical experience into research that drives meaningful change."

Min completed her Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) and Master of Nursing at Deakin University and is currently undertaking a Master of Education at The University of Melbourne. With a strong background in cardiology and cardiothoracic nursing, her experience spans general surgery, orthopaedics and liver transplant care. Through MACH-Track, Min aims to collaborate with leaders across partner organisations to translate ideas into sustainable healthcare solutions.

Margaret Phillips – Pain Services

Margaret Phillips, Clinical Nurse Consultant in Pain Services, is looking forward to pursuing her interest in pain and anaesthesia.

As a MACH-Track participant, she will investigate factors influencing patient experience and recovery to optimise acute and sub-acute care settings and reduce chronic pain risks. Her research will evaluate the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of transitional pain services in supporting acute pain recovery.

Margaret began her nursing career in New Zealand and holds multiple qualifications, including a Master of Nursing, a Master's in Epidemiology, and a Graduate Certificate in Planetary Health. She hopes her work will contribute to evidence-based strategies for sub-acute pain management and advocate for developing these services.

Thomas Wilson – Speech Pathology

Speech Pathologist Thomas Wilson will focus on improving care for individuals living with dysphagia. His research interests lie at the intersection of airway protection and respiratory physiology, exploring how respiratory mechanisms can support swallowing function.

Thomas works across acute units including head and neck oncology, respiratory medicine and intensive care. He has published research on rating scales for swallowing assessments and is passionate about advancing clinical research to improve patient outcomes.

He holds a Bachelor of Speech Pathology from the Australian Catholic University and a Graduate Certificate in Health Research Practice from Deakin University. Thomas has broad clinical expertise in instrumental swallowing assessments and in tracheostomy and laryngectomy management.

We are proud of Min, Margaret and Thomas for their commitment to research and innovation. Their selection for MACH-Track reflects their dedication to improving patient care and shaping the future of healthcare.

The program - featuring a clinical psychologist, podiatrist and speech pathologist, alongside three nurses and five trainee doctors specialising in medical oncology, ophthalmology, general paediatrics, neonatal paediatrics and general surgery - kicks off in February 2026.

Read more about the 2026 cohort here

Breaking epilepsy's century-long stalemate

19 November 2025

"We're at a cusp of a major change in the way we think about the treatment of epilepsy."
– Professor Piero Perucca, Director, Bladin-Berkovic Comprehensive Epilepsy Program, Department of Neurology, Austin Health.

For more than a century, epilepsy treatments have remained largely unchanged. At Austin Health, Professor Perucca and his research team are helping to break that stalemate. As President of the Epilepsy Society of Australia and with a foot in both clinical and research camps, Professor Perucca can combine his dual passions: research and patient care.

Through collaboration with some of Australia's best minds across Austin Health and the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, he is pioneering approaches that aim to personalise epilepsy care and improve outcomes for thousands of Australians living with epilepsy.

Read more about his groundbreaking work at the Melbourne Brain Centre, based at the Austin Health campus, in the University of Melbourne's feature article *Breaking Epilepsy's Century-Long Stalemate*.

Find out more about epilepsy at Austin Health

New research award: Preventing type 2 diabetes in primary care

3 December 2025

Medibank and Diabetes Australia have teamed up to launch a new research award aimed at tackling one of Australia's biggest health challenges - type 2 diabetes. This joint initiative is all about driving practical, evidence-based solutions that make a real difference in primary care settings.

This specific opportunity is looking for innovative early interventions for people with pre-diabetes and priority populations. The search is on for projects that rethink how prevention works in primary care - whether that's through new models of care, workforce training, peer support, or better integration of services.

The goal is simple: improve screening, early diagnosis, and prevention to reduce the progression to advanced diabetes.

Applications will be assessed on:

- scientific merit
- consumer and community involvement
- potential to improve primary healthcare delivery
- scalability and real-world impact

One award of up to $200,000 is available for a project of up to two years. Researchers at any career stage are encouraged to apply.

Key milestones:

- Expressions of interest close: 19 December 2025 (5pm AEST)
- Stage 1: Submit a Letter of Intent via the Diabetes Australia SmartyGrants platform
- Stage 2: Full application by invitation

Read the research award guidelines

New NHMRC guide: Assessing research involving AI

10 December 2025

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming healthcare research - and as we discussed at **ResearchFest 2025**, it brings exciting opportunities alongside complex ethical challenges. To support researchers navigating this space, the NHMRC has released a new resource:

Guide for Assessing Research Involving Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Large Language Model Technology.

Developed by the Australian Health Ethics Committee, this guide is designed for both researchers and ethics review bodies. It provides practical advice and a question-based tool to help you:

- reflect on how AI is integrated across all stages of your research - from design to publication, and
- ensure proposals clearly address ethical considerations linked to AI use.

The guide focuses on six key areas of concern:

1. human agency and oversight
2. transparency and explainability
3. bias and representativeness
4. technical robustness and safety
5. data reliability
6. data governance and security

It also includes seven broad questions with prompts to help you think critically about where and how AI features in your work.

As AI becomes central to human research, this resource encourages a mindful, risk-aware approach that protects individuals and communities while enabling innovation.

For further information, contact **ethics@nhmrc.gov.au**.

Access the guide here