



Australian  
Centre for Health  
Law Research



ihbi

Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation

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MAMMOGRAPHIC DENSITY SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

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**Professor Rik Thompson, Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI)**

Prof Thompson has established multidisciplinary networks in both Melbourne and Brisbane for the study of mammographic density, involving surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, cancer biologists, and biophysicists. [His research](#) pioneered the development of a unique 'within breast' comparison system for regions of low and high mammographic density, avoiding many confounding factors between individuals, and also the development of a biochamber model for studies on the regulation of mammographic density and its effects on breast cancer progression.



**Associate Professor Tina Cockburn, Australian Centre for Health Law Research, QUT**

Tina Cockburn is an Associate Professor in Law at the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane and an active researcher within the Australian Centre for Health Law Research (ACHLR). She is a member of the Queensland Law Society Health and Disability Law Committee. Her research considers the legal rights and remedies of vulnerable members of society, including issues affecting elder persons and incapacitated persons. In the area of health law, her research focuses on patient safety law, injury compensation and medico-legal issues arising out of adverse medical outcomes and the communication of information, including patient consent and post treatment open disclosure. Tina's publications have addressed current issues in medical litigation and injury compensation (including negligence, trespass and intentional torts) and the regulatory framework for the health, performance and conduct of healthcare practitioners. Her current research focuses on the relationship between liability and medical innovation; the communication of information to women about the health implications of mammographic density; and legal, ethical and policy issues associated with retained surgical instruments.



**Dr Nancy Cappello, Executive Director and Founder of Are You Dense, Inc.**

Nancy M. Cappello, Ph.D., is Director and Founder of Are you Dense, Inc., and Are you Dense Advocacy, Inc., with a mission to educate the public about the risks and screening challenges of dense breast tissue to prevent missed, delayed, and advanced-stage cancer, thus reducing mortality. She was the inspiration behind Connecticut's first-in-the-nation density reporting law passed in 2009, making the state a global leader in density reporting, adjunct screening, and the density reporting grassroots movement. Twenty-eight states have since enacted density reporting laws, and a federal bill is pending. Dr. Cappello has presented her inspiring story of patient-turned-

advocate nationally and internationally, and her Nancy's Chalkboard blog is published by the Huffington Post and other media outlets. She is the recipient of numerous honours and awards, including being named a Health Hero by Parade Magazine. Dr. Cappello holds a B.A. and an M.S. in Elementary and Special Education from Central Connecticut State University, a Sixth Year Certificate in Administration and Supervision from Southern Connecticut State University, and a Ph.D. in Education Administration from the University of Connecticut. When her Mission is finished, she looks forward to rescuing a dog, learning Italian and taking golf lessons.



**Professor John Hopper, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne**

John is a statistician and epidemiologist who has been researching breast and other cancers for more than 20 years. He is a research director at the Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics at The University of Melbourne. He is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council and he has also been supported by the National Institute of Health (USA), the National Breast Cancer Foundation, and Cancer Australia. His interests include understanding the epidemiology and genetic factors involved in measures of breast cancer risk, and of breast cancer masking, based on features in breast images.



**Dr Kara Britt, Team Leader, Cancer Genetics and Genomics, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre**

Kara leads a team at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre researching breast cancer risk in an effort to develop preventative therapies. Kara's research has been supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council, National Breast Cancer Foundation, and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. Her research interests include understanding why parity (childbearing) decreases breast cancer risk and why breast density increases risk. Kara is interested in defining the initiation steps of breast cancer in an effort to block them therapeutically.



**Dr Ralph Highnam, Executive Director and CEO, Volpara Health Technologies**

Ralph, a founding Director of Volpara Health Technologies, has been at the forefront of the digital breast imaging field for over 25 years. Initially a research scientist at the University of Oxford, Ralph's innovative work in quantitative breast imaging technology led him to form first OXIVA Limited and then Mirada Solutions with Professor Sir John Michael Brady. Under Ralph's leadership Mirada became the number-one provider of image registration and fusion tools before being acquired by CTI Molecular Imaging Inc. and later Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc. Before founding VHT in 2009, Ralph consulted for many of the world's top medical imaging companies, including R2, Siemens, Hologic and Dexela, as

well as many leading breast screening programs. During this time, he continued his academic research as part of an international circle of collaborators.



**Dr Andrew Redfern, Fiona Stanley Hospital & University of Western Australia**

Andrew Redfern is Associate Professor of Medical Oncology at the Perkins and practices as a medical oncologist at the Fiona Stanley Hospital. He was the Inaugural Medical Director and now Chief Medical Advisor of Linear Clinical Research specializing in early phase human trials. He is coordinator of Medical Oncology research at Royal Perth Hospital, Principal Investigator of a range of trials and state co-ordinator of Advanced Training in Medical Oncology. He is Chairman and Lead Clinician of the State Breast Cancer Collaborative. He is on research advisory boards for the Cancer Council of Western Australia and the National Breast Cancer Foundation and is a regular speaker for CCWA, NBCF and Breast Cancer Network Australia.



**Dr Steve Birrell, Breast Surgeon, Wellend Health**

Dr Stephen Birrell graduated from Flinders University in undergraduate medicine and was awarded a Doctorate of Philosophy in molecular oncology. He has studied in Europe and the USA in surgical oncology. Dr Birrell is the Chief Medical Officer and Director of Wellend Health based in Adelaide and Havah Therapeutics inc based in San Francisco. Dr Birrell has a special interest in hormonal regulation of the breast and breast cancer genetics. He is a frequent international speaker and has a long collaboration with Professor Wayne Tilley; Head of the Dame Roma Research Laboratories The Hanson Institute, University of Adelaide.



**Ms Lisa Devereux, Manager, LifePool project, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre**

Lisa has had a long career in the biobanking arena and is passionate about promoting the collection of high quality human tissue to support translational research. Lisa is a chief investigator on a NHMRC Enabling Grant funded Australasian Biospecimen Network-Oncology project and has been actively involved in initiating and organising many of the national biobanking conferences in Australia. Lisa has served as a Council member of the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER). She is one of the founding members of ABNA and is the current Public Officer for the Association. Lisa is based

at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. Over the last 7 years she has managed the lifepool Project, a multi-site prospective cohort, initially based in Victoria, now recruiting nationally. Lifepool collects health & lifestyle information, clinical data, mammographic images and some biological specimens from consenting participants for use in future research on breast cancer and other women's health issues.



**Ms Vicki Pridmore, CEO Breast Screen Victoria**

Ms Vicki Pridmore is CEO of BreastScreen Victoria. Vicki has been in this role since 2008, reprising her previous role on a statewide level, in an area focussed on women and health - important considerations for Vicki. BSV is government funded to provide free biennial mammography screening to more than 240,000 Victorian women aged between 50 and 74 each year. As the CEO of BreastScreen Victoria Vicki has worked with the BreastScreen Board, Victorian public hospitals and private radiology firms to ensure an efficient quality service is

delivered. To date, BreastScreen Victoria has performed more than 2.8 million screening mammograms and continues to work towards reducing deaths from breast cancer through early detection of the disease.

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**Members of Symposium organising committee**

*In addition to Prof Thompson and Assoc. Prof Tina Cockburn:*



**Professor Belinda Bennett, Australian Centre for Health Law Research, QUT**

Belinda Bennett is Professor of Health Law and New Technologies in the School of Law at QUT where she leads the Governance and Regulation of Health Care program within the Australian Centre for Health Law Research. Belinda's research interests include analysis of the contemporary legal dilemmas associated with the regulation of new technologies. Her research addresses health law and globalisation, global public health, and the legal and ethical challenges associated with regulation of new technologies.



**Dr Honor Hugo, Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI), Translational Research Institute (TRI), School of Biomedical Sciences, QUT**

Honor is a postdoctoral research fellow with over 5 years' experience in breast cancer cell biology and Lecturer at QUT in Molecular Pathology. Using cutting-edge technology, she is working to understand how high breast density contributes to increased breast cancer risk. This ambitious project supported by the TRI-spore Grant (Translational Research Institute) is in collaboration with medical physicists at the Queensland University of Technology and clinicians at various hospitals across Brisbane. Honor has also been supported by the National Breast Cancer Foundation and the Victorian Cancer Agency. Honor also writes a blog on perspectives of a breast cancer

researcher.



**Ms Tracey Carver, Australian Centre for Health Law Research, QUT**

Prior to joining the QUT Faculty of Law on a full-time basis, Tracey practised as a solicitor in commercial and real property law at the Brisbane office of Allens Arthur Robinson, Lawyers (now Allens Linklaters). Her teaching and research focus is in the area of torts law, in particular the law of negligence, including medical negligence, the formulation of duties of care, causation and damages assessment.