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Contact us

Our friendly staff are available to answer your questions:

Ivanka Prichard Honours Program Coordinator
College of Nursing & Health Sciences

P: +61 8 8201 3713 | E: ivanka.prichard@flinders.edu.au
flinders.edu.au/study/apply/honours
Audiology

Professor Raj Shekhawat; giriraj.shekhawat@flinders.edu.au; Tinnitus: Several projects are outlined here: https://shekhawatlab.weebly.com/research.html

Contact Professor Raj Shekhawat (giriraj.shekhawat@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Audiology.

Caring Futures Institute

Professor Joanne Arciuli; joanne.arciuli@flinders.edu.au; human communication across a variety of languages and cultures, child development and disability; wellbeing in disadvantaged and marginalised groups, parenting, and clinical practice.

Professor Raymond Chan; raymond.chan@flinders.edu.au; optimising models of care and health services’ responses to address the needs of people affected by cancer in the survivorship phase.

Professor Rebecca Golley; rebecca.golley@flinders.edu.au; applied research to inform, develop, test, and disseminate public health initiatives to improve children’s diet quality, prevent obesity and support children’s growth, learning and development.

Dr Nicholas Hart; nicolas.hart@flinders.edu.au; cancer survivorship and supportive care issues (including exercise, nutrition, psychosocial, and toxicity management), and (2) cancer outcomes (including disease biology, disease progression, and overall survival).

Dr Jyoti Khadka; jyoti.khadka@flinders.edu.au; healthy ageing, patient-reported outcomes, and the application of psychometric methods to develop quality of life assessment instruments.

Professor Alison Kitson; alison.kitson@flinders.edu.au; Fundamentals of Care, Knowledge Translation & Implementation Science, Evidence Based Clinical Practice in Health Care.

Dr Elizabeth Lynch; elizabeth.lynch@flinders.edu.au; stroke rehabilitation; implementation science; guidelines; co-design.

Professor Julie Ratcliffe; julie.ratcliffe@flinders.edu.au; economic evaluation for health and social care sectors; measurement and valuation of health, quality of life and wellbeing outcomes for economic evaluation

Clinical Rehabilitation

Contact A/Prof Maayken van den Berg (maayken.vandenberg@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Clinical Rehabilitation.
Disability & Community Inclusion

Dr Claire Hutchinson; claire.hutchinson@flinders.edu.au; Ageing, disability, and health.

Contact Dr Fiona Rillotta (fiona.rillotta@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Disability and Community Inclusion.

Exercise Science

A/Prof Claire Drummond; claire.drummond@flinders.edu.au; physical activity, exercise, and sports science

A/Prof Maarten Immink; maarten.immink@flinders.edu.au; mind, brain and human performance, neurocognitive processes, skill acquisition, mindfulness and exercise cognitive training modalities and non-invasive brain stimulation.

Dr Joyce Ramos; Joyce.ramos@flinders.edu.au; Clinical Exercise Physiology

Dr Matthew Wallen; matthew.wallen@flinders.edu.au; Exercise & cancer

Contact Dr Joyce Ramos (joyce.ramos@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Exercise Science.

Health Sciences

Professor John Coveney; john.coveney@flinders.edu.au; public health nutrition; history of food and health; food policy; and social and cultural factors that influence food patterns and food intake

A/Prof Ivanka Prichard; ivanka.prichard@flinders.edu.au; Health psychology; body image across the lifespan, physical activity, food consumption; social media.

Dr Jessie Shipman; jessie.shipman@flinders.edu.au; Access to hormonal contraception; Missed Opportunities for Access to Desired & Effective Contraception

Contact A/Prof Ivanka Prichard (ivanka.prichard@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Health Sciences.

Knowledge Translation and Fundamentals of Care

Dr Rebecca Feo; rebecca.feo@flinders.edu.au; Fundamental care

Dr Sarah Hunter; sarah.hunter@flinders.edu.au; Knowledge translation; Fathering and Masculinities.

Dr Michael Lawless; michael.lawless@flinders.edu.au; ageing; frailty; health communication; qualitative methods; knowledge translation

Midwifery

Helena Anolak; helena.anolak@flinders.edu.au; perinatal mental health; law and ethics; creative arts in midwifery practice and education.

Dr Maryam Barzargan; maryam.bazargan@flinders.edu.au; Pharmacology; Comparative midwifery between Australian and Iran.
Professor Annette Briley; annette.briley@flinders.edu.au; IOL rates/reasons/outcomes; Pregnancy after full dilatation caesarean section/after a preterm birth; Knowledge around supplementary iron in pregnancy; e-Cigarettes in pregnancy; Prenatal screening decisions; Sources of information accessed by women in pregnancy & postpartum; Breastfeeding in obese women; Women’s understanding & management of gestational diabetes; Estimation of blood loss at birth: triggers to escalate management; Antenatal education/preparation; Workload through the antenatal day unit; Resilience within midwifery staff.

Dr Megan Cooper; megan.cooper@flinders.edu.au; Water immersion/water birth; Women’s experiences of maternity care; Induction of labour; Informed consent/choice; Respectful maternity care; Physiological labour/birth; Postnatal care; Midwifery models of care; Birth centres; Student competence in emergencies; Digital learning; Inquiry and scenario-based learning; Communication in midwifery; Shoulder dystocia

Dr Lyn Gum; lyn.gum@flinders.edu.au; interprofessional learning; student engagement; global - peer to peer midwifery students; online learning; rural health; indigenous health; communities of practice / community of practice theory; collaborative practice / teamwork.

Liz McNeill; liz.mcneill@flinders.edu.au; Communications skills; Missed care; Simulation learning; Authentic and programmatic assessment; Military midwifery; Diverse gender midwifery experiences; Birth trauma & PTSD – veterans, women, midwives, students; Interprofessional learning; Digital learning.

Contact Liz McNeill (liz.mcneill@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Midwifery.

Nursing

Jessie Anderson; jessie.anderson@flinders.edu.au; Emergency Nursing; Health Workforce Development; Comprehensive Primary Health Care; Remote and Indigenous Health; Nursing education.

Dr Didy Button; didy.button@flinders.edu.au; health professional education; simulation and health professional learning; patient safety; fundamentals of care.

Professor Robyn Clark; robyn.clark@flinders.edu.au; cardiac rehabilitation programs related patient reported experience/patient satisfaction (PREMS), patient reported outcomes (PROMS), medication adherence, evidence-based-pharmacotherapy)

Dr Tiffany Conroy; tiffany.conroy@flinders.edu.au; Nursing, Fundamentals of Care, Knowledge Translation.

Dr Hila Dafny; hila.dafny@flinders.edu.au; Nursing; Workplace violence, Wellbeing, burnout, support, self-care and care for others.

Dr Anita De Bellis; anita.debellis@flinders.edu.au; Aged Care, Dementia Care, End of Life Care, Nursing Care.

Professor Jeroen Hendriks; jeroen.hendriks@flinders.edu.au; Integrated Care in cardiac arrhythmias and associated conditions, eHealth and mHealth interventions, patient-centred care, and multidisciplinary teams.

Dr Lauren Lines; lauren.lines@flinders.edu.au; children’s health/wellbeing/safety/development

Dr Amanda Müller; Amanda.muller@flinders.edu.au; nursing, linguistics, social sciences; qualitative comments about the reasons why people abscond from mental health units.

Dr Yvonne Parry; yvonne.parry@flinders.edu.au; community clinic; the role of Nurse Practitioners in the community to support children and families; The Nurse Practitioner Role and children with developmental and ASD conditions and pathways to care; health needs of children living in housing instability; vulnerable children; paediatric care.

Dr Nina Sivertsen; nina.sivertsen@flinders.edu.au; multicultural aspects, scholarship of teaching and learning, cultural safety of health professionals, improving Indigenous and women’s and children’s health.

Contact Dr Nina Sivertsen (nina.sivertsen@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Nursing.
Nutrition

Dr Anthea Brand; anthea.brand@flinders.edu.au; Nutrition, remote health, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, primary health care, public health, qualitative methods

Dr Lucy Bell; lucy.bell@flinders.edu.au; Child nutrition, Grandparents, Health behaviour change, Early childhood obesity prevention

Brittany Johnson; brittany.johnson@flinders.edu.au; Child nutrition, School food, Health behaviour change, Early childhood obesity prevention, Eating disorder risk in weight management, Food social norms

Dr Jolene Thomas; jm.thomas@flinders.edu.au; nutrition and vascular surgery; clinical dietetics.

Dr Alison Yaxley; alison.yaxley@flinders.edu.au; malnutrition, body composition, inflammation, healthy ageing, aged care, food service

Dr Dorota Zarnowiecki; dorota.zarnowiecki@flinders.edu.au; Child nutrition, Primary health care, Health behaviour change, Early childhood obesity prevention

Contact Dr Alison Yaxley (alison.yaxley@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Nutrition

Occupational Therapy

A/Prof Stacey George; stacey.george@flinders.edu.au; translation of research into practice, allied health research. Some projects include: Increasing Upper limb dosage in the acute sector for stroke survivors; Maximising participation for people on surgical waitlists; and Increasing participation following colorectal cancer

Contact A/Prof Stacey George (stacey.george@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Occupational Therapy.

Optometry

Prof Nicola Anstice; nicola.anstice@flinders.edu.au; children’s vision, vision screening, myopia management

Dr Ranjay Chakraborty; ranjay.chakraborty@flinders.edu.au; Myopia (or short-sightedness) and eye growth in humans; https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/ranjay.chakraborty

Contact Dr Ranjay Chakraborty (ranjay.chakraborty@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Optometry.

Palliative Care

The Flinders Research Centre for Palliative Care Death and Dying has experts who focus on end of life and palliative care across the life course, throughout the community and offer unique perspectives on life and death. We are home to national palliative care resources, including CareSearch, End of Life Essentials and palliAGED.

Our supervisors are currently working on projects spanning advanced symptom management, ageing, end of life care in acute settings, equitable access to palliative care services and bereavement.

Dr Deidre Morgan

Dr Caroline Phelan
Dr Sara Javanparast

Professor Jennifer Tieman

Contact Dr Caroline Phelan (caroline.phelan@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Palliative Care.

**Paramedicine**

Contact Dr Tim Rayner (tim.rayner@flinders.edu.au) to discuss your ideas for projects related to Paramedicine.

**Physiotherapy**

Dr Claire Baldwin; claire.baldwin@flinders.edu.au; physical activity, sedentary behaviour, older adults, hospitalisation, outcome measures, physical function, physical therapy.

A/Prof Belinda Lange; belinda.lange@flinders.edu.au; Digital Technologies for Health and Well-being.

A/Prof Lucy Lewis; lucy.lewis@flinders.edu.au; physical activity and sedentary behaviour across the lifespan, objective measurement of activity

Contact A/Prof Lucy Lewis (lucy.lewis@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Physiotherapy.

**Speech Pathology**

Contact Dr Jo Murray (joanne.murray@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any project ideas related to Speech Pathology.
Possible Honours Thesis Project Areas 2022

This section contains example projects within the College of Nursing & Health Sciences for the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) program. Also see https://www.flinders.edu.au/caring-futures-institute/researcher-profiles for overall research areas. Please contact the Honours coordinator (Ivanka.Prichard@flinders.edu.au) if you have an area of research interest that is not listed.

Students should contact potential supervisors to discuss Honours projects with them in more detail before submitting an Honours application.

Grace, Emma

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supervision team</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary supervisor: Dr Emma Grace, Communication participation and Augmentative and Alternative Communication Tools and Interventions <a href="https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/emma.grace">https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/emma.grace</a></td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>Proposed Honours Project</th>
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<tr>
<td>Many children with communication impairments are unable to use speech to meet their communication needs and use augmentative and alternative modes of communication (AAC). Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display communication books (PODD) are one type of AAC tool used in clinical practice globally. However, there is a lack of research evidence to objectively summarise this extensive clinical practice. There is a critical need for research-based evidence investigating and reporting experiences, patterns, and observations of PODD as a widely applied intervention strategy in current clinical practice. The proposed project will involve an online survey to collect data about use of the PODD in clinical practice.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Additional information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We Speak PODD You Tube Channel <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfvD20l2wn-fS2Ar4bdTXZg">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfvD20l2wn-fS2Ar4bdTXZg</a></td>
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Immink, Maarten

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<tr>
<td>Primary supervisor: Associate Professor Maarten Immink</td>
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<th>Proposed Honours Project</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Title:</strong> Move to learn: Acute exercise influences on executive function and skill acquisition outcomes</td>
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The aim of this project is to test acute effects of exercise on executive function that contributes to skill acquisition. The quality of our lives relies on our capacity to acquire motor skills related to activities of daily living (e.g., brushing teeth, dressing, cooking), work (e.g., typing, operating machinery) and recreation (e.g., playing a musical instrument, gardening, playing ball sports). Exercise performance requires upregulation of executive function processes that are known to be critical for successful skill practice. However, there has been little research attention directed at assessing if acute exercise-enhanced executive function transfers towards optimising skill acquisition outcomes.
Reference

Additional information
This Honours research project relies on skills associated with pre-exercise screening, aerobic exercise testing, and motor skill performance assessment in healthy adult populations. The Honours student must have completed previous coursework relevant to exercise and performance assessment or be willing to develop these skills as part of preparing to conduct the project.

Jackson, Kathryn

Supervision team
Primary supervisor:
Dr Kathryn Jackson, Sports nutrition/quantitative research
https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/kathryn.jackson

Secondary supervisor:
Dr Annabelle Wilson, Public health/qualitative research
https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/annabelle.wilson

Proposed Honours Project
Title: Attitudes to Sports nutrition as a discipline within sport

Sports Nutrition is a specialist discipline within the Nutrition and Dietetics and Sport Science domains. Research evidence shows sports nutrition advice can improve an athlete’s sports performance (Spriet, 2019: Sp Med., 49,S1-2.), but there is a lack of understanding among the general public, media and within some sports-related professions as well as tertiary education students about the scientific role & efficacy of nutrition in sports performance.

In this mainly qualitative study we intend to interview various sport and allied health professionals, sports players and Uni students about their perceptions of the role & efficacy of nutrition in sports performance. The data collection methodology will include a semi-quantitative questionnaire and 1:1 qualitative interviews with representative samples from each participant group.

This project sits within the SHAPE Research Centre in the CNHS Caring Futures Research Institute.

Additional information
Ideally the Honours student will have successfully completed NUTD3203 Nutrition for Sports Performance, but this is not essential. Some nutrition knowledge would assist the student with an understanding of the project and terminology used in nutrition.

Johnson, Brittany

Supervision team
Primary supervisor:
Dr Brittany Johnson
Behaviour change, Nutrition, School food, Childhood obesity prevention
https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/brittany.johnson

Secondary supervisor:
Dr Stefania Velardo, College of Education, Psychology and Social Work
https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/stefania.velardo
Danielle Proud and Yasmina Diab, Department for Education SA

### Proposed Honours Project

**Title: Exploring students’ perceptions of current and novel school lunch models**

Eating well enhances children’s concentration, cognitive development and academic achievement. Despite this, many Australian children consume unhealthy diets. Nearly all Australian children attend primary school, making it an ideal setting to target nutrition initiatives to reach majority of families, including those experiencing food insecurity. There has recently been interest in transforming the school food system to a school provided model, however research is needed to explore school students’ perspectives of such a change. This project seeks to better understand school students’ perceptions of different school food provision models. This project will be in collaboration with the Department for Education SA.


This project aligns with the Caring Futures Institute Better Lives theme.

### Additional information

This project would suit a student with a background in nutrition, health promotion or education.

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### Lange, Belinda

#### Supervision team

**Primary supervisor:**

**Associate Professor Belinda Lange**  
Research Area: Digital Technologies for Health and Well-being  
[belinda.lange@flinders.edu.au](mailto:belinda.lange@flinders.edu.au)  
[https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/belinda.lange](https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/belinda.lange)

**Secondary supervisor:**

**Dr. Sheryl Ashford**  
CEO Blue Marble Health  
[https://bluemarblehealthco.com/](https://bluemarblehealthco.com/)

---

### Proposed Honours Project

**Health In Motion: Pilot trial of an online exercise program to improve activity and engagement in rehabilitation following knee replacement**

The use of an online individualised exercise program has potential to improve self-management and engagement in rehabilitation. Blue Marble Health has developed ‘Health in Motion’, an evidence-based Exercise program, which uses Internet-enabled tablets to instruct clients to undertake tailored strength and balance exercises and collect relevant outcomes. The aim of this study is to determine if the use of an online individualised exercise program can improve outcomes, activity levels and engagement in individuals following knee replacement.

**Suggested reading related to this topic:**

- The system is currently being evaluated in the USA with older adults to improve balance:  
  [http://preventamillionfalls.com/](http://preventamillionfalls.com/) - this is a protocol for a different tablet based program but provides good background information supporting the relevance of this project:  

This project aligns with the Caring Futures Research Them: Better Lives
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| Primary supervisor:  
Associate Professor Belinda Lange  
Research Area: Digital Technologies for Health and Well-being  
belinda.lange@flinders.edu.au  
https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/belinda.lange |
| Secondary supervisor:  
TBD |

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<tr>
<td>Barriers and facilitators to improving activity levels in the inpatient setting</td>
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Rehabilitation should be structured to provide as much scheduled therapy as possible. Based on current evidence, a minimum of three hours of scheduled therapy per day with at least two hours of active task practice is recommended. A recent scoping review found limited activity levels patients of inpatient rehabilitation during therapy and non-therapy time. Therapy duration ranged from 31 to 64 minutes and participants engaged in moderate-high therapeutic activity for only 22-66% of the time during therapy sessions. No time was spent in moderate-high therapeutic activity during non-therapy time. This study aims to use mixed methods to monitor activity levels of people receiving care in the inpatient setting and explore the barriers and facilitators to increasing activity levels through interviews with health professionals and patients.

| Suggested reading related to this topic:  
https://doi.org/10.1093/ptj/pzx038 |

| This project aligns with the Caring Futures Research Them: Better Lives |

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<td>There are no specific skills required to undertake this project. Training and support will be provided.</td>
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have been used to support exercise and rehabilitation in a range of settings. We have developed a range of functional tasks that combine functional, cognitive and physical elements to create a realistic representation of the challenges that individuals with brain injury are faced with in their daily lives; e.g. preparing a meal while being distracted through various sources. This study aims to compare the virtual tasks with similar tasks performed within the real world to evaluate the validity and feasibility of using virtual reality scenarios in the clinical setting. This type of validation study is an important, and often overlooked, component of the evaluation of immersive virtual environments in clinical practice.

**Suggested reading related to this topic:**
https://doi.org/10.1080/02687038.2018.1485853

This project aligns with the Caring Futures Research Them: Better Lives and Better Care

**Additional information**
There are no specific skills required to undertake this project. Training and support will be provided.

**Supervision team**

Primary supervisor:
**Associate Professor Belinda Lange**
Research Area: Digital Technologies for Health and Well-being
belinda.lange@flinders.edu.au
https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/belinda.lange

Secondary supervisor:
**Dr. Sebastian Koenig**
Research Area: Design and development of functional training and assessment tools in virtual reality
https://www.katanasim.com/

**Proposed Honours Project**

**Does practice in virtual reality lead to improved performance in real world activities?**

Virtual reality involves viewing a virtual environment through a head mounted display and allows the user to interact with objects in a similar way to what they would in the real world. Virtual reality applications have been used to support simulation and training activities in a range of settings. This study aims to work with key stakeholders to define and develop tasks that can be developed into virtual reality scenarios to support training of students and/or health professionals. There is scope to explore an area of interest to the student who takes on this project.

**Suggested reading related to this topic:**

This project aligns with the Caring Futures Research Them: Better Lives and Better Care

**Additional information**
There are no specific skills required to undertake this project. Training and support will be provided.

**Supervision team**

Primary supervisor:
**Associate Professor Belinda Lange**
Research Area: Digital Technologies for Health and Well-being
belinda.lange@flinders.edu.au
https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/belinda.lange

Secondary supervisors:
Dr. Tamina Levy https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/tamina.levy
Proposed Honours Project

Vestibular rehabilitation has been shown to be effective for people with vestibular hypofunction. Vestibular rehabilitation involves exercises to promote vestibular adaptation and substitution to improve gaze stability and postural stability. Vestibular rehabilitation exercise programs rely on the individual to follow paper-based instructions and monitor their performance and progress subjectively. This study aims to compare the use of a digital vestibular rehabilitation exercise program using eye-tracking improve dynamic visual acuity and reduce symptoms of vestibular hypofunction with a standard exercise program. A sample of individuals with vestibular hypofunction will be recruited to take part in a pilot randomised controlled trial over a 10-week intervention period provide information about the feasibility of the use of this type of technology and a greater understanding of how technology may be implemented into practice.


This project aligns with the Caring Futures Research Them: Better Lives and Better Care

Additional information
There are no specific skills required to undertake this project. Training and support will be provided.

Supervision team

Primary supervisor:
Associate Professor Belinda Lange
Research Area: Digital Technologies for Health and Well-being
belinda.lange@flinders.edu.au
https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/belinda.lange

Secondary supervisors:
Dr. Sebastian Koenig
Research Area: Design and development of functional training and assessment tools in virtual reality
https://www.katanasim.com/

Proposed Honours Project

Traditionally, cognitive and physical assessments are performed using standardized tools that assess individual domains separately. These tests are often abstract and both clinicians and clients have difficulty extrapolating the results to real-world function. Wonderworks was developed to improve the quality of brain injury assessment and rehabilitation through the use of real-world functional tasks to assess and train cognitive tasks in a more complex, realistic integrated scenario – undertaking realistic tasks within a virtual reality office. The application was developed by a technology company- Katana Simulations in collaboration with researchers at the Kessler Foundation in New Jersey to support the cognitive assessment of people with brain injury. In this proposed Honours project, a sample of 10 health professionals and five people with brain injury will be invited to participate in one-on-one usability evaluations to provide feedback on the use of the Wonderworks application.

Suggested reading related to this topic:

This project aligns with the Caring Futures Research Them: Better Lives

Additional information
There are no specific skills required to undertake this project. Training and support will be provided.
Supervision team

Primary supervisor: Associate Professor Belinda Lange
Research Area: Digital Technologies for Health and Well-being
belinda.lange@flinders.edu.au
https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/belinda.lange

Secondary supervisor: TBD

Proposed Honours Project

Barriers and facilitators to improving activity levels in the orthopaedic inpatient setting

The Australian National Stroke Foundation guidelines recommend that rehabilitation should be structured to provide as much scheduled therapy as possible. Based on current evidence, a minimum of three hours of scheduled therapy per day with at least two hours of active task practice is recommended. A recent scoping review found limited activity levels patients of inpatient rehabilitation during therapy and non-therapy time. Therapy duration ranged from 31 to 64 minutes and participants engaged in moderate-high therapeutic activity for only 22-66% of the time during therapy sessions. No time was spent in moderate-high therapeutic activity during non-therapy time. This study aims to monitor activity levels of people receiving care in the inpatient setting in two Hospitals in South Australia and explore the barriers and facilitators to increasing activity levels through interviews with health professionals and patients.


This project aligns with the Caring Futures Research Theme: Better Lives

Additional information

There are no specific skills required to undertake this project. Training and support will be provided.

Lawless, Michael

Supervision team

Primary supervisor: Dr Michael Lawless
Research Fellow, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Flinders University
P: +61 8 8201 3655
E: michael.lawless@flinders.edu.au
Areas of interest: ageing; frailty; health communication; qualitative methods; knowledge translation

Secondary supervisor: Dr Sarah Hunter

Proposed Honours Project

Project title: Older gay men’s perceptions and experiences of social isolation: a qualitative study

Background to the research: Social isolation has been highlighted as a major issue facing older LGBTIQ people. Despite an increased acceptance by many people in Western societies towards same-sex attracted men, older gay men can experience discrimination both from outside and within gay communities. This can result in older gay men becoming invisible and lead to increases in stress, social isolation, and loneliness.

Research aim: The aim of this project is to explore older gay men’s perspectives on social isolation and loneliness and strategies to enhance social connectedness for this group.
**Proposed methods and analysis:** Exploratory qualitative study involving semi-structured interviews with gay men aged over 65 years living in the community settings in South Australia.

**Recommended readings:**


**Additional information**

Any degree background; some familiarity with qualitative research methods preferable; familiarity/interest in issues related to health and ageing for LGBTIQ people.

---

**Lines, Lauren**

**Supervision team**

Primary supervisor: Dr Lauren Lines [https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/lauren.lines](https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/lauren.lines)
Main area of research focus: Children’s health & wellbeing, nurses’ & midwives’ roles in safeguarding children.

Main area of research focus: Nursing, Fundamentals of Care, Knowledge Translation

**Proposed Honours Project**

**Title:** An exploration of publicly available guidelines for Australian health professionals about preventing and responding to child abuse and neglect (safeguarding).

Child abuse and neglect is an increasing problem in Australia, and according to the National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children (2009-2020), addressing child abuse and neglect is ‘everyone’s responsibility’. It is well-known that Australian health professionals are mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect, but health professionals also provide fundamental care, support and early intervention for children and families (safeguarding). This project will identify and map publicly accessible Australian guidelines for health professionals about safeguarding children. These guidelines will then be analysed to explore how the guidelines may influence health professionals’ capacity to build therapeutic relationships and effectively safeguard children. The findings of this project will guide future practice and policy development to build health professionals’ capacity to improve fundamental care and outcomes for all Australian children.

**Additional information**

The candidate will be supported to develop skills in qualitative data analysis and report writing. Ethics approval is not required as data is only from publicly accessible professional guidelines.

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**Supervision team**

Primary supervisor:  
**Dr Lauren Lines**, child health and wellbeing, health professionals’ roles in promoting children’s health, and preventing abuse, paediatric nursing  
[https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/lauren.lines](https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/lauren.lines)

Secondary supervisor:  
**Dr Anita DeBellis**, nursing practice, aged care, dementia care, mental health for elderly.  

**Proposed Honours Project**

**Title:** Future health professionals’ perspectives and experiences of older people.
The project will explore future health professionals’ perspectives and experiences of older people. This will be achieved by a qualitative exploration of the views of young people (school years 10-12) who are intending to study a health profession upon graduation from high school. It is known that Western societies have a tendency towards negative views of ageing and older people, and if future health professionals hold these views, it has implications for the quality and safety of care provided to older people. Ageism in healthcare is a significant issue and was highlighted as a core failing within the aged care system by the recent Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. This project aligns to the Caring Futures Institute’s ‘Better Care’ and ‘Better Systems’ research themes.


Additional information

No specific skills or knowledge is required. The candidate will be supported to develop the necessary skills to undertake the research.

Lynch, Elizabeth

Supervision team

Primary supervisor: Elizabeth Lynch
https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/elizabeth.lynch

Secondary supervisor: Gillian Harvey
https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/gillian.harvey

Proposed Honours Project

Evaluating an online learning resource for carers of people with stroke

It is recommended in the Australian Stroke Clinical Guidelines that information is provided to people with stroke and their families. An online learning resource (available from https://bit.ly/2VJEK8G) has been codesigned by health professionals, carers, stroke survivors and adult educators to meet the information requirements of husbands, wives, partners and family members (hereafter referred to as carers) of people who have recently had a stroke. This project will evaluate whether the online learning module is an effective way of addressing carers’ learning needs early after stroke.

Additional information

No specific background or knowledge is essential.

Muller, Amanda

Supervision team

Primary supervisor: Dr Amanda Müller

Supervision in the areas of:
Culturally diverse, Linguistics, Workplace violence, Digital health, Education, Assistance animals

Methodology
Mixed methods, Survey-based design, Quantitative, Qualitative

Proposed Honours Project
Possible project
‘Concept analysis of language proficiency in healthcare’

Many health fields, particularly nursing, has explored the issue of clinical communication and language proficiency/deficiency, particularly in the areas of patient care, team work, or clinical education. However, the discussion within these fields about the exact elements which constitute language proficiency/deficiency and how they are understood across different research contexts. The situation is problematised further by the issue of either patients or health practitioners having English as a second language, and this affecting quality of care. This project involves an examination of these issues using a concept analysis of language proficiency/deficiency.


Prichard, Ivanka

Supervision team

Primary supervisor: Dr Ivanka Prichard
www.flinders.edu.au/people/ivanka.prichard

Proposed Honours Project

My current research interests lie in the area of health psychology and body image, with a particular focus on physical activity, food consumption and body image. This year I am interested in supervising Honours projects that examine how messages communicated via social media influence body dissatisfaction and exercise behaviour or eating behaviour.

Suggested readings:


Additional information

An interest in body image and social media research

Supervision team

Primary supervisor: Dr Ivanka Prichard
www.flinders.edu.au/people/ivanka.prichard

Secondary supervisor: A/Prof Zali Yager, Victoria University

Proposed Honours Project
### Promoting healthy body image and health behaviours in mothers and non-mothers

Pregnancy and the postpartum period are a time of significant life, identity, and body changes for women. As such, this life stage is one that warrants intervention to improve body image and wellbeing (Rallis, Skouteris, Wertheim, & Paxton, 2007). It is critical to understand the relationship between body image and health behaviours in both mothers and non-mothers to help guide interventions specific to mothers. This study will involve the completion of an anonymous online questionnaire that will provide background information on the relationship between body image and health behaviours in mothers and non-mothers. The questionnaire will consist of a range of pre-existing, standardised measures including measures of functionality appreciation and body appreciation, dietary restraint, reasons for exercise, social comparisons, self-compassion, and role modelling of positive body image.

**Reading:**

### Additional information

An interest in quantitative research and postnatal health/wellbeing.

### Sheckhawat, Raj

**Supervision team**

**Primary supervisor:** Professor Raj Shekhawat, Audiology  
**Secondary supervisor:** Several secondary supervisors available based on the project type.

**Proposed Honours Project**

Several projects are outlined here  
[https://shekhawatlab.weebly.com/research.html](https://shekhawatlab.weebly.com/research.html)

Also happy to tailor made a project based on students’ interest and passion.

### Shipman, Jessica

**Supervision team**

**Primary supervisor:** Jessica Shipman  
**Secondary supervisor:** Pen Roe

**Proposed Honours Project**

**Access to hormonal contraception for people with endometriosis during COVID-19**

This study will explore how COVID-19 is impacting access to hormonal treatment for symptoms of endometriosis in Australia. Endometriosis is a major health issue affecting one in nine Australian women with pain from endometriosis considered a significant disability. Research on access to medical...
treatments for pain management in endometriosis is an urgent priority. Hormonal contraceptive methods are effective forms of treatment for endometriosis symptoms. COVID-19 has led to rapid innovation in contraceptive access. Yet, reproductive telehealth can also perpetuate inequities with evidence that the pandemic has restricted access to desired contraception for many. It is, therefore, imperative to assess whether recent innovations have impacted on access to care for people with endometriosis. This project will use qualitative interviews with people with Endometriosis who use hormonal treatment to assess how access may have been impacted by the global pandemic.

This research aligns with Caring Futures Institute (CFI), and their focus on Better Communities. It does this by promoting access, equity and inclusion in sexual health services for the whole community.


Additional information

Undergraduate degree in health or social sciences (or similar).
Undergraduate level study covering research methods, including knowledge of qualitative data collection and analysis.

Siversten, Nina

Supervision team

Primary supervisor: Dr Nina Sivertsen
https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/nina.sivertsen

Proposed Honours Project

Proposed title: A systematic review of health students’ preparation to working with First Nations Peoples.


I would be interested in working with students around any Honours project involving Indigenous health, cultures, identities and/or restorative policy and practice. My research interests include multicultural aspects, scholarship of teaching and learning, cultural safety of health professionals, as well as exploring and working towards improving Indigenous and women’s and children’s health.

Additional information

Students need academic writing skills and be able and interested in learning about research processes, research methods and how to translate research findings into positive outcomes for the community.

Tieman, Jennifer

Supervision team

Primary supervisors:
Dr Deidre Morgan
Dr Caroline Phelan
Dr Sara Javanparast  
Professor Jennifer Tieman

### Proposed Honours Project

The [Flinders Research Centre for Palliative Care Death and Dying](https://www.flinders.edu.au) has experts who focus on end of life and palliative care across the life course, throughout the community and offer unique perspectives on life and death. We are home to national palliative care resources, including CareSearch, End of Life Essentials and palliAGED.

Our supervisors are currently working on projects spanning advanced symptom management, ageing, end of life care in acute settings, equitable access to palliative care services and bereavement.

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**Yaxley, Alison**

### Supervision team

**Primary supervisor: Dr Alison Yaxley, Nutrition and Dietetics**  
Malnutrition, body composition, inflammation, healthy ageing, aged care, food service  

**Secondary supervisor: TBA**

### Proposed Honours Project

**Nutrition for Ageing in Place – the NAP project**  
*The vision of this program of research is to maximise the nutritional status of older Australians in receipt of Home Care Packages in order to improve their quality of life and extend their years of independence in their own home.*

Nutritional health is an important determinant of overall health. We know that nutritional status declines with ageing and that malnutrition prevalence increases with level of care such that it is highest in residential aged care and lowest in the community. Increasingly aged care is delivered in an older person’s home yet these people are not the same as healthy community dwelling adults and would previously have been counted in residential aged care. We know nothing about the nutritional status of home care package recipients. This project aims to describe the nutritional health of these older Australians and to understand how they prioritise their package expenditure and the value they place on food and nutrition.

This research aligns with the ‘Quality Aged Care’ area of focus for the CFI.


### Additional information

This large research project would suit a range of different backgrounds. While ideally a student would need dietetic qualifications there are aspects of the research that would be suitable for those with a nutrition or other health-related background.
Zhou, Michael

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| **Primary supervisor:**  
**Dr Michael Zhou** – mandatory reporting, medical negligence, intersection between health and law, forensic odontology, teaching pedagogy particularly around the use of virtual reality as a teaching modality.  

**Secondary supervisor:**  
**Dr Lauren Lines** – child health and wellbeing, health professionals’ roles in promoting children’s health, and preventing abuse, paediatric nursing  
[https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/lauren.lines](https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/lauren.lines) |

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| **Title:** Mandatory reporting by nurses and midwives in Australia: A scoping review  
Outline: Nurses and midwives are well placed to identify and respond to cases of severe child abuse and neglect. In Australia, nurses and midwives are mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect, yet little is known about their attitudes, experiences, and enablers/barriers to mandatory reporting. This project will explore both academic (research) and grey literature to provide a contemporary summary of what is currently known about mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect by nurses and midwives in Australia.  

**Additional information**  
No specific skills or knowledge is required. The candidate will be supported to develop the necessary skills to undertake the research. An interest in law as it applies to healthcare practice would be beneficial. |