

# Natalie Hannan



## project summary

An inaugural inspiring women fellowship is awarded to Dr Natalie Hannan to support her continued work at The University of Melbourne's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

With very young children it is extremely difficult to attend international meetings. The inspiring women fellowship will be used to ensure that Dr Hannan can present her work at these important international meetings with the assistance of a carer for her very young daughter, ensuring she remains competitive in her field.

The inspiring women fellowship will also allow Natalie to employ part-time research assistance.

Natalie's research focuses on preeclampsia, which is a serious complication of pregnancy affecting around 2-7% of all pregnancies and causing significant illness to both mothers and their babies. With no effective treatment a therapeutic approach is urgently needed.

Using a unique approach to specifically target the delivery of therapeutics directly to the placenta, allows delivery of promising drugs at lower concentrations safely to the placenta, reducing off-target effects to both the mother and the baby.

Targeted placental therapeutic delivery would be an innovative step forward in the treatment of major obstetric complications.

If successful and advanced for use in the clinic, it would be a breakthrough in the management of preeclampsia, dramatically improving outcomes for both mother and baby.

Natalie has two children, and in addition to leading a talented research team, she has a strong track record of success as an ambassador for women in STEM along with a recognised community profile that demonstrates her strong leadership skills.

## personal history

Dr Natalie Hannan is an NHMRC Early Career Research Fellow in the Translational Obstetrics Group at the University of Melbourne.

Dr Hannan's research focuses on understanding the complex interactions and mechanisms underlying implantation and pregnancy.

More recently her research passion has focused on identifying novel treatments for one of the most severe pregnancy complications, preeclampsia.

Her research has been recognised in many ways including the award of a major NHMRC Project Grant and Early Career Fellowship (2010-2014); a University of Melbourne Early Career Researcher Grant (2011) and Career Interruption Fellowship (2013) overall she has obtained competitive funding totalling close to one million dollars.

## Dr Natalie Hannan

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Natalie has a strong track record of success as an ambassador for women in STEM along with a recognised community profile that demonstrates her strong leadership skills.

She has over 30 peer-reviewed publications the majority of which are ranked in the top journals of her field.

Dr Hannan has been invited to present her work internationally on many occasions.

Dr Hannan was selected to undertake the prestigious Frontiers in Reproduction course in the United States (2007) and was awarded a Young Tall Poppy award (2010); selected as a Fresh Science finalist (2006) in recognition of her passion and commitment to communicate her research to the public.

Natalie's work has a clear focus on translation: she is passionate about improving the reproductive health of women.

### other inspiring women fellows:

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- / Dr Maria Liaskos
- / Dr Catherine Satzke
- / Dr Emily Nicholson

### host institution

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

### further information

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[veski.org.au/inspiring-women](http://veski.org.au/inspiring-women)

### about the inspiring women fellowships

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The inaugural inspiring women fellowships, funded by the Victorian Government through the Office of the Lead Scientist and delivered by **veski**, are designed to support outstanding female leaders who are planning for, experiencing, or returning from a career break.

