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women

# STEM sidebyside program in 2023 for mid-career women

July - December 2023



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## **veski inspiring women STEM sidebyside program in 2023**

The INCLUSIVE veski inspiring women STEM sidebyside program in 2023 is a leadership program that supports women wanting to progress or extend their leadership positions within a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) industry.

The program in 2023 is exclusively for a cohort of competitively selected mid-career women from across Academia, Industry, Government and the Not for Profit sector, aspiring to secure a senior leadership position.

The dynamic 6-month program of workshops and networking opportunities is designed to empower women at different career stages with the skills, networks and mindset to develop and achieve their career goals within STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) industries.

## **veski inspiring women STEM sidebyside extended program**

In 2023, veski is also delighted to provide an extension of the veski inspiring women STEM sidebyside program to our program alumni from 2018, 2019 and 2020/2021.

This is our small way of checking-in with them, especially after the past few years – where we know the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted their lives, career progression, and aspirations.

veski's continued support of our past participant's leadership journeys will, we hope, re-ignite their passion and further empower and inspire them to get back on track to securing a senior leadership role...

## **history of the veski inspiring women STEM sidebyside program**

The veski inspiring women STEM sidebyside program was established in 2018 and is proudly delivered by veski.

With women continuing to be under-represented at leadership levels across Australia, the veski inspiring women STEM sidebyside mid-career leaders program goes some way to addressing this challenge, and is designed to support women wanting to progress or extend their leadership positions within a STEM industry enabling them to better foster and generate organisational cultural change and pave the way for future generations.

The inaugural veski inspiring women STEM sidebyside program was delivered in 2018 with the support of the British Consulate General Melbourne and Monash University for women in STEM industries and university students. The program was also delivered in 2019 and 2020/2021.

Since the inaugural program, the veski inspiring women STEM sidebyside program has received support from multiple funding and in-kind sources including Victorian universities, industry and membership organisations.

veski acknowledges the inspiring women STEM sidebyside program partners and financial supporters in 2023





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## selection panel members

### **Dr Leonie Walsh FTSE - chair**

#### **veski chair**

Director & Founder  
Productive Management Solutions

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### **Dr Jessica Borger**

Scientific Education Team Leader  
Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI)

### **Professor Natalie Hannan**

#### **veski board director**

Associate Dean, Diversity and Inclusion  
The University of Melbourne

### **Mr James Liley**

Client Management Director APAC  
Frank Recruitment Group

### **Dr Tich-Lam Nguyen**

Chief Operating Officer  
ARC CoE in Future Low-Energy Electronics Technologies (FLEET)

### **Professor Sumeet Walia**

Co-chair of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee  
Science and Technology Australia  
RMIT University







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## program participants in 2023

Dr Jacqui Adcock

Dr Sarah Annesley

A/Prof Sara Baratchi

Dr Emily Camm

A/Prof Carina Chan

Dr Indu Chandrashekar

Dr Fangfang Chen

Dr Julia Cianci

Ms Ashleigh Clarke

Dr Janna Fabris

Dr Kate Griffiths

Prof Begona Heras

Dr Caitlin Hitchcock

A/Prof Yuning Hong

Ms Lauren Kelly

Dr Erica Kuligowski

Dr Leah-Anne Latorre

Dr Jessey Lee

Dr Katherine Locock

Mrs Lisa Lombardi

A/Prof Valentina Lorenzetti

Ms Claire Martin

A/Prof Sara Moridpour

A/Prof Rachael Richardson

Dr Maithili Sashindranath

A/Prof Bridgette Semple

Dr Louise Shewan

Dr Thi Thu Hao Van

Prof Zora Vrcelj

Dr Louise Young



### **Dr Jacqui Adcock**

Senior Lecturer  
Deakin University

Dr Jacqui Adcock is a senior lecturer in chemistry at Deakin University, with interests in lipid analysis, lipid oxidation and omega-3 fatty acids. She is using analytical chemistry to probe the underlying mechanisms of lipid oxidation that lead to food rancidity and spoilage. She is also synthesising novel lipid compounds using fish oils and enzymatic reactions to produce antiinflammatory compounds for the treatment of a range of inflammatory diseases. Additionally, Dr Adcock is dedicated to providing high quality and well-rounded training and support to PhD students to empower the next generation of scientists.



### **Dr Sarah Annesley**

Senior Tracey Banivanua Mar Research Fellow  
La Trobe University

Dr Sarah Annesley is a Senior Tracey Banivanua Mar Research Fellow and Head of the Molecular Cell Biology Laboratory in the Department of Microbiology, Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology at La Trobe University. Her research focuses on three main neurological disorders - Parkinson's Disease, Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Long COVID-19. Her aim is to characterise these disorders, investigating the mechanisms of the disease process at the cellular and molecular level to discover how these mechanisms can be manipulated for treatment and to identify biomarkers which can be developed into world-first diagnostic tests.



### **A/Prof Sara Baratchi**

Alice Baker and Eleanor Shaw Gender Equity Fellow  
Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute

Dr Baratchi is an experienced Cellular Biologist specializing in vascular mechanobiology. As head of the Mechanobiology & Microfluidics Lab, she develops artificial models of human blood vessels and heart valves using microfluidic technologies. Her research focuses on understanding how mechanical forces impact cellular responses in cardiovascular diseases. Dr Baratchi is an Associate Professor, Alice Baker and Eleanor Shaw Gender Equity Fellow at Baker Institute, and a founding member and Vice President of the Australian Society for Mechanobiology. Dr Baratchi is committed to promoting equity and diversity in STEM, addressing underrepresentation of women in leadership roles.



**Dr Emily Camm**  
Senior Research Scientist  
Hudson Institute of Medical Research



Have you ever considered how the first nine months of your life shaped you? The nutrition you received in the womb, your mother's health while pregnant and the quality of the air she breathed - all influenced your development as a baby and health into adulthood. This field, termed developmental programming, is the focus of Dr Emily Camm's research. Emily obtained her PhD from Monash University and subsequently undertook post-doctoral training in Geneva and Cambridge. Emily was recently recruited to The Ritchie Centre, and through lecturing, supervising and outreach teaching, continues to educate and inspire scientists and doctors of the future.

**A/Prof Carina Chan**  
School of Psychology & Public Health  
La Trobe University



Associate Professor Carina Chan was trained in Health Psychology and Behavioural Medicine. Her expertise lies primary in the understanding of psychosocial issues and mechanisms related to health and health behaviour change. Her research has focused in the areas of health promotion and disease management for the past 18 years and has been involved in research projects in both developed and developing countries. Her current research has extended her research expertise to the regional/rural context, working with multidisciplinary teams focusing on psychosocial issues associated with aging, chronic disease prevention and management, suicide prevention and community engagement.

**Dr Indu Chandrashekar**  
Senior Research Fellow  
Monash University



Dr Indu Chandrashekar is a Senior Research Fellow at the ARC Centre for Fragment-Based Design (CFBD), Monash University. She specialises in biophysical characterisation of biomolecules. After completing a PhD in Biophysics from India, she relocated to Australia to undertake postdoctoral training at WEHI and later at Monash University. During her postdoctoral research, she has contributed to several drug discovery projects and published over 25 peer-reviewed papers. She is particularly interested in understanding how protein structure dictates function and develop small molecules that modulate those functions. Her goal is to help generate transformative therapeutics that will provide improved patient outcomes.



### **Dr Fangfang Chen**

Senior Research Fellow  
Deakin University

Fangfang Chen completed her PhD in Computational Chemistry at the Centre for Molecular Simulation, Swinburne University of Technology in 2012. In the same year, she joined the Institute for Frontier Materials (IFM) at Deakin University as a postdoctoral fellow. Building on her expertise, she took on the role of leading a modelling team at IFM's Burwood campus in 2015. Her research primarily focuses on developing innovative electrolyte materials for next-generation high-performance batteries utilizing multiscale computational methods, such as ab initio-based methods and molecular dynamics simulations. Her research has been published in some esteemed journals, including Nature Materials, Joule, Advanced Materials.



### **Dr Julia Cianci**

Head of Strategy and Business Development  
ZiP Diagnostics

Julia Cianci joined ZiP Diagnostics in October 2023 as Head of Strategy and Business Development. ZiP Diagnostics develops point-of-care tests for infectious diseases and has a mission to provide rapid, accurate and low-cost tests to meet global diagnostic needs. Julia was previously the Program Leader for Medical Countermeasures with Health Security Systems Australia, a division of DMTC LTD. Julia has over 15 years' experience in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry and has managed therapeutic development programs in infectious diseases, autoimmunity, and inflammation at CSL, Biota Pharmaceuticals and Acrux, and was the Operations Manager and COO for the ARC Centre of Excellence in Convergent Bio-Nano Science & Technology. Julia holds a PhD in medicinal chemistry (WEHI) and honours degree in biomedical science (Monash University).



### **Ms Ashleigh Clarke**

Director Research Operations  
Grampians Health

Ashleigh is the Director of Research Operations at Grampians Health, living and working in the regional town of Ballarat where she raises her two daughters. Born and raised in rural Victoria (Wycheproof!). Ashleigh has over 16 years of research management experience in basic science through to health services research sector. Her role focuses on building and supporting the research capacity and capability of the health service and beyond. She is passionate about equity of healthcare in regional and rural Victoria and sees research as a key vehicle to help drive this.

## **Dr Janna Fabris**

Assistant Manager, Civil Space Policy  
Department of Industry, Science and Resources



Janna studied mechatronics and computer science at The University of Melbourne before landing a graduate engineering role at Boeing Australia to work on the Boeing 787 Dreamliner. She then moved to Canada and pursued a PhD in materials engineering at The University of British Columbia to further enhance her knowledge in composite materials and manufacturing. The outcomes of her doctoral research underpin a Canadian National Centre of Excellence in Knowledge Mobilisation.

Since returning to Australia in 2020, Janna has worked in various space policy roles for the Australian Government including at the Australian Space Agency and Defence.

## **Dr Kate Griffiths**

Strategic Project Development Manager  
WEHI



Dr Kate Griffiths has extensive drug discovery experience across academia, government and industry. She is co-inventor on drug patents and was pivotal in developing AdAlta Ltd's asset portfolio including translating a novel biologic drug from discovery through to clinical trials. Kate is currently a Strategic Project Development Manager at WEHI with key roles in the institute's 10-year Technology Strategy and National Drug Discovery Centre.

As a Wellbeing Contact Officer at WEHI, she works to raise awareness and improve mental health and wellbeing. She aspires to participate in convergence science programs to drive innovative solutions that will help society at large.

## **Prof Begona Heras**

Professor in Biochemistry  
La Trobe University



Prof Heras is the Head of the Structural Biology and Bacterial Pathogenesis laboratory and leads the Infection and Immunity Theme at the La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science. Her specialist interest is in the area of infectious diseases with a focus on dissecting the protein machineries that drive bacterial infections. She has established a multidisciplinary research program to examine the structure and function of proteins that play central roles in bacterial diseases. Informed by the new knowledge her laboratory develops inhibitors that block bacterial pathogenesis, which represent a new strategy that promises to transform the way we treat bacterial infections.



### **Dr Caitlin Hitchcock**

Senior Research Fellow  
The University of Melbourne

Dr Hitchcock is a clinical psychologist with expertise in translating cognitive science into innovations in mental health treatment. She works closely with international treatment services to ensure that the latest research advances are used to inform clinical practice, and to increase access to evidence-based treatment in underserved communities. Currently, she leads a research team at the Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, University of Melbourne, and is a Senior Affiliate at the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, University of Cambridge.



### **A/Prof Yuning Hong**

ARC Future Fellow  
La Trobe University

Dr Yuning Hong is an Associate Professor of Chemistry and an ARC Future Fellow in the La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science (LIMS), La Trobe University. She was a former ARC DECRA fellow (2017-2020) and McKenzie Fellow in University of Melbourne (2014-2016). Her research at LIMS focuses on developing novel fluorescent chemical probes for protein unfolding, misfolding and aggregation, oxidative stress and autophagy, and the study of their interplay in the context of neurodegenerative diseases. Dr Hong is the recipient of the Le Fèvre Medal from Australian Academy of Science (2022) and the RACI Rita Cornforth Lectureship Award (2018).



### **Ms Lauren Kelly**

Senior Director, Target Translation Research Accelerator for  
Diabetes & Cardiovascular Disease, MTPConnect

Lauren Kelly is an experienced and dedicated research and alliance management professional. She is passionate about driving medical research collaborations at the nexus between academia, industry and not-for-profits for the betterment of human health. Since 2019, Lauren has been responsible for the administration of nearly \$70 million in MRFF funding across MTPConnect's TTRA and BTB programs, establishing two national Research Centres and supporting 37 translational research projects from across Australia, and counting. Lauren has a Bachelor of Science and Master of Business (Science and Technology) from Monash University, and a Graduate Diploma of Applied Corporate Governance.

## **A/Prof Ing Kong**

Associate Professor in Manufacturing Engineering  
La Trobe University



Dr Ing Kong is an Associate Professor and Deputy Head in the Department of Engineering at La Trobe University. She is also the Leader of Advanced Polymer and Composite Materials (APCM) Research Group. She completed her PhD in Materials Science at National University of Malaysia in 2009. Ing has fifteen years of research experience in Applied Science and Engineering R&D activities. She provides complementary expertise in the development of advanced materials, particularly functional polymer composites, magnetic nanoparticles, carbon nanomaterials and superconductors. She has authored more than 100 publications, including 9 invited book chapters and 83 refereed journal articles.

## **Dr Erica Kuligowski**

Vice-Chancellor's Senior Research Fellow  
RMIT University



Dr Erica Kuligowski is an ARC Future Fellow and Vice-Chancellor's Senior Research Fellow in the School of Engineering at RMIT University with expertise in response behaviour of people under imminent threat, emergency communications, and evacuation modelling. Prior to joining RMIT, Erica worked for 18 years in the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology's Engineering Laboratory where she performed research on evacuation behaviour and emergency communications in disasters, including severe weather and bushfire. Erica has received awards from the U.S. Government and international fire engineering organizations for her work and has written over 100 journal, conference, and agency articles.

## **Dr Leah-Anne Latorre**

Medical Affairs Manager  
ViiV Healthcare



Dr Leah-Anne Latorre graduated from Monash University in 2004 and completed her PhD on diet-induced cardiovascular and renal disease in 2009. With a passion for health, access to medicines and improving patient outcomes, she started her career in the not-for-profit space namely in guideline development at the National Heart Foundation and the Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute. With a keen interest in infectious diseases, she moved to the pharmaceutical industry in 2012 where she has spent the last 11 years as a Medical Affairs Manager working across interesting and diverse therapeutic areas including meningococcal disease, shingles and HIV.





### **Dr Jessey Lee**

Senior Lecturer / Deputy Chair, Department of Civil & Construction Engineering, Swinburne University of Technology

Dr Jessey Lee is a Structural Engineer specialising in structural design, prefabricated construction, engineering research and project delivery. She is a Senior Lecturer and Deputy Chair of the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering at Swinburne University of Technology. Jessey's area of research is in steel connections, fastenings to timber and concrete, modular construction and non-conforming building products; supporting industry development and engineering design practice. She is passionate about inspiring girls to put on their engineering hat and is proud to be part of the collective that is supporting diversity and equality in STEM.



### **Dr Katherine Locock**

Leader - Drug Discovery Chemistry Team  
CSIRO

Dr Katherine Locock leads the Drug Discovery Chemistry team in the Manufacturing Business Unit of CSIRO. Her research focuses on how chemistry can deliver solutions to industry challenges across manufacturing, biotech and agricultural sectors. Katherine has also worked extensively with First Nations groups over the past 10 years, spanning partnerships with First Nations businesses and STEM education outreach work. In recognition of her contributions, Katherine was elected a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (2021) and as AIPS Victorian Young Tall Poppy of the Year (2016) and is a recent graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (2023).



### **Mrs Lisa Lombardi**

Optometrist/Senior Clinical Research Co-ordinator (Bionic Eye)  
Centre for Eye Research Australia

Lisa Lombardi is an Optometrist, Senior Clinical Research Coordinator with the Centre for Eye Research Australia and Honorary researcher at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital. She completed her Bachelor of Optometry degree in 2007, at the University of Melbourne, graduating with therapeutic endorsement. She completed a Post Graduate Certificate in Advanced Clinical Optometry with emphasis on Low vision, Contact lenses and Paediatrics. She is currently working with the Bionic Eye Unit exploring novel vision processing methods in patients with end-stage retinitis pigmentosa implanted with a suprachoroidal retinal prosthesis.

## **A/Prof Valentina Lorenzetti**

Lead of the Neuroscience of Addiction & Mental Health Program  
Australian Catholic University



Dr Lorenzetti is Associate Professor, Lead of the Neuroscience of Addiction & Mental Health Program; and Founding Deputy Director of the Healthy Brain and Mind Research Centre, at Australian Catholic University. Valentina received her PhD at The University of Melbourne in December 2012 and is recognized as an expert in the field of addiction neurosciences. Using neuroimaging and neurocognitive methods and techniques in humans, her research has advanced the current understanding of the neurocognitive and mental health correlates of (i) cannabis and alcohol dependence (ii) other psychopathologies including depression, psychotic disorders, problem gambling, and opiate addiction.

## **Ms Claire Martin**

Land Acquisitions Manager  
RES Australia Pty Ltd



Claire works as a Land Acquisition Manager for RES focusing on projects Australia-wide. Travelling to rural areas to negotiate interests in land to build renewable energy projects for a cleaner earth. Using her skills from her past life as a Property Lawyer, Claire has transferred to an industry she is passionate about and works with an amazing and supportive team. As co-vice chair of the award-winning RES Gender Affinity Network, Claire has forged a seat at the table where decisions are being made on a global level in her employer company. She also loves live music and Rugby Union.

## **A/Prof Sara Moridpour**

Associate Dean of Student Experience, School of Engineering  
RMIT University



Sara received her bachelor's degree in civil engineering and master's and PhD degrees in traffic engineering. She has 20 years of work/research experience in traffic and transportation. She has been working at RMIT since 2010. Sara is highly engaged in different research and professional activities, including publishing numerous journal/conference papers, serving as a technical/organising committee member of conferences and editorial board member of journals. She has been invited to speak at traffic/transport conferences. Her focus on enhancing diversity, equity and inclusion and improving student experience has made a significant contribution to RMIT and improving the global reputation of the University.



### **A/Prof Rachael Richardson**

Principal Research Fellow  
Bionics Institute

Dr Rachael Richardson is a Principal Research Fellow at the Bionics Institute. Rachael completed her BSc degree at the University of Melbourne. Her PhD was undertaken at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in defining cell signalling pathways in cancer and immune disorders. The main goal of Rachael's current research is to develop innovative strategies to improve precision of neural stimulation for applications in areas such as hearing loss, vision loss, and chronic pain. Rachael currently receives funding for this work from the NHMRC, CASS Foundation, and the Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund.



### **Dr Maithili Sashindranath**

State Manager, Australian Centre for Excellence in  
Melanoma Imaging and Diagnosis (ACEMID), Alfred Health

Dr Sashindranath is State Manager for the Australian Centre for Excellence in Melanoma Imaging and Diagnosis (ACEMID), a national project aimed at reconceiving the early detection of melanoma. She coordinates the ACEMID cohort study in Victoria including setup of research infrastructure at hospitals, building the legal and technological frameworks, and establishing the clinical and data governance structure for the study. With >15 years of research experience in the field of brain injuries and stroke, Dr Sashindranath is Deputy Laboratory Head at Monash University's Australian Centre for Blood Diseases (ACBD) where she manages a team of research assistants, post-docs & PhD students.



### **A/Prof Bridgette Semple**

Group Leader, Paediatric Neurotrauma Lab  
Monash University

Dr Bridgette Semple heads the Paediatric Neurotrauma Group at Monash University's Central Clinical School in Melbourne, Australia. Her laboratory team uses preclinical animal models supplemented by the analysis of patient samples for improved understanding of the biological mechanisms that occur in the brain after a traumatic injury, particularly when sustained during early development. Bridgette holds leadership positions with both the US National Neurotrauma Society and the International Neurotrauma Society, and co-coordinates the Honours program in the Department of Neuroscience at Monash University.

## **Dr Louise Shewan**

Senior Research Fellow in Archaeological Science  
The University of Melbourne



Louise Shewan is an archaeological scientist with expertise in the isotopic analysis of skeletal remains and environmental samples. Her research focuses on the development of methodologies and techniques to apply to archaeological and forensic dental specimens and protocols for the creation of background 'isoscapes' for archaeological research and provenance studies for use in sourcing of cultural artefacts and agricultural product traceability. Louise has current multi-disciplinary research projects in Australia and southeast Asia. She is supported by a veski inspiring women – bridging the funding gap grant for her project, "Human life histories: isotopic investigation of archaeological teeth".

## **Dr Thi Thu Hao Van**

Vice Chancellor's Senior Research Fellow  
RMIT University



Dr Van is currently a Vice Chancellor's Senior Research Fellow at RMIT University. She has made significant contributions to the fields of animal and human health through her impactful research. In addition to her outstanding research achievements, Dr Van is wholeheartedly dedicated to the advancement of education and the provision of effective mentorship to the next generation. Dr Van actively advocates for the promotion of gender equity, inclusion, support for underrepresented groups in STEM, and fosters an environment where everyone can flourish and reach their full potential.

## **Prof Zora Vrcelj**

Head of Built Environment Program  
Victoria University



Prof Zora Vrcelj works across the built environment, engineering and construction sectors to achieve impactful outcomes. Before joining Victoria University in 2012, she was an academic at UNSW's School of Civil and Environmental Engineering for 12 years. The founder and head of Victoria University's Built Environment program, she has a proven track record of building high-performing teams. Among her research interests are the technology for improving student and practitioner education around built environments, sustainable materials and buildings, and the digital transformation of construction. Zora has supervised research projects totalling \$3.0M in funding and has published around 120 refereed technical publications.



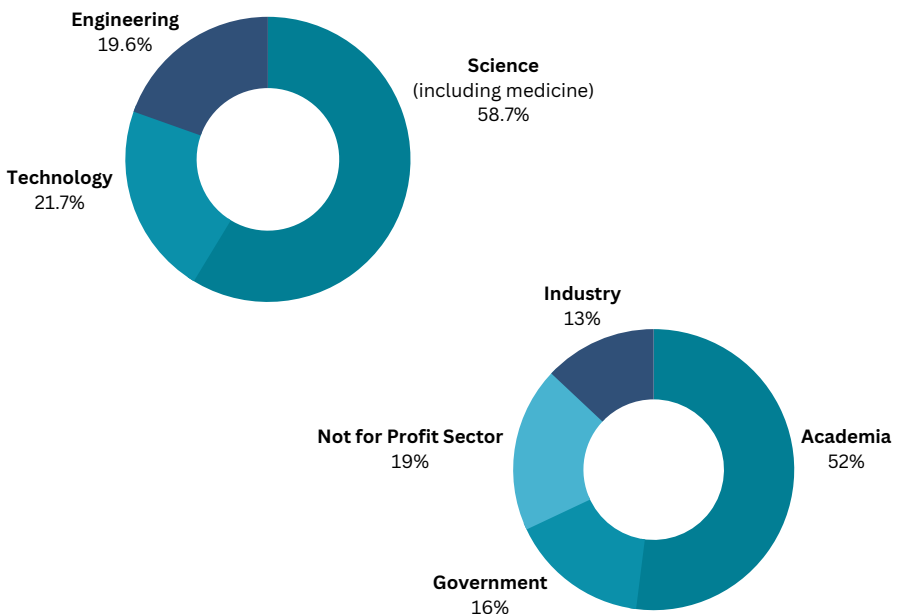
## Dr Louise Young

Associate Medical Director  
Merck Healthcare Pty Ltd

Louise Jayne Young is a highly motivated and team-oriented leader in the Australian pharmaceutical industry, specialising in oncology and immunology. With dual citizenship in New Zealand and Australia, Louise has held various positions in within the Medical Affairs function including within Merck Healthcare Pty Ltd and Eisai Australia Pty Ltd. Louise's expertise lies in strategic leadership, launch planning, cross-functional collaboration, and team management. Louise holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Medical Biology (Immunology) from The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute.

Louise commenced a new position as Global Insights Development Lead & Country Support APAC at Merck Healthcare, based in Singapore, during the delivery of the veski inspiring women STEM sidebyside program - congratulations Louise!

### veski inspiring women STEM sidebyside participants in 2023

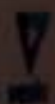






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# STEM sidebyside program

## participants in 2023



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Jacqui  
Adcock



Sarah  
Annesley



Sara  
Baratchi



Emily  
Camm



Carina  
Chan



Indu  
Chandrashekar



Fangfang  
Chen



Julia  
Cianci



Ashleigh  
Clarke



Janna  
Fabris



Kate  
Griffiths



Begona  
Heras



Caitlin  
Hitchcock



Yuning  
Hong



Lauren  
Kelly



Ing  
Kong



Erica  
Kuligowski



Leah-Anne  
Latorre



Jessey  
Lee



Katherine  
Locock



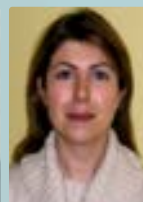
Lisa  
Lombardi



Valentina  
Lorenzetti



Claire  
Martin



Sara  
Moridpour



Rachael  
Richardson



Maithili  
Sashindranath



Bridgette  
Semple



Louise  
Shewan



Thi Thu Hao  
Van



Zora  
Vrcelj



Louise  
Young

The program  
in 2023  
is supported by



## veski foundation scholarship

Those who face systemic barriers to success or other worthy applicants (as determined by the review panel) were considered for a financial scholarship to support their participation in the program.

This year, the veski foundation is providing the following recipient with a scholarship to access financial assistance, to support travel and accomodation, to participate in the inclusive veski inspiring women STEM sidebyside program in 2023.



### veski foundation scholarship recipient

**A/Prof Carina Chan**

School of Psychology & Public Health  
La Trobe University



## veski inspiring women STEM sidebyside program summary



## **veski inspiring women STEM sidebyside program detail**

### **Expanding You in the World – Friday, 28 July 2023**

This half-day session was facilitated by Sophie Krantz and generously supported by Deakin University. Participants engaged in discussions on the benefits of having big aspirations, recognizing the value they bring to the world and to be able to better find, filter and focus on adding strategic global connections into their networks. The session included networking with participants from the 2018, 2019 and 2020/2021 cohorts.

### **Re-Igniting your Joy: Job Crafting and our Wellbeing – Friday, 4 August 2023**

(Optional additional session attended by a few of the participants in 2023)

This half-day session was facilitated by Dina Pozzo and generously supported by Phillips Ormonde Fitzpatrick. In this session, participants were prompted to think about their personal strengths which bring them joy and positive energy, by reflecting on their career journeys so far. The session was delivered as part of the extended program for participants from the 2018, 2019 and 2020/2021 cohorts.

### **Your Presence on Social Media – Tuesday, 15 August 2023**

This 2-hour virtual session was facilitated by Michelle Gallaher. During this session, participants gained insights on how they should define, articulate and execute their person and professional strategies on various social media platforms.

### **Identifying Gaps and Limitations to Career Progression; Strategies to Fill Gaps – 17 Aug 2023**

(Optional additional session attended by a few of the participants in 2023)

This virtual session was facilitated by Mary Wlodek who provided participants with inspiration, empowerment and positivity to support professional and personal career development to thrive and achieve future ambitions and goals. The session was delivered as part of the extended program for participants from the 2018, 2019 and 2020/2021 cohorts.

### **Getting on a board and What to do when you get there – Thurs, 7 Sept & Wed, 4 Oct 2023**

This session was virtually delivered by Margot Foster AM. The session provided the participants with a better understanding of how to present themselves as suitable for appointment or election to a board or committee and a detailed understanding of their role once they have secured a position.

### **Staying Committed and Connected – Wednesday, 13 September 2023**

This half day session was facilitated by Josh Reid Jones and generously supported by Deakin University. Participants gained insights on how to create a practice of personal action that creates the deepest, most resilient environments of support for themselves and support for those around them. The session included networking with veski stakeholders including program partners and financial supporters.

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## **veski inspiring women STEM sidebyside program detail**

### **Connecting with Purpose and Meaning – Tuesday, 3 October 2023**

(Optional additional session attended by a few of the participants in 2023)

This virtual session was facilitated by Matt Gaffney, where Matt shared some of his own experiences and those of his clients, providing tips, on: Having a Purpose, as well as a real curiosity in others; Researching and planning, and engaging meaningfully, using emotional intelligence and the optimal communication channel for the circumstances. The session was delivered as part of the extended program for participants from the 2018, 2019 and 2020/2021 cohorts.

### **Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) - Monday, 9 October 2023**

This session was delivered by Miguel Oyarbide and Tess McNamara of SLR Consulting and generously supported by WEHI. The session provided a sound understanding of what ESG means and how participants are able to take practical actions to further the integration of ESG into their institutions and careers. The session was attended by program participants in 2023 and was delivered as part of the extended program for participants from the 2018, 2019 and 2020/2021 cohorts. The session included networking with veski stakeholders including program partners and financial supporters.

### **Leading Self with Courage - Monday, 23 October 2023**

This half-day session was facilitated by Dina Pozzo and generously supported by NTRO | ARRB. In this session, participants entered into an appreciative discussion designed to build meta-knowledge of one's own past courageous acts. Through sharing stories, participants broadened their own perspectives on courage and developed an action plan to access this knowledge, in future, when needed.

### **Embracing conflict and Difficult conversations - Monday, 20 November 2023**

This half-day session was facilitated by Sue Rosen and generously supported by Telstra. In this session, participants were led through a process to develop a growth mindset to embrace constructive conflict. Focused group discussions and interactions developed a valuable template and strategies for undertaking difficult conversations.

### **Cultivating your Executive Presence - Monday, 27 November 2023**

(Optional additional session attended by a few of the participants in 2023)

This virtual session was facilitated by Sue Rosen who provided participants with actionable strategies for cultivating their executive presence and an understanding of why executive presence is critical for leaders. The session was delivered as part of the extended program for participants from the 2018, 2019 and 2020/2021 cohorts.

### **Debrief Session and Closing Event- Monday, 4 December 2023**

The debrief session was facilitated by Sophie Krantz and generously supported by The British Consulate General- Melbourne. Sophie kindly led a debrief of the program reflecting on the participants in 2023 journey, capturing key highlights and learnings, and reconfirming participants existing (or new!) career aspirations and committing to next steps (including support of each other as a cohort). The session concluded with the program Closing Event Garden Party for all participants, including networking with veski stakeholders, program partners and financial supporters.



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## session facilitators

**Ms Sophie Krantz**  
sophie krantz consulting

**Ms Dina Pozzo**  
insium pty ltd

**Ms Michelle Gallaher**  
TrialKey | Opyl pty ltd

**Prof Mary Wlodek**  
Wlodek Consulting

**Ms Margot Foster AM BA LLB OLY PRI**  
The Boardroom School

**Mr Josh Reid Jones**  
Just Be Nice Project

**Mr Matt Gaffney**  
Enindico

**Mr Miguel Oyarbide / Ms Tess McNamara**  
SLR Consulting

**Ms Sue Rosen**  
executive coaching

# Expanding You in the World

## Program Debrief and Closing Event

**Sophie Krantz**  
sophie krantz consulting



Sophie Krantz specialises in internationalisation, global strategic expansion, and international leadership development. Sophie has worked with private and public sector leaders, on international business strategies in over 20 countries. She has done this at Global Fortune 500 and ASX100 companies.

She has worked at the International Trade Centre in Geneva on creating trade and investment strategies in developing countries. At Global Fortune 500 reinsurer, Swiss Re, in Zurich, Sophie worked with the Group CEO to expand the company's marketshare, board representation, talent pool, and shareholder base in emerging markets, including from creating advisory boards in India, Brazil and Colombia. In Australia, Sophie headed BlueScope's international trade strategy, securing outcomes in North Asia FTAs, and has advised large and small companies and government agencies on strategic international expansion and leadership.

Sophie is a practitioner in the Exponential Organisation framework and leads corporate innovation sprints to create new scalable business models at companies around the world including Bayer in Germany, Santos in Australia, and Aboitiz throughout Asia.

*Sophie Krantz*

# Re-igniting Your Joy: Job Crafting and our Wellbeing

## Leading Self with Courage

**Dina Pozzo**  
insium Pty Ltd

With 25 years' international experience in learning and organisational development, Dina is a highly skilled facilitator, coach and speaker. Having completed a Master of Applied Positive Psychology from the University of Melbourne, her keen interest in building courageous leaders was piqued.

Dina launched insium's "Leading with Courage" program at the 5th World Congress of Positive Psychology in Montreal in 2017 and presented the preliminary results of insium's "Workplace Courage Questionnaire" recently at the 6th World Congress of Positive Psychology. Additionally, she has been accredited by Dr. Brené Brown in "Dare to Lead" which is an empirically based courage-building program and most recently, she delivered Australia's first #CourageConference. Dina is thrilled to be contributing to the courage capability of today's organisations.



Dina's natural enthusiasm and ability to quickly build relationships creates a shared learning journey of curiosity and discovery, challenge and encouragement. Whether through workshops, keynote speaking or coaching, Dina's ultimate aim is to broaden minds and build skills, capability and confidence - empowering individuals to implement successful plans of action for sustainability and to have positive impact on organisational goals.

She has a passion for positive, generative approaches to leadership development, resulting in transformational shifts in performance and wellbeing for individuals, teams and organisations.

**INSIUM**

## Your Presence on Social Media

**Michelle Gallaher**  
**TrialKey | Opyl Pty Ltd**



Michelle is an award-winning thought-leader, speaker, advocate, and health technology entrepreneur. Trialkey is Michelle's current startup (number 4 announced in June this year), is applying artificial intelligence to improving and predicting clinical trial results.

Commencing in allied health, Michelle's career spans clinical and administrative roles in public and private health, commercial and executive roles with biotech, pharmaceutical, and medical organisations, as well as and leading a biotech peak-body and influencing legislation and regulation in healthtech.

Michelle moved from the corporate world to found her first startup in 2014, successfully selling that business three years later and going on to found AI health tech company Opyl Pty Ltd in 2019 (ASX:OPL).

The appropriate application of AI in healthcare and the role of ethics and digital leadership in technology development is a key issue that Michelle is renowned for as a champion and advocate.

Michelle is an experienced non-executive director on several boards (Praxis Australia, Cancer Trials Australia, and Medtech Actuator) and is co-founder of not-for-profit advocacy organisation, Women in STEMM Australia.

Michelle is a Victorian Honour Roll for Women inductee, Victorian Telstra Businesswoman and Entrepreneur of the Year, and a winner of Westpac's 200 Businesses of Tomorrow.

Michelle has an undergraduate degree in applied science, postgraduate qualifications in business and product management, a Global Executive MBA, is a GAICD and FAIM.



# Identifying Gaps and Limitations to Career Progression; Strategies to fill Gaps

**Prof Mary Wlodek**  
**Wlodek Consulting**

Professor Mary Wlodek is an inspirational research leader who makes a real difference to the health and wellbeing of women, infants and aspiring scientists. Her DOHaD research advances the understanding of how early life has a major impact on a healthy start to life and lifelong and intergenerational health and disease risk. She is highly respected, recognised and accomplished research fundraiser (~\$12million) and researcher (almost 200 publications).



Mary was Professor of Physiology at University of Melbourne for 24 years where she has held senior executive roles including as Associate Dean and then Deputy Dean of the Melbourne School of Graduate Research; Coordinator Researcher Development; and Associate Dean (Research) Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences.

With many honorary appointments, Mary leads human lactation research exploring breastfeeding and breast milk composition and production after pregnancy complications and implications for child growth and disease risk across many cohorts including in Singapore (GUSTO and S-PRESTO), Melbourne (Generation Victoria) and Perth.

Through “Wlodek Consulting”, she is highly sought after for coaching and grant/fellowship reviews and has delivered numerous career development workshops nationally/internationally. Mary’s commitment to mentoring has been recognised with prestigious awards at the university and by the Australian Government.



# Getting on a Board and What to do when you get there

## Margot Foster AM BA LLB OLY PRI The Boardroom School



Margot is an experienced director who brings all she has learned to her practical and positive governance program for effective directors The Boardroom School.

She has held directorships in a huge range of organisations from the small and local to the large and international.

Margot is a coach and mentor for directors and senior execs using her knowledge and insights to help navigate the tricky issues that often arise at the board table.

She practiced law for some 34 years and has won medals in rowing at the Olympic and Commonwealth Games.

Margot is a great networker, accepts every invitation that comes her way (because you just never know...) and hosts quarterly lunches for women who work in sport.



## Staying Committed and Connected

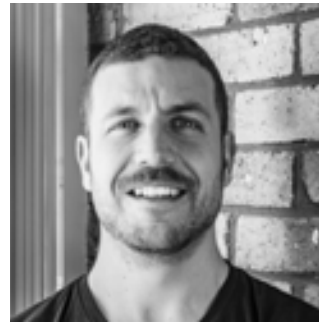
### Josh Reid Jones Just Be Nice Project

Josh Reid Jones is an accomplished entrepreneur, innovator, speaker and educator. Driven by a desire to 'Create extraordinary positive change in the world by helping people make ordinary positive change', Josh works extensively with organisations, communities and individuals across the globe to help people, help people.

With an organisational focus on housing, employment and mental health, an emphasis on community and peer support is of the utmost importance to Josh. Pursuing more effective help for people in need and a better integration of impact into existing organisations.

Josh believes the answer to effective help lies on the other side of utilising community, organisational and individual skill sets to maximum impact.

Josh works with schools, businesses, industry groups and charities both in Australia and abroad, working extensively on social responsibility, corporate impact, community development and mental health.



**JUSTBENICE**  
PROJECT

# Connecting with Purpose and Meaning

**Matt Gaffney**  
**Enindico**



Matt Gaffney's Enindico practice has been helping leaders and emerging leaders plan, develop, engage and deliver since 2010.

Strategic planning, people development, strategic industry engagement and project leadership have been Enindico's main offerings. As part of this, Matt has completed structured one-on-one career development coaching programs with over 350 people ... and around half of them have been women. Developing tailored plans for coaching program participants to connect with others with purpose and meaning has been an integral element of these programs.

Prior to establishing Enindico, Matt had over 20 years of international professional services firm experience with EY (including five years as a Partner) and Price Waterhouse (a predecessor firm to PwC), as well as a Commercial Manager role in industry.



## Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

### Miguel Oyarbide SLR Consulting

Miguel has over 15 years of experience in consulting and corporate roles with a proven track record of providing valuable guidance and implementing impactful strategies – working with top tier companies including Australia Post, NAB, Bank of Queensland, Suncorp and Medibank.

He is the Director of the Melbourne office.

Miguel brings deep knowledge of sustainability best practice, trends and emerging issues, combined with practical in-house expertise to offer a unique perspective to sustainability challenges. Miguel is a trusted expert in the field, dedicated to creating positive change for businesses, its stakeholders, and the planet.



### Tess McNamara SLR Consulting

Tess has over nine years' experience working in a variety of roles across research and evaluation, analysis and reporting, and stakeholder management in the tertiary and private sectors.

Tess is a collaborative team member, having implemented complex strategic frameworks through stakeholder engagement, capability development and change management techniques. Her ability to interpret and communicate key insights enables organisations to drive actions and improve performance.

Tess is passionate about driving social inclusion and sustainability and is currently completing her MBA specialising in Social Impact.



# Embracing conflict and Difficult conversations

## Cultivating your Executive Presence

**Sue Rosen**  
executive coaching



Sue is an experienced executive coach with qualifications in organisational and executive coaching, narrative coaching and leadership. She has worked with a wide range of national and international organisations, as well as with government and government agencies.

Sue is experienced at working with professionals seeking to develop their capacity for authentic leadership and has a passion for working with people who want to become courageous and compassionate leaders, elevating their executive presence so they can increase their leadership impact. Sue challenges clients to explore the narratives underlying their beliefs and assumptions so that they can achieve both personal and professional growth.

She combines her coaching skills and knowledge with many years of practical experience working in corporate roles, and volunteering in not for profit organisations.

Sue has run her own boutique executive coaching practice for 8 years, providing services in the areas of leadership development, coaching, facilitation and public speaking.

She holds a Graduate Certificate in Organisational Coaching & Leadership, is PCC accredited with the ICF, has Level 3 accreditation with IECL (Institute of Executive Coaches & Leaders) and is a Certified Narrative Coach.





inspiring  
women





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