



CRE Open Meeting 2025

1st August | 11:00 am – 5:00 pm AEST

Monash University, 553 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

Session	Time (AEST)	Title	Speaker
Registration	11:00		
Welcome	11:30	Introduction to the OPTIMAL CRE	Prof Erica Wood <i>Monash University</i>
How can we improve Ig use in blood cancers?	11:40	Evidence gaps in the use of Ig in blood cancers	Prof Zoe McQuilten <i>Monash University</i>
	12:00	Developing a core outcome dataset	Dr Catriona Parker <i>Monash University</i> Ms Clare Hennessy <i>Lifeblood</i>
	12:20	How can we best deliver Ig to patients with blood cancers?	A/Prof Leah Heiss <i>Monash University</i> Ms India Read <i>Monash University</i>
	12:40	How can we best dose Ig? Applying PK/PD studies to Ig research	Prof Jason Roberts <i>University of Queensland</i>
Lunch	1:00		
Optimising high-dose Ig use in immune and inflammatory conditions	1:45	Evidence gaps in the use of Ig in Kawasaki Disease	A/Prof Davinder Singh-Grewal <i>University of Sydney</i>
	2:05	Evidence gaps in the use of Ig in myasthenia gravis	A/Prof Anneke van der Walt <i>Alfred Health</i>
	2:25	Introduction to health economics in Ig research	Dr Adam Irving <i>Monash University</i>
	2:45	Understanding patient preferences through Discrete Choice Experiments	Dr Laura Fanning <i>Monash University</i>
	3:05	Applying health economics: update from the VALUE-Ig and VALUE-MG studies	Dr Abby Zhang <i>Monash University</i>
Afternoon tea	3:25		
What can be achieved through OPTIMAL?	3:55	Developing living evidence guidelines	Prof Tari Turner <i>Monash University</i>
	4:15	Panel discussion	Research and stakeholder representatives
	4:55	Closing remarks	Prof Erica Wood
Meeting close	5:00		

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



Dr Laura Fanning is a Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Health Economics, Monash Business School and the Transfusion Research Unit, Monash University. She is an investigator on the OPTIMAL CRE. Her work focuses on evaluating the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of blood products and patient preferences in healthcare.



Ms Clare Hennessy is Program Manager at Blood Matters, supporting best practice in transfusion care. She brings her extensive experience as a transfusion nurse consultant at Eastern Health and in the Lifeblood Clinical Education team to the OPTIMAL CRE.



A/Prof Leah Heiss is the Eva and Marc Besen International Research Chair in Design at Monash University and an investigator on the OPTIMAL CRE. She specialises in human-centred and co-design for healthcare, including technologies, models of care, and global health projects with the World Health Organization.



Dr Adam Irving is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Health Economics, Monash University and the Transfusion Research Unit, Monash University. He is an investigator on the OPTIMAL CRE. His work focuses on health technology assessment and the economics of blood product use.



Prof Zoe McQuilten leads the Cancer Research Program in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Deputy Director of the Transfusion Research Unit, Monash University and a consultant haematologist at Alfred Health and Monash Health. She is an NHMRC Emerging Leadership Fellow and investigator on the OPTIMAL CRE.



Dr Catriona Parker is an early-career Research Fellow in the Transfusion Research Unit at Monash University. Her research interests include improving patient experience and outcomes, utilising qualitative and mixed-methods approaches.



Ms India Read is a designer and PhD candidate in the Health Futures research program at Monash University, supported by the OPTIMAL CRE. Her research focuses on co-designed, human-centred innovations in healthcare. She leads the redesigning immunoglobulin delivery project.



Prof Jason Roberts is Director of the University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research and an investigator on the OPTIMAL CRE. He is a clinician-scientist specialising in optimising antimicrobial dosing in critically ill patients, with leadership roles in infectious diseases and pharmacotherapy research.



A/Prof Davinder Singh-Grewal is a paediatric rheumatologist at the Sydney Children's Hospital Network. He is a leader in Kawasaki Disease research in Australia, including the national PAEDS-KD registry and studies of immunoglobulin use. He is an investigator on the OPTIMAL CRE.



Prof Tari Turner is Director of the Australian Living Evidence Collaboration and a Professor at Cochrane Australia. She leads research on evidence synthesis and translation, and chaired Australia's COVID-19 living guidelines taskforce and WHO advisory groups on global health.



A/Prof Anneke van der Walt is a consultant neurologist at Alfred Health and researcher at Monash University. She is an Investigator on the OPTIMAL CRE. She leads international research on real-world outcomes in multiple sclerosis and myasthenia gravis, with a focus on long-term treatment effectiveness.



Prof Erica Wood AO is Director of the Transfusion Research Unit at Monash University and a consultant haematologist at Monash Health. An NHMRC Leadership Fellow, she leads the NHMRC Blood Synergy program and the OPTIMAL CRE.



Dr Abby Zhang is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Health Economics, Monash University, working on the VALUE-Ig project. Her research focuses on the economic impacts of public policies, with a particular interest in health and equity for disadvantaged populations.