Investigating Very Early Rehabilitation for SpEech (VERSE) after stroke
As humans, our lives revolve around communicating. We spend over half of our waking hours talking, texting, reading, writing, listening, understanding and interacting. It’s not until we lose these functions that we realise how critical they are. Aphasia is a communication disorder caused by stroke, which impairs speaking, comprehension, reading and writing while masking essentially intact and active intelligence. Each year over 25,000 Australians need aphasia therapy. Very Early Rehabilitation of SpEech (VERSE) is a program of research which includes a NHMRC funded project investigating the effects of early, intensive aphasia rehabilitation for stroke survivors. The VERSE therapy program aims to enhance the brain’s natural ‘rewiring’ processes or neuroplasticity within the first two weeks of stroke to regain lost communication skills through intensive therapy, communication enhanced environments, and improving therapy techniques.

Contents

Message from the Associate Dean Research 3
Exercise Medicine Research Institute 4
Australian Centre for Research into Injury in Sport and its Prevention (ACRISP) 5
Centre of Excellence for Alzheimer’s Disease Research and Care 6
Centre for Exercise and Sports Science Research (CESSR) 7
Systems and Intervention Research Centre for Health (SIRCH) 8
Emergency Services Research Group 11
ECU Health Simulation Centre 11
ECU Melanoma Research Group 12
Huntington’s Disease Research Group 13
Communication Disorders Research Group 14
Nutrition, Lifestyle and Clinical Trials Research Group 15
Our Researchers 16
Research Highlights 52
Applying for a Research Degree 55

ECU is committed to reconciliation and recognises and respects the significance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ communities, cultures and histories. ECU acknowledges and respects the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as the traditional custodians of the land. ECU acknowledges and respects its continuing association with Nyoongar people, the traditional custodians of the land upon which its campuses stand.
Message from the Associate Dean Research

The School of Medical and Health Sciences has a strong reputation for research excellence and leads research at Edith Cowan University. We have over 100 researchers across a wide range of disciplines and together we have brought in over $40 million in funding to ECU, published over 1000 peer reviewed papers, and completed 100 postgraduate students over the last 5 years.

The school has strong cross-disciplinary alliances and collaborates extensively with relevant domestic and international industry and government agencies. Such partnerships ensure that the medical and health research conducted at ECU answers real-world questions and has direct impact on practices which improve community health outcomes. A particular focus of our school is to promote engaged research leading to knowledge translation, application and impact.

The diverse medical and health research conducted at ECU is coordinated through several institutes, centres and groups, which are outlined within this brochure. Here we also introduce you to our world renowned researchers and post graduate research supervisors. The aim is not only to showcase our staff, research and world class facilities, but also to provide an ongoing focus for discussions that will lead to future collaborations, driving improvements in community health and wellbeing.

I hope you enjoy your journey through the research from the School of Medical and Health Sciences.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Associate Professor Chris Abbiss
Associate Dean Research
School of Medical & Health Sciences

Key Research Areas

Our areas of research strength are:
- Neuroscience
- Exercise and Sports Science
- Sports injury prevention/sports injury epidemiology
- Clinical Science
- Population Health
- Occupational and Environmental Health

For more information about our research areas, visit: www.ecu.edu.au/schools/medical-and-health-sciences/research-activity
Edith Cowan University’s Exercise Medicine Research Institute is a cross-disciplinary alliance of research centres and expertise with extensive national and international linkages. It is the first institute of its kind at an Australian University bringing together an expert team of researchers committed to improving clinical practice and community health through exercise and physical activity. In partnership with national and international networks, it enhances collaboration and promotes exercise medicine as an important component of health and lifestyle.

Ongoing research will further support the community, with the Institute examining the role of exercise in:

- Improving sexual health in men with prostate cancer: randomised controlled trial of exercise and psychosexual therapies
- Preliminary efficacy of implementing a program of exercise medicine for men on prostate cancer active surveillance – A pilot study
- Intense exercise for survival among men with metastatic castrate-resistant prostate cancer (INTERVAL – MCRPC) (GAP4)
- Mechanical modulation of bone metastases in advanced prostate cancer patients: Can targeted exercise suppress sclerotic tumour progression? – A pilot study
- Can exercise suppress tumour growth in advanced prostate cancer patients with sclerotic bone metastases? A randomised, controlled study protocol examining feasibility, safety and efficacy
- Mechanical modulation of bone metastases in advanced breast cancer patients: Can targeted exercise suppress osteolytic tumour progression?
- An integrated multi-component intervention to improve the lives of men with prostate cancer in Australia (TrueNTH Lifestyle and Exercise)
- Exercise medicine for all cancer survivors: implementation and evaluation of a national intervention program
- Characterising musculoskeletal health, motor development and exercise capacity of children who have completed therapy for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and lymphoma
- The effect of pre- and post-surgical exercise interventions on patient outcomes for prostate cancer patients undergoing prostatectomy

The Institute’s work developing the Exercise and Sports Science Australia Position Statement on Exercise for Cancer Survivors has led to an increase in the number of accredited exercise physiologists trained in this clinical area, with cancer patients nationally benefiting from the research. The Institute has authored the Cancer Council of WA’s Guidelines for Implementing Exercise Programs for Cancer Survivors, and has formed the basis of a 12-week exercise program offered by the Cancer Council of WA to the community. The Institute has also co-authored International Clinical Guidelines by the American College of Sports Medicine on exercise for cancer survivors.

For more information, visit: [www.exercisemedicine.org.au](http://www.exercisemedicine.org.au)

If you are interested in applying to ECU and want to discuss a specific project proposal, please contact:

Professor Daniel Galvão
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 3420
Email: d.galvao@ecu.edu.au
The Australian Centre for Research into Injury in Sport and its Prevention (ACRISP) is nationally and internationally renowned for its strong focus on creating new knowledge, translating its research into evidence-based outcomes, population-level impacts, with demonstrable impacts on safer sports behaviours and environments.

Designated by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), ACRISP is one of only ten groups of research excellence, acknowledged to have the abilities and expertise to undertake research that has a real impact on injury prevention in all who participate in sport.

The research undertaken by ACRISP members aims to support all forms of sport, exercise, fitness and physical activity being undertaken with minimal risk of injury – ensuring more people have the opportunity for sustained healthier lifestyles.

ACRISP’s scope of inquiry includes all those involved in sport, from the participants themselves (professional, amateur and recreational) through to those who support those participants (medical practitioners, clubs and sporting facilities, peak sports bodies, government agencies).

ACRISP-S research areas include:
- Understanding the burden of sports injury: The ACRISP epidemiology team are data driven researchers who use epidemiological and biostatistical methods for investigation of population health issues relating to injury and its prevention; and
- Impacting public policy: ACRISP conducts internationally leading research into the real-world implementation of sports injury interventions and their effectiveness. This includes identification of the best way/s to translate this knowledge to reach those who will most benefit from this research, such as coaches, sports administrators, parents, schools, and all those who play sport.

For more information, visit: [www.acrisp.org.au](http://www.acrisp.org.au)

If you are interested in applying to ECU and want to discuss a specific project proposal, contact:

Australian Centre for Research into Injury in Sport and its Prevention (ACRISP)
Joondalup Campus: Building 21, Level 2
Email: acrisp@ecu.edu.au
The Centre of Excellence for Alzheimer’s Disease Research and Care is unique in that it brings together leading researchers in different disciplines - from prominent clinical researchers to leading exercise physiologists and brain imaging experts. The Centre has also established research collaboration with the Australian Neuromuscular Research Institute (ANRI) and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (SCGH).

The Centre’s mission is to lower the burden of Alzheimer’s disease on the community and to enhance the quality of life of people affected by this devastating disease and our Vision is to see a world without Alzheimer’s disease.

The aim of the Centre of Excellence for Alzheimer’s Disease Research and Care is to:

- contribute to the community by developing effective strategies for the prevention of Alzheimer’s disease;
- develop tests for the early diagnosis of the disease;
- develop effective treatments that delay the onset of the disease and reduce its progression; and
- make a substantial difference in the care, well-being and quality of life for people with Alzheimer’s disease.

The Centre intends to achieve this objective through:

- Foundational research – aimed at achieving a molecular/cellular-level understanding of Alzheimer’s disease that underpins the more applied ‘translational’ research in the centre, while having the potential for the discovery of therapeutic drugs.
- Translational research – aimed at clinical outcomes – building on the outputs of foundational research and producing outputs that, when translated to practice, will improve population health and health policy.
- Enabling (applied) research – aimed at facilitating translation of research into practice.


If you are interested in applying to ECU and want to discuss a specific project proposal, please contact:

Professor Ralph Martins AO
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Researchers in the Centre for Exercise and Sports Science Research (CESSR) conduct high-impact scientific research and provide postgraduates with training and supervision in the area of exercise and sports science with the aim of improving our understanding of human movement. We use a multi-mode approach to studying human athletic performance which uses techniques in the fields of physiology, biomechanics, psychology, motor control and learning, neurophysiology, biochemistry, medical imaging, and others, to improve this understanding. We specifically focus on translating scientific advances into the real-world setting.

The Centre for Exercise and Sports Science Research (CESSR) was established in 2007. The Centre aims to:

- foster high quality research in exercise and sports science;
- promote and enhance the teaching of exercise and sports science at ECU;
- attract and support honours and postgraduate research students;
- establish collaborative links with other research groups and institutes;
- attract research funding from competitive grant agencies and industry; and
- contribute to exercise and sports science needs at local, national and international levels.

To meet these aims, we conduct research that is relevant to the broader community and of immediate practical impact. We positively engage with other researchers as well as schools, government organisations, health professionals, and community and elite-level sports teams.

CESSR members consist of full-time academic staff and research students of the Exercise and Sports Science discipline in the School of Medical and Health Sciences, and its adjunct members (many of whom were former full-time academic staff members). The Centre welcomes many international visitors for research and research presentation purposes, and we are proud of our strong national and international outlook. In order to drive our research agenda we run a monthly research presentation series, with additional ‘special presentations’ by visitors.

We encourage enquiries from students and researchers wishing to pursue research activities in our research group. We also welcome enquiries from industry seeking solutions or collaborations in relevant research areas through Research and Development.

For more information, visit: www.ecu.edu.au/schools/medical-and-health-sciences/our-research/centre-for-exercise-and-sports-science-research-cessr

If you are interested in applying to ECU and want to discuss a specific project proposal contact:

Professor Anthony Blazevich
Director
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 5472
Email: a.blazevich@ecu.edu.au
The Systems and Intervention Research Centre for Health (SIRCH) brings together scientists and clinicians to promote better health, improve early disease detection and enhance intervention using appropriate workforce education and systems. SIRCH develops and tests approaches that aim to improve equity, access, safety and quality in healthcare. SIRCH is a trans-disciplinary research group committed to inter-professional learning.

The objectives of the Centre are:

- to facilitate the translation of research and policy to enhance healthcare practice;
- to increase pure and applied research outputs from the diverse range of researchers in the Centre;
- to improve the quality and sustainability of the workforce;
- and apply innovative education initiatives.

The Centre focuses on the following research areas:

- Clinical Science
- Nutrition and Dietetics Research
- Occupational Therapy Research
- Emergency Services Research
- Population Health
- Glycomics and Suboptimal Health Research
- Occupational Health Research
- Environmental Health Research
- Clostridium Difficile
- Grandparent Research
- Health Promotion

The Centre’s activities cover four broad domains:

- Personalised Health including health promotion, health intervention, environmental health, global health and public health genomics;
- Applied Health and Safety including safety and quality in health, communication in healthcare and testing new models of service delivery;
- Aboriginal and Community Health including working with community on developing and evaluating innovative models of care, and challenging attitudes of healthcare providers;
- SIRCH Teaching and Learning which examines all facets of teaching and learning related to the research domains.


If you are interested in applying to ECU and want to discuss a specific project proposal, contact:

Associate Professor Peter Roberts
Director
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 5155
Email: p.roberts@ecu.edu.au
Occupational Health Research Group

Being located in the School of Medical and Health Sciences provides an opportunity for the group of certified occupational hygienists to collaborate in areas of biomarker research and the integration of health surveillance and exposure data.

Within the Occupational Health Research Group there is a specialism concerning the prevention of workplace injuries, incidents and exposure. This research group aims to:

- Develop innovative processes to assist organisations of all sizes and types to manage and evaluate injury risk to an acceptable level
- Assist organisations to develop injury prevention strategies
- Develop research protocols for the accurate determination of worker exposure profiles
- Integrate environmental (exposure) and medical surveillance data
- Develop laboratory based protocols to validate Australian occupational exposure standards

For more information, visit: www.ecu.edu.au/schools/medical-and-health-sciences/our-research/systems-and-intervention-research-centre-for-health/occupational-health-research-group

Environmental Health Research Group

The environmental health team have established close relationships with the Western Australian Department of Health, Medical Entomology division and collaborate with local and state government in various mosquito related projects. ECU currently host the Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee (LHAAC) and are involved in a number of projects related to food safety.

The environmental health research themes are centred on:
- Mosquito vector management
- Climate change and heat exposures of outdoor workers in developing countries and heat wave impacts and policy related to older people
- Bush fires and heavy metal contamination
- Food safety
- Water misting system and bacteriological risks

For more information, visit: www.ecu.edu.au/schools/medical-and-health-sciences/our-research/systems-and-intervention-research-centre-for-health/environmental-health-research-group

Grandparent Research Group

Recent research by the Grandparent Research Team has identified critical issues around the physical and mental well-being of grandparents, parents and children impacted by trauma. The longer term impact of such experiences on children can lead to poor scholastic performance, anti-sociality, substance abuse and criminality.

The aims of this research group are:
- To support grandparents, grandchildren and their parents affected by trauma in successful reunification.
- To make evidence based recommendations to government and non-government key stakeholders and advocate for the implementation of viable intervention strategies and legislative changes.
- To evaluate the cost effectiveness and continuous improvement derived from recommended interventions and report findings to government and industry.

For more information, visit: www.ecu.edu.au/schools/medical-and-health-sciences/our-research/systems-and-intervention-research-centre-for-health/grandparent-research-group

If you are interested in applying to ECU and want to discuss a specific project in occupational health or environmental health, contact:

Associate Professor Jacques Oosthuizen
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 5876
Email: j.oosthuizen@ecu.edu.au

If you are interested in applying to ECU and want to discuss a specific project, contact:

Dr David Coall
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Email: d.coall@ecu.edu.au
Nutrition and Dietetics Research Group

The Nutrition & Dietetics Research Team at ECU translate nutritional research into practice with a view to improve health outcomes for all Australians. Food and nutrition as medicine can optimise health, reduce the risk of chronic disease and improve development and performance.

The team has several research pillars:
- Nutrition Education and Food Literacy;
- Gut Health;
- Chronic Disease and Clinical Nutrition;
- Food Security;
- Life Course Nutrition.

The team has a number of ongoing research projects, including:

- **Refresh.ED: An Online food and nutrition teaching resource for WA school children**
  Nutrition is a single area in a crowded health curriculum taught in Australian schools and teachers may not have the necessary skill set or time to learn contemporary nutrition science to teach to students. As a response to this challenge, ECU has developed Refresh.ED, which is an online nutrition teaching resource for school children in Western Australia.

- **SNACPlus: Online Program to Build Knowledge and Confidence to Improves Healthy Eating Environments in the Childcare Sector**
  The SNACPlus research group has developed an engaging and relevant online curriculum to provide childcare staff with professional development and resources to teach healthy eating to two to five year old children and build a healthy food environment in their centre. Resources are accessible by parents/carers and are available on the SNACPlus website free of charge.

- **Examining the long term health impacts of the Paleolithic diet and the effects on gut health**
  This project is aimed at determining how total long-term dietary patterns, inclusive and exclusive of grains and legumes, contribute to changes in gut health that impact the risk of non-communicable chronic diseases.

- **The Milky Way Study**
  This study will compare the impact of regular fat and reduced fat dairy products across three main health outcomes including obesity, gut health and cardiovascular health. If the results of the research are promising, the team will look at replicating the study on a much larger scale, to provide good quality evidence for future dietary guidelines.


If you are interested in applying to ECU and want to discuss a specific project, contact:

Professor Amanda Devine
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 5527
Email: a.devine@ecu.edu.au
Emergency Services Research Group

The Emergency Service Research Group has research collaborations with state, national and international organisations including the Royal Flying Doctor Service, FALCK, the WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the WA Department of Mines and Petroleum.

The Emergency Services Research Group is a trans-disciplinary research group with focus on five broad themes:

- Paramedicine
- Emergency response
- Aeromedical retrieval
- Search and rescue
- Fire

ECU Health Simulation Centre

The ECU Health Simulation Centre is a high fidelity simulation centre with a strong focus on human factors, leadership, followership, communication and clinical competence.

The ECU Health Simulation Centre is a trans-disciplinary research group with focus on four broad themes:

- Optimising interprofessional practice
- The use of simulation to enhance professional preparation
- Establishing fitness to practice guidelines
- Identification and elimination of errors

The Centre offers research and training relevant to:

- Anaesthesia
- Critical care paramedicine
- Community paramedicine
- Emergency medicine
- Intensive care
- Nutrition and dietetics
- Occupational health
- Speech pathology
- Undergraduate paramedicine

For more information, visit: www.ecu.edu.au/community-engagement/health-advancement/ecu-health-simulation-centre

If you are interested in applying to ECU and want to discuss a specific project proposal in Emergency Services research or Health Simulation, contact:

Professor Russell Jones
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 2043
Email: russell.jones@ecu.edu.au
The ECU Melanoma Research Group’s primary focus is to develop blood tests to detect circulating melanoma cells, tumour DNA or other cancer biomarkers in the patient’s blood early in the disease process. This will not only allow clinicians to monitor patients for disease status and recommend an appropriate course of treatment at an early stage, but also inform them earlier of drug efficacy or drug resistance, allowing a better patient prognosis.

Melanoma is one of Australia’s most common cancers with over 13,000 new diagnoses per year. In one out of ten patients, the melanoma diagnosis comes too late, as the melanoma has already spread throughout the body, drastically diminishing the chances of survival. With more than 1,700 Australians dying every year from melanoma - one every 5 hours -, we urgently require a better understanding of how the melanoma spreads and why certain tumours respond to current treatment while others are resistant to treatment.

Current projects include:
• Blood based biomarkers: Assessing melanoma through a blood test
• Circulating Melanoma Tumour Cells
• Uveal Melanoma: Bypassing an invasive eye biopsy through development of a novel blood test

For more information, visit: [www.ecu.edu.au/schools/medical-and-health-sciences/our-research/ecu-melanoma-research-group](http://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/medical-and-health-sciences/our-research/ecu-melanoma-research-group)

If you are interested in applying to ECU and want to discuss a specific project proposal in the area of melanoma research, contact:

Professor Mel Ziman
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 5171
Email: m.ziman@ecu.edu.au
The Huntington’s Disease Research team within the ECU Melanoma Research Group is a multidisciplinary team whose research is centred around investigating novel environmental enrichment treatment modalities and the development of prognostic and diagnostic assessments within the Huntington’s disease (HD) population.

The aims of the group are:
- To investigate the therapeutic potential of environmental enrichment treatment modalities in impacting HD progression via clinical, functional, imaging, physiological and biochemical biomarkers;
- Assess the therapeutic effectiveness of environmental enrichment in improving the quality of life for HD individuals; and
- Design simple, inexpensive, HD-sensitive biomarkers capable of assessing HD symptomatic progression.

For more information, visit: www.ecu.edu.au/schools/medical-and-health-sciences/our-research/huntington-disease-research-group

If you are interested in applying to ECU and want to discuss a specific project proposal, please contact:

Dr Travis Cruickshank
Telephone: +61 8 6304 3640
Email: t.cruickshank@ecu.edu.au

Sarich Neuroscience Research Institute

Building on extensive knowledge and experience in the Neurosciences field, Edith Cowan University (ECU) will take up residence at the newly established Ralph and Patricia Sarich Neuroscience Research Institute (Sarich Institute) at QEII Medical Centre. ECU’s Professors Ralph Martins, Dylan Edwards and Mel Ziman, and Dr Travis Cruickshank will work at the institute, supported with ongoing facility provision by the Australian Alzheimer’s Research Foundation and in close partnership with The Perron Institute, aiming to deliver management programs that will delay progression of all neurodegenerative diseases.
Communication Disorders Research Group

Communication Disorders Research at ECU focuses on clinically relevant and translatable investigations related to communication disorders across the lifespan.

Communication is central to our everyday activities. Talking, texting, emailing, reading, listening and understanding are all vital parts of communicating in the 21st century, and they all fulfil different functions – to convince, to argue, to explain, to collaborate, to request, to complain, to defend, to organise, to socialise, as well as to maintain our relationships with family, friends, and work colleagues. When communication ability is restricted through either developmental factors or acquired after a brain injury such as a stroke, an individual’s skills, relationships and identity can all be affected.

The Communication Disorders Research Group’s primary areas of research are early aphasia intervention following stroke and Aboriginal Australians’ experiences of brain impairment and rehabilitation after stroke and traumatic brain injury, with significant research also being undertaken in the areas of autism, early speech and language development, fluency disorders, and teaching and learning strategies within allied health curricula.

The research team is a group of active researchers with national and international reputations in the field of communication disorders related to brain injury. The group leads projects supported through the National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and other multiple funding bodies. Strong national and international collaborations underpin all endeavours. Our research networks are academic, government-related, and clinical in nature, with world class collaborators. We are ensuring that we address current clinically relevant issues, with knowledge translation as a key focus. We achieve this within current policy contexts and maintain our research at the forefront of our industry.

Current research projects focus on the areas of:
- Neuro-Rehabilitation
- Brain Injury in Aboriginal Populations
- Clinical Education
- Developmental Communication Disorders

For more information, visit: www.ecu.edu.au/schools/medical-and-health-sciences/our-research/communications-disorders-research-group

If you are interested in applying to ECU and want to discuss a specific project proposal, contact:

Professor Beth Armstrong
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 2769
Email: b.armstrong@ecu.edu.au
Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the number one cause of death worldwide. It kills over 17 million people annually, and in Australia, one person dies of CVD every 12 minutes. Most of these deaths can be prevented or substantially delayed by better diet and lifestyle. Even small diet and lifestyle changes can lead to substantial health benefits.

Increasing the intake of fruits, vegetables and whole grains remains the cornerstone of dietary approaches to prevent CVD. This alone has the potential to cut CVD risk and associated costs by up to 25%.

Surprisingly little is known about the components of fruits, vegetables and whole grains that contribute to vascular health, or the mechanisms involved. Identifying these specific components and mechanisms will enhance targeted dietary approaches for CVD prevention.

Our research program has three core aims:
• to investigate how specific components present in plant foods improve vascular health;
• to develop and evaluate new foods to improve vascular health and overall wellbeing;
• to evaluate and implement novel approaches to increase intake of plant foods in the community; and
• to develop and evaluate lifestyle approaches to improve vascular health and physical function.

Current projects include:
• Establishing the importance of particular plant food components, such as flavonoids, nitrate, vitamin K and organo-sulphur compounds, for human health.
• Understanding the importance of plant food diversity for human health.
• Investigating the pathways linking diet and lifestyle with vascular disease.
• Evaluating if knowledge of presence of advanced vascular disease motivates improved diet and lifestyle choices.
• Developing better evidence to improve physical function through improved diet and lifestyle in older adults

For more information, visit: www.ecu.edu.au/schools/medical-and-health-sciences/our-research/nutrition-lifestyle-clinical-trials-research-group

If you are interested in applying to ECU and want to discuss a specific project proposal, contact:

Professor Jonathan Hodgson
Telephone: (61 8) 9224 0267
Email: jonathan.hodgson@ecu.edu.au
Our Researchers

Professor Moira Sim

Executive Dean
MBBS, FRACGP, FACHAM, PGDipAlcDrugAbStud, GAICD

Moira is a general practitioner and specialist addiction medicine physician with over 30 years of practice in the community and has been at ECU since 2004. Moira has worked to increase access to quality care through professional education, advocacy and the establishment of system change through many roles in the healthcare system.

Moira holds a Clinical Adjunct position at the School of Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences at the University of Western Australia, and is a member of the Impairment Review Committee at the Nurses and Midwives Board and a panelist on the Impairment Review Committee and Professional Standards Committee for the Medical Board for the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. She is part of the education team for Medical Defence Australia National

Selected Publications

Book Chapters

Journal Articles
• Liira, H., Knight, AP., Sim, M., Wilcox, HM., Cheetham, S., Aalto, MT., (2016), Workplace interventions for preventing job loss and other work related outcomes in workers with alcohol misuse. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, 2016(9), Article no. CD012344, John Wiley and Sons Ltd, DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD012344.
Associate Professor Chris Abbiss

Associate Dean Research
PhD, BSc

Dr Abbiss’ research interests centre on applied human physiology and exercise performance, with a focus on cycling, fatigue, thermoregulation, pacing strategies, training modalities and recovery. He is actively researching the effects of various training techniques on fatigue, physiological adaptations and performance in elite cycling. In addition, Dr Abbiss also works with industry partners examining fatigue, hydration, immune function and recovery in occupations exposed to heat stress (i.e. fire-fighters and miners).

Selected Publications

Book Chapters

Journal Articles

Contact:
Email: c.abbiss@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 5740

Research Interests:
- Exercise physiology
- Cycling performance
- Pacing strategies
- Hyperthermia and thermoregulation
- Recovery from exercise
- Training adaptation
Associate Professor Jacques Oosthuizen
Associate Dean Public Health and Occupational Health & Safety
PhD, Btech

Jacques is the Associate Dean of Public Health and OHS in the School of Medical and Health Sciences. Jacques also teaches and conducts research in the areas of occupational hygiene and epidemiology. He has been an academic in the area of Environmental Health and Occupational Hygiene since 1989, initially in South Africa. In 1999 Jacques was employed at Central Queensland University and in 2001 he relocated to ECU. He is a member of Environmental Health Australia and the Safety Institute of Australia.

Selected Publications
Journal Articles


Contact:
Email: j.oosthuizen@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 5876

Research Interests:
- Occupational exposure assessment
- Coal Miners pneumoconiosis (black lung)
- Heat stress
- Climate change and heat adaptation strategies in the developing world
- Mosquito vector and disease control
Associate Professor Natalie Ciccone
Associate Dean
PhD, BSc

Associate Professor Natalie Ciccone is a researcher within the field of rehabilitation of acquired communication disorders and has been the Associate Dean (Allied Health) within the School of Medical and Health Sciences since the beginning of 2016. Prior to becoming the Associate Dean, Associate Professor Ciccone was a lecturer and Course Coordinator in Speech Pathology. Associate Professor Ciccone’s leading area of research is communication disorders following brain injury particularly investigating the clinical management of communication disorders post stroke or brain injury. She has a focus on working with Aboriginal people who have experienced communication difficulty following stroke or brain injury as well as developing research evidence for the treatment of aphasia, particularly during the early phase of stroke recovery. Associate Professor was previously an investigator on two NHMRC grants and is currently a CI on a NHMRC partnership grant. She has published widely in the area of aphasia and recovery from brain injury, presented at national and international conferences and supervises Honours, Masters and PhD students.

Selected Publications

Journal Articles

Contact:
Email: n.ciccone@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 2047

Research Interests:
• Aphasia rehabilitation
• Very early aphasia recovery
• Brain injury in Aboriginal populations and related services
• Clinical decision making
Professor Robert U Newton

Associate Dean Medical & Exercise Sciences
PhD, MHMS, BSc(Hons)

Professor Rob Newton is an Accredited Exercise Physiologist, Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist with Distinction with the NSCA, Fellow of Exercise and Sports Science Australia and Fellow of the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA). He has over 30 years of academic and professional experience in exercise and sports science and has been at ECU since 2003. Prior to appointment at ECU, Rob was Director of the Biomechanics Laboratory, at Ball State University in Indiana. He has also worked at the Pennsylvania State University as a visiting research fellow in the Center for Sports Medicine. Rob also holds an Adjunct Professorship at the University of Queensland and an Honorary Professorship at the University of Hong Kong. In 2004 he was awarded Outstanding Sports Scientist of the Year by the NSCA. He has published over 290 refereed scientific journal articles, two books, 16 book chapters and has a current h-Index of 59 with his work being cited over 12,500 times. As of 2016 his research had attracted over $29 Million in competitive research funding.

Selected Publications
Journal Articles


**Professor Amanda Devine**  
**PhD, AN, RPHNUTR**

Amanda is the Professor of Public Health and Nutrition in the School of Medical and Health Sciences. Prof Devine is the program coordinator for Nutrition and supervises postgraduate students in a range of nutrition research areas that extend from regional and remote nutrition and food security, and how patterns of eating impact gut health across the life course, chronic disease and clinical nutrition; food literacy and food and nutrition education. To extend the reach and impact of these research areas, with others Amanda has produced three cookbooks and developed four websites to implement and translate public health and educational projects.

**Selected Publications**

**Journal Articles**


**Contact:**

Email: a.devine@ecu.edu.au  
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 5527

**Research Interests:**

- Nutrition Education
- Food Literacy
- Gut Health
- Chronic Disease and Clinical Nutrition
- Food Security
Professor Anthony Blazevich
Director, Centre for Exercise and Sports Science Research (CESSR)
PhD, BSc (Hons)

Tony is a Professor of Biomechanics in the School of Medical and Health Sciences, and the Director of the Centre for Exercise and Sports Science Research (CESSR). His research aims to determine: (1) the relative influence of musculo-tendinous and neural factors on human movement performance; and (2) the adaptive responses of these factors to exercise training and detraining. His research (and teaching) foci therefore mandate the understanding and use of a broad range of techniques in the areas of biomechanics, neurophysiology and strength & conditioning. Professor Blazevich has published over 100 scientific papers, been invited to speak over 60 times at international scientific conferences and to industry, has attracted over AU$1.5 million in research funding, and is the author of the textbook ‘Sports Biomechanics: The Basics’ (Bloomsbury Publishers). He is a Fellow of the European College of Sports Sciences, and member of Exercise and Sports Sciences Australia, International Society of Biomechanics, International Society of Sports Biomechanics, Australian Strength & Conditioning Association, and other organisations. Professor Blazevich has worked in strength & conditioning with athletes at all levels, from development programs to Olympic Gold medallists, and currently works as a consultant at both domestic and international levels in Australia and Europe.

Selected Publications
Journal Articles

Contact:
Email: a.blazevich@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 5655

Research Interests:
- Biomechanics
- Neurophysiology
- Strength & Conditioning (speed, power, strength, flexibility, fatigue)
Professor Beth Armstrong
Foundation Chair in Speech Pathology
PhD

Professor Elizabeth Armstrong is Foundation Chair in Speech Pathology and heads an accredited undergraduate Speech Pathology program and a postgraduate research program. Professor Armstrong worked in the hospital sector as a clinician in Sydney before taking up an academic career, focusing on acute inpatient care and longer-term rehabilitation for people with communication disorders after stroke.

Professor Armstrong’s research is primarily in the area of aphasia – language difficulty after stroke. Her work includes the application of Systemic Functional Linguistic theory, early intervention strategies, and issues related to brain injury in Australian Aboriginal populations. Her current projects funded by the NH&MRC involve a multi-centre randomised control trial of very early intervention for people with aphasia after stroke (“Very Early Rehabilitation of Speech - VERSE”), an exploration into communication disorders in Aboriginal peoples in Western Australia (“Missing Voices: An investigation into acquired communication disorders after stroke and traumatic brain injury in Indigenous Australians”) and a clinical trial involving culturally secure rehabilitation services for Aboriginal brain injury survivors.

Professor Armstrong presents regularly at conferences, collaborates nationally and internationally, and has published widely in the area of aphasia. She currently leads two multidisciplinary teams with extensive community collaboration for research translation. She has built a strong collaborative team of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal researchers focusing on this area within Australia.

Selected Publications
Journal Articles

Contact:
Email: b.armstrong@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 2769

Research Interests:
• Aphasia
• Aphasia rehabilitation
• Linguistic applications to everyday discourse in aphasia
• Professional interactions
• Aboriginal health
• Aboriginal English
Professor Caroline Finch AO
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons)
Professor Caroline Finch joined Edith Cowan University (ECU) in 2018 as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Vice-President with the responsibility for leading research at ECU.

Professor Finch is, herself, a highly accomplished academic and world-renown researcher. She is the author of over 700 research-related publications, and has earned more than $22m in research funding over the course of her career. She was a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Principal Research Fellow from 2004-2016. She held NHMRC research funding continually from 2004-2016 and also has had Australian Research Council (ARC) funding continually since 2004.

She is known globally for her injury prevention, injury surveillance and sports medicine research. She has previously been ranked as one of the 10 most highly published injury researchers of all time and is recognised as one of the most influential sports medicine researchers internationally. In 2015, she was awarded the American Public Health Association Distinguished International Career Award from the Injury Control and Emergency Health Services Section.

In 2018, Professor Finch was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her distinguished service to sports medicine, particularly in the area of injury prevention as an educator, researcher and author, and to the promotion of improved health in athletes and those who exercise.

Selected Publications

Journal Articles
- Fortington LV, Bekker S, Morgan D, Finch CF. "It doesn’t make sense for us not to have one" - Understanding reasons why community sports organisations chose to participate in a funded automated external defibrillator (AED) program. Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine. In press. [Published Post Author Corrections 10/10/2017 as doi: 10.1097/JSM.0000000000000524].
Professor Daniel Galvão
Director, Exercise Medicine Research Institute
PhD, MAppSc

Daniel Galvão is Professor of Exercise Science and Director of the Exercise Medicine Research Institute, Edith Cowan University, Perth, Western Australia, and a Cancer Council Western Australia Research Fellow. He received his B.Sc. (1998, Brazil) in Physical Education, M.Sc. (2003) in Clinical Exercise Science from the University of Queensland and his Ph.D. (2006) in Exercise Science from Edith Cowan University. Professor Galvão’s research program focuses on applications of exercise as medicine for the prevention and management of cancer treatment side effects and survival and has received funding from NHMRC, Cancer Australia and the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. His research has been published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology, European Urology and Nature Reviews Urology and he has co-authored the Exercise and Sports Science Australia position stand in exercise and cancer (2009) and the American College of Sports Medicine’s exercise guidelines for cancer survivors (2010).

Selected Publications

Journal Articles


Contact:
Email: d.galvao@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 3420

Research Interests:

- Applications of exercise as medicine for the prevention and management of cancer treatment side-effects and survival
Professor Dennis Taaffe
PhD, DSc, MPH, MSc, BSc, DipTeach
Dennis is a Professorial Fellow and Professor of Exercise Gerontology in the Exercise Medicine Research Institute, School of Medical and Health Sciences. After initial teacher training Dennis completed his BSc, MSc, and PhD in the area of exercise physiology from the University of Oregon with postdoctoral training undertaken at Stanford University School of Medicine. Dennis has also received a DSc for work in exercise and ageing from Charles Sturt University and a MPH in Epidemiology from the University of Hawaii. He is an Accredited Exercise Physiologist, a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine and Exercise and Sports Science Australia, and an Honorary Professor in the School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences at The University of Queensland.

Selected Publications

Book Chapters

Journal Articles

Contact:
Email: d.taaffe@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 5476

Research Interests:
- Exercise gerontology
- Exercise oncology
Professor Dylan Edwards  
Professor of Neuroscience  
PhD, BAppSc (Hons)

Professor Dylan Edwards is a human clinical neuroscientist who has spent the past decade in New York and Boston at Burke-Cornell and Harvard University respectively. His group studies motor recovery after neurological damage including adult stroke, spinal cord injury, and cerebral palsy. The work incorporates emerging technologies of transcranial magnetic stimulation, and rehabilitation robotics. Professor Edwards is advancing these therapies, examining efficacy and biomarkers of recovery, as well as investigating novel combinatorial therapies such as with new drugs or dietary modification.

Edith Cowan University is young and vibrant, rapidly rising to serious research productivity status on the International stage, and is well positioned geographically and economically for success in clinical research. Forging great connections between ECU and world leading universities in the United States is a strategic move, whereby new ideas can be shared and tested. The vision for Professor Edwards and his team is to have ECU as a leader in clinical neuroscience research, by partnering with Western Australian, Interstate and International hospitals.

Selected Publications

Book Chapters

Journal Articles

Contact:
Email: d.edwards@ecu.edu.au  
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 2341

Research Interests:
- Motor rehabilitation following neurological injury (stroke, spinal cord injury, and traumatic brain injury)
Professor Janet Taylor
Professor of Human Neurophysiology
MD, MBioMedEng, MBBS

Janet Taylor is a Professor of Human Neurophysiology in the School of Medical and Health Sciences. She joined ECU in 2017. With a long career in research, she has over 170 peer-reviewed publications and has been awarded >$13 million in funding over her career. She is currently a Senior Editor for the Journal of Physiology. Her research interest is how the nervous system controls movement in people. While muscle contractions produce all human movement, activity of the nervous system is essential to control when, where and how much muscle activity occurs. Professor Taylor’s research focuses on how the motor pathway changes in response to activity such as fatiguing exercise, stimulation of the brain or nerves, and training or practice of motor tasks. Her aim is to better understand how the nervous system contributes to decrements in performance with muscle fatigue, and also to improvements in motor performance with practice in health and disease.

Selected Publications

Journal Articles


Contact:
Email: janet.taylor@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 3603

Research Interests:
- The role of the central nervous system during muscle fatigue.
- Plastic changes in the motor pathway with artificial stimulation or voluntary activity.
- Perception of body movements and muscle forces.
Professor Jonathan Hodgson
PhD, B AgrSc

Jonathan Hodgson is Professor of Nutrition and Epidemiology in the School of Medical and Health Sciences. He holds a National Health and Medical Research Council Senior Research Fellowship, and conducts research to better understand the impact of diet on vascular health. His research is based at the Royal Perth Hospital Medical Research Foundation, where he conducts randomised controlled trials, observational epidemiology and laboratory-based studies directed at understanding how plant-based diets benefit vascular health.

Selected Publications

Journal Articles


Contact:
Email: jonathan.hodgson@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 9224 0267

Research Interests:
- The impact of particular diets and dietary components on vascular health
Professor Ken Kazunori Nosaka  
Director, Exercise & Sports Science  
PhD

Professor Ken Nosaka worked in Japan for nearly 20 years before relocating to Edith Cowan University (ECU) in April 2004. He was promoted to Professor in December 2009. Over the past 9 years, he has been a research and administrative academic, and his main responsibilities within the School of Exercise and Health Sciences are to coordinate postgraduate and Honours programs, direct the Center for Exercise and Sports Science Research (2007-2012), and supervise postgraduate and Honours students. He has supervised 16 PhD (15 of them at ECU), 14 Masters by Research (11 of them at ECU) and 1 Honours (ECU) students to completion, and currently supervising 7 PhD and 4 Masters by Research students. He received the Vice Chancellor’s Award “Excellence in Research Supervision” in 2008, and the Vice Chancellor’s Award “Excellence in Research” in 2012.

Selected Publications

Journal Articles


Research Interests:

- Mechanisms of muscle pain induced after exercise
- Characteristics of muscle damage induced by eccentric exercise
- The repeated bout effect that attenuates the magnitude of muscle damage induced by single eccentric exercise bout
- Effects of eccentric exercise training on health and disease prevention
- Effects of exercise on health, fitness and anti-ageing

Contact:
Email: k.nosaka@ecu.edu.au  
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 5655
Professor Mel Ziman
PhD, BSc (Hons)
The Melanoma Research Group that she leads at Edith Cowan University have developed blood tests for the diagnosis and prognosis of melanoma in collaboration with world leading clinicians, researchers and biotechnology companies. The tests are the subject of patent applications and have been, in some cases, adopted for routine clinical testing in Western Australia. The adoption of these tests worldwide will assist with melanoma detection and monitoring to improve patient outcomes.

Prof Ziman is chair and member of the scientific advisory boards of the Cancer Council of Western Australia, and a member of the Australian Parliamentary Standing Committee on Skin cancer. She has been awarded a Vice Chancellery Excellence Award for her Research and been a member of the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grant review panel since 2010. She frequently reviews grants for national and international agencies, articles for high impact journals and theses for high-ranking universities in Australia. Prof Ziman has published over 140 papers with over 2000 citations, and been an invited speaker at 85 international and national conferences in the past 10 years. Prof Ziman and her team have secured over $8 million dollars from state and federal national funding agencies, international pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and Rotary WA.

Selected Publications
Book Chapters

Journal Articles

Research Interests:
• The role of developmental genes in the proliferation, differentiation and migration of cells in the embryo and in disease processes such as cancer including Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma and neurodegenerative diseases including Huntington’s disease.
• Characterisation of circulating cells in Melanoma
• Development of blood test for early diagnosis and prognosis of melanoma

Contact:
Email: m.ziman@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 3640
Professor Russell Jones
PhD, BEd (Hons), DipEd, BSc

Professor Russell Jones is the Professor of Clinical Education in the School of Medical and Health Sciences. He earned his PhD at the University of Massachusetts (USA). He has over 30 years academic and professional experience and joined ECU in 2013. Prior to his appointment at ECU, Russell held executive leadership roles in health and research institutions both nationally and internationally. These included inaugural Director of Education for the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, Director of Assessment for the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, and Foundation Director of the Fatima College of Health Sciences in the United Arab Emirates. Most recently, Russell was appointed the Professor of Clinical Education for Edith Cowan University and the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Russell also holds the position of Honorary Educator with the Australian Resuscitation Council and an Adjunct Professorship with Monash University.

Selected Publications

Book Chapters

Journal Articles
Professor Wei Wang
PhD, MD, FFPH, FRSB

Professor Wei Wang is a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health established by Britain’s Royal College of Physicians and a Fellow of Royal Society of Biology, United Kingdom. He has had an interest in forensic medicine for almost 30 years. In addition to his role as professor in the School of Medical and Health Sciences, Professor Wang is also the Director of the Beijing Municipal Key Laboratory-Centre of Excellence on Clinical Epidemiology, Beijing Municipal Government, China. His contributions to medical science include service as an executive member of the International Society of Translational Medicine, Membership of the Standing Committee of the International Association of Physiological Anthropology, Membership of the Expert Panel advising the WHO on its ‘Grand Challenges in Genomics for Public Health in Developing Countries’, Professor Wang’s principal interests are in human genetics and public health, where he is a specialist in medical genetics, genetic epidemiology, population health, inbreeding studies and paternity testing.

Selected Publications

Book Chapters

Journal Articles

Contact:
Email: wei.wang@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 3717

Research Interests:
• Public Health and Genomics
• Epidemiology
• Global burden of disease
• Clinical Genetics
Associate Professor Annette Raynor
PhD
Associate Professor Raynor has extensive knowledge and skills in the area of Exercise and Sports Science and draws on her experience in three universities in Australia and internationally, and her various roles in lecturing, research, and senior management to inform her practice. A/Prof Raynor has been a member of Exercise and Sports Science Australia (ESSA) for over 20 years, is an Executive Member of the National University Course Accreditation Program for Exercise and Sports Science, and past-President of the Council of Heads of Exercise, Sport and Movement Sciences.

A/Prof Raynor’s research is in the area of Motor Control and Motor Learning, and is centred on three main themes: Improving motor performance capability across the lifespan; talent identification for sport; and the development of expertise in decision-making. Her current research includes a focus on older adults in residential aged care settings and young children with Developmental Coordination Disorder, improving motor performance using intervention strategies that are underpinned by motor learning principles. In the area of applied sports science, she works together with the Australian Institute of Sport and national sporting organisations to develop talent identification models to enhance the development of the next generation of elite sports people. A/Prof Raynor is also interested in how experts in a variety of areas make the right decision at the right time during time constrained, highly pressured environments. Knowledge of how this occurs will inform the training of decision making skills in sport.

Selected Publications
Journal Articles

Contact:
Email: a.raynor@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 2771

Research Interests:
• Developmental Coordination Disorder
• Exercise and aged care
• Talent identification for sport
• Development of expertise in decision-making
We spend over half of our waking hours talking, texting, reading, writing, listening, understanding and interacting. It's not until we lose these functions that we realise how critical they are. Up to 30% of stroke survivors have aphasia – a communication impairment that negatively impacts speaking, understanding, reading and writing. Many of the 15,000 people each year with aphasia do not receive the specialist stroke care and communication therapy that is documented as evidence best practice and there is currently no mechanism to monitor or improve these services.

Associate Professor Erin Godecke, a Research Fellow at Edith Cowan University and Speech Pathologist at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital has established a research program that is changing the face of clinical services for people with communication impairment following stroke and brain injury. Her work focusses on enhancing natural brain recovery processes through early, intensive speech and language rehabilitation and improving services for long term recovery. A/Prof Godecke’s research includes two NHMRC funded studies investigating the clinical and health-economic effects of very early and chronic aphasia rehabilitation; the benefits and barriers to enriching communicatively enhanced hospital environments, mapping the relationship between areas of brain injury on clinical scans and early recovery; and improving therapy techniques in rehabilitation.

Selected Publications

Journal Articles

Contact:
Email: e.godecke@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 5901

Research Interests:
- Very early aphasia recovery
- Outcomes in stroke care
- Impairment-based aphasia therapy
Associate Professor Deborah Hersh
PhD, MSc, BSc

Associate Professor Deborah Hersh has over 25 years of clinical, research and teaching experience in Speech Pathology in the UK and Australia, and is a Fellow of Speech Pathology Australia (SPA). She has published and presented extensively in the areas of discharge from therapy, professional client relationships, clinical ethics, rehabilitation goal setting, and acquired communication disorder in Aboriginal Australians following stroke and brain injury. Deborah was an affiliate of the NHMRC CCRE Aphasia Rehabilitation and was involved in the development of the Australian Aphasia Rehabilitation Pathway (http://www.aphasiapathway.com.au/). She was also a member of the expert working party for the development of the National Stroke Foundation Clinical Guidelines (2010 and 2015) and contributed to their Enable Me website (https://enableme.org.au/). Deborah has served on the Editorial board of the Journal of Clinical Practice in Speech-Language Pathology, was a recent guest editor for Aphasiology, and was Chair of the Scientific Planning Committee for the 2016 National Conference. She has been a Chief Investigator on two NHMRC Project Grants, and is currently a CI on a NHMRC Partnership Grant. She supervises postgraduate research at Masters and PhD level and coordinates the Speech Pathology Honours programme at ECU.

Selected Publications

Book Chapters

Journal Articles

Contact:
Email: d.hersh@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 2563

Research Interests:
- Experiences of aphasia treatment termination for clients, families and clinicians
- Assessment and goal setting in aphasia rehabilitation
- Experiences for people with aphasia in acute care
- Group approaches for people with aphasia and families
- Social approaches and empowerment in aphasia
- Gaining informed consent from people with aphasia/ethical issues
- The therapeutic relationship and professional boundaries
- Qualitative research methodologies in speech pathology
- Experiences of acquired communication disorders for Aboriginal Australians after stroke and traumatic brain injury
Associate Professor Greg Haff
PhD

Associate Professor G. Gregory Haff is the Course Coordinator for the postgraduate degree in strength and conditioning in the School of Medical and Health Sciences. He is the current President of the National Strength and Conditioning Association where has helped lead the worldwide development of the strength and conditioning profession. He has over 110 publications including numerous articles in the “Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research”, “International Journal of Sport Physiology and Performance”, “European Journal of Applied Physiology” and “European Journal of Sport Science”. He is on the editorial boards of “Professional Strength & Conditioning”, “Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research”, and “Strength and Conditioning Journal”. In 2014, A/Prof Haff was named the United Kingdom Strength and Conditioning Association's Strength and Conditioning Coach of the Year for Research and Education. Additionally, he was 2011 NSCA William J. Kramer Sport Scientist of the year award winner. He is a Founding Fellow of the National Strength and Conditioning Association. A/Prof Haff has written 15 book chapters on topics related to the periodization of training, is a co-author of “Periodization: Theory and Methodology of Training (5th Edition)”, and co-editor of the 4th edition of the National Strength and Conditioning Associations Essentials of Strength and Conditioning Text. He has performed 130 invited talks worldwide including speaking at the "Beijing Sport University", "Shanghai University of Sport", "Chinese Olympic Committee", "English Institute of Sport", and "Australian Institute of Sport". His research examines the neuromuscular responses to resistance training.

Selected Publications

Book Chapters

Journal Articles

Research Interests:
- Neuromuscular Adaptations to Strength and Power Based Training
- Training Theory: Periodization Modelling
- Tools for Evaluating Performance and Training
- Methods of Recovery
- Overtraining / Overreaching
- Physiological and Performance Adaptive Responses to Sequential Periodized Training Models
- Neuromuscular Adaptive Responses To Accentuated Eccentric Loading Models
- Hypertrophic Responses to Strength and Power Training
- Physiological and Performance Responses to Strength-Power-Potentiation Complexes
Associate Professor Peter Roberts
Director of Medical Science
PhD, BSc (Hons)

Peter is an Associate Professor and Director of Medical Sciences within the School of Medical and Health Sciences. He is also Director of the Systems and Intervention Research Centre for Health (SIRCH), a Coordinator, Higher Degrees by Research (MSc, PhD) and Coordinator of the Master of Science (Assisted Reproductive Technology).

Selected Publications
Journal Articles


Research Interests:
- All aspects of Reproductive Biology, including relevant pathophysiology
- Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) and IVF
- Tissue regeneration following injury
- Glycomics and diabetes research

Contact:
Email: p.roberts@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 5455
Associate Professor Simon Laws
PhD, BSc

Associate Professor Simon Laws currently leads The Collaborative Genomics Group, within the Centre of Excellence for Alzheimer’s Disease Research and Care, part of ECU’s School of Medical and Health Sciences. His research primarily focuses on understanding the genetic and epigenetic architecture of Alzheimer’s Disease and related phenotypes, such as changes in memory performance and pathognomonic features. His group utilizes an integrative “omic” approach to Alzheimer’s Disease research through combining genetic, epigenetic and comprehensive longitudinal phenotype data. He is also currently the Postgraduate Research Coordinator for Medical and Biomedical Sciences and coordinates both the Medical Science Honours and the Masters of Medical and Health Science (by Research) courses.

Selected Publications

Book Chapters

Journal Articles

Contact:
Email: s.laws@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 5128

Research Interests:
- Understanding the Genomic Architecture of Rates of Change in Alzheimer’s Disease-related phenotypes
- The interaction of genomics and modifiable lifestyle factors and the impact on rates of change in Alzheimer’s Disease-related phenotypes
Associate Professor Sophia Nimphius  
PhD, MSc, BSc  
Sophia lectures in Biomechanics and Research Methods (focus on Strength and Conditioning) in the School of Medical and Health Sciences. As part of formal collaborations with ECU, she is also the Sport Science Manager at the Hurley Surfing Australia High Performance Centre and manages High Performance Services for Softball Western Australia.

Selected Publications  
Book Chapters  

Journal Articles  

Contact:  
Email: s.nimphius@ecu.edu.au  
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 5848

Research Interests:  
- Applied biomechanics in strength and conditioning  
- Microtechnology for load quantification in sport  
- Extreme sport performance research  
- Speed, change of direction and agility assessment and performance determinants  
- Bone adaptations and injury
Associate Professor Sue Reed  
PhD, MSc, MEngSc, BA/BSc  
Sue is the Associate Professor in Occupational Hygiene and responsible for the responsible for the occupational Health and Safety and Occupational Hygiene courses in the School of Medical & Health Sciences. She has previously worked at the University of Western Sydney, the Department of Defence Production, and the Department of Labour. She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists and of the Safety Institute of Australia.

Selected Publications  
Books  

Book Chapters  

Journal Articles  

Contact:  
Email: s.reed@ecu.edu.au  
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 2243  

Research Interests:  
- Workplace exposures to particulates and chemicals and how they can be controlled  
- Workplace exposures to noise and methods of control  
- Indoor air quality  
- Skin exposure to chemicals.  
- Occupational hygiene exposures in agriculture  
- Bioaerosols in the workplace  
- Implementation of PPE in the workplace
Associate Professor Mandy Stanley
PhD, MHlthSc(OT), BAppSc(OT)

Associate Professor Mandy Stanley has extensive experience as an academic and is recognised as a thought leader in occupational therapy and occupational science. She is Associate Editor for the Journal of Occupational Science and President of the Editorial Board. Mandy is known for her expertise in qualitative research methodologies having co-edited the first text on qualitative research methodologies for occupational science and occupational therapy with Dr Shoba Nayar. Mandy currently has funded projects related to the dignity of risk following brain injury, barriers and enablers for first responders seeking help for mental health issues, participation in leisure activities for people with a disability, and a NHMRC grant examining the effectiveness of pre-discharge occupational therapy home visits following stroke. Broadly speaking Mandy’s research relates to the participation in everyday life.

Selected Publications

Books

Journal Articles

Contact:
Email: m.stanley@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 2389

Research Interests:
- Qualitative research methodologies
- Well-being
- Participation
- Community mobility
- Risk
Dr David Coall  
PhD, BSc (Hons), BPsych  
David is a Senior Lecturer, Researcher and the Human Biology Course Coordinator in Biomedical Science within the School of Medical and Health Sciences.

Selected Publications  
Book Chapters  

Journal Articles  

Contact:  
Email: d.coall@ecu.edu.au  
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 2118

Research Interests:  
- Grandparents raising their grandchildren: Experiences, needs and health  
- The influence childhood psychosocial stress has on a woman’s reproductive development, reproductive timing, and her mental and physical health  
- Maternal influences on placental growth and development  
- The impact grandparental investment has on the growth and development of grandchildren in contemporary industrialised societies  
- Using life history theory as a framework for examining factors that influence clinically significant variation in birth weight and placental weight
Dr Marcus Cattani
PhD, MSc, BTech
Dr Marcus Cattani is a Senior Lecturer in Occupational Health and Safety within the School of Medical and Health Sciences. He earned his Masters degree at the Institute of Occupational Medicine/University of Aberdeen (Scotland, UK) and his PhD at Murdoch University (WA, Australia) by conducting research concerned with the analysis of multi-route (i.e. inhalation, dermal) exposure to hazardous chemicals, and development of initiatives to reduce exposure, with a particular focus on addressing risk taking behaviour. Dr Cattani has worked in academia for 10 years writing materials in a range of subjects including occupational hygiene, safety management, risk management and systems safety. In addition to his academic career Marcus has worked in the resources industry, engineering, and chemical industries for around 15 years in a variety of roles, most recently as a Senior HSE Manager and consultant in the mining industry. Marcus’s practical leadership knowledge, understanding of industry and governmental requirements together with a background in risk management have resulted in a series of industry and government research projects.

Marcus is the Chairman and a Chartered Professional of the Safety Institute of Australia (WA), a Full Member and past State Coordinator of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists, and an OSH Committee Member at the Chamber of Minerals and Energy (WA).

Selected Publications

Journal Articles


Contact:
Email: m.cattani@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 2346

Research Interests:
- Injury risk communication
- Development of organisational performance using injury risk as an indicator
- Evaluation of incident data to assist elimination of fatalities and significant incidents
- Assisting Small and Medium sized Enterprises, and voluntary organisations, prevent harm
- Understanding and managing risk taking behaviour in the workplace
- Design of safety management systems using the new ISO 45001
- Development of effective OHS professionals
Dr Martyn Cross

PhD, MPH

Dr Martyn Cross began his career as a Toxicologist working in the UK chemical industry. He has an honours degree in Toxicology, a Master of Public Health and a PhD. Martyn was an Occupational Hygienist for WorkSafe WA, and an Occupational Hygienist for the WA Department of Health. Martyn then specialised as a Safety Management System Consultant for an international consultancy group, assisting organisations in Australia and South East Asia, to develop and implement their safety management systems.

Martyn was the Senior Safety Advisor and then the Principal Occupational Hygienist for Minara Resources at their Murrin Murrin Mine Site where he conducted a Health Surveillance project for his PhD. Martyn was recently employed as the Senior Occupational Hygiene Consultant with Golder Associates. He is now a Senior Lecturer at ECU with a teaching and research role in Post Graduate – Occupational Health and Safety. Martyn has over 35 years expertise and his skills span many aspects of occupational health and safety, in a variety of industries.

Selected Publications

Journal Articles

- Cross, M. (2005). Dust and Biological Monitoring During Vanadium Catalyst Change- Out. Is it the Dust Levels or the Hand-to-Mouth Contact? Environmental Health. 5(3)

Contact:
Email: m.cross@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 5764

Research Interests:

- Workplace exposures to occupational health hazards and how they can be controlled
- Workplace Health Surveillance
- Synergist effects of occupational health hazards
- Analysis of incident data to assist industry identify preventative strategies
- Implementation of Safety Management Systems
Dr Claus Christophersen  
PhD, MSc 
Claus is a Senior Lecturer in Nutrition in the School of Medical & Health Sciences. He is also Post-Graduate Coordinator for Public Health, Occupational Health & Safety and Allied Health (Paramedical, Occupational Therapies, Nutrition & Dietetics, Speech Pathology).

Dr Claus Christophersen is a molecular microbiologist specialising in the role and impact of the gut microbiome in health and disease. He holds two positions, a Senior Lecturer position in the School of Medical & Health Sciences at Edith Cowan University (50%), and is leading the newly established WA Human Microbiome Collaboration Centre (WAHMCC) at Curtin University (50%). To develop his expertise and to close the gap and further the understanding of the complex interaction between the gut microbiome, diet and/or disease, and the host response. Dr Christophersen has utilizes in vitro and animal models and human intervention studies, and an integration of bacterial 16S rRNA sequencing, metabolomics and physiological data using multivariate statistical analysis. Dr Christophersen has published in highly esteemed journals in many areas of gut microbiome research, i.e. colorectal cancer, ulcerative colitis (UC), irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), Gut-Brain Axis (Autism), athletes and other healthy cohorts. Dr Christophersen also engage in research translation, recently he published as a cookbook, “Gut Feeling” aimed at the public explaining the benefits of a mutual relationship between the host and the gut microbiome.

Selected Publications

Book Chapters

Journal Articles
Dr Elin Gray
PhD, MSc, BSc(Hons)
Dr Elin Gray is a Cancer Research Trust Postdoctoral Fellow and Senior Researcher at the Melanoma Research Group, within the School of Medical and Health Sciences at ECU. Prior to appointment at ECU, Elin worked at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases in South Africa; the Vaccine Research Center at the NIH, USA and the Duke Human Vaccine Institute, Duke University, USA. Elin's previous research focused in immunology and virology before relocating to Edith Cowan University in 2011. Dr Gray's current research aims to identify blood biomarkers for diagnosis of melanoma and to guide treatment decisions. Her team develops and utilises novel methodologies for genetic analysis of melanoma biomarkers such as in circulating tumour cells, circulating tumour DNA and exosomes. This provides information on tumour evolution and cancer development. In addition, Dr Gray is interested in identifying mechanisms of drug resistance and developing better treatment strategies. Dr Gray works in close collaboration with leading oncologists and pathologists to translate these results into clinical application.

Selected Publications

Book Chapters

Journal Articles

Contact:
Email: e.gray@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 2756

Research Interests:
• Identifying mechanisms of drug resistance
• Developing better treatment strategies
Dr Nicolas Hart
PhD, AES, CSCSS, ESSAM

Dr Nicolas Hart is a post-doctoral research fellow at the Exercise Medicine Research Institute (an NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence) and an accredited exercise scientist, recently named ‘Exercise Scientist of the Year’ (Exercise and Sport Science Australia). His clinical oncology work focuses on the ability of exercise to change tumour biology, and attenuate tumour formation, growth and invasion in primary and secondary carcinomas, with his research funded by the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Movember Foundation and Cancer Council of Western Australia.

Dr Hart is currently leading a series of world-first, trials in humans to examine the suppressive or regressive effects of exercise on tumour morphology and tumour biomarkers in secondary carcinomas of advanced prostate and breast cancer patients with sclerotic and osteolytic lesions. Dr Hart is the Global Exercise Co-ordinator for the Movember GAP4 (INTERVAL-MCRPC) trial - (the largest exercise trial in prostate cancer worldwide; investigating exercise and overall survival); and National Exercise Co-ordinator for the Movember TrueNTH Australia trial - (the provision of local and remote delivery of exercise as medicine to prostate cancer patients across metropolitan and regional Australia).

Selected Publications
Journal Articles


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Research Interests:
- Exercise as Medicine
- Modulation of Tumour Biology
- Suppression of Bone Metastases
- Musculoskeletal Preservation
- Muscle-Bone Synergy
- Bone Adaptation to Mechanical Loading
- Muscle-Bone Interactions for Musculoskeletal Health
- Musculoskeletal Screening, Asymmetry and Injury Prevention
- Gait Abnormality, Running Asymmetry and Injury Incidence
- Change of Direction and Agility Performance
Dr Joshua Lewis
PhD, GCRM, BSc (Hons)

Joshua completed his PhD in late 2009 and has recently returned to Western Australia to lead the disorders of mineralisation group within the nutrition research hub. He holds an NH&MRC Career Development Fellowship focussed on developing better evidence around vascular calcification in different clinical settings. Currently, he is conducting research on developing convenient, reliable and safe tests for vascular calcification as well as the identification of mechanism(s) and modifiable factors related to vascular calcification and its consequences. He will then use this knowledge to develop primary prevention strategies to attenuate the progression of atherosclerosis and vascular calcification.

Selected Publications

Journal Articles

Contact:
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Research Interests:
- Disorders of mineralisation
- Atherosclerosis and vascular calcification
- Nutrition and Public Health
- Clinical trialling
Dr Stephanie Rainey-Smith

PhD

Dr Stephanie Rainey-Smith is a Senior Research Fellow in the Centre of Excellence for Alzheimer’s Disease Research and Care. Stephanie was awarded a PhD in Neuroscience from the prestigious King’s College London in 2010. Stephanie’s primary research focus is the identification of lifestyle factors (e.g. sleep, diet and physical activity) which impact upon cognitive decline and Alzheimer’s disease (AD)-related pathology. Stephanie has employed multidisciplinary research approaches in order to make significant contributions to the field of lifestyle and biomarker research in AD. Evidence of this cross-disciplinary research is apparent in her publication record where lifestyle factors are combined with clinical, neuroimaging and blood-based biomarker outcome measures. Stephanie has had success in attracting internal and external funding. She has been awarded over $34,000 in internal funding from ECU and more than $1,275,000 in external and commercial funding; including awards from philanthropic and non-governmental organizations to facilitate further AD-focussed lifestyle and biomarker research as Principal Investigator.

Selected Publications

Journal Articles

Dr Travis Cruickshank
PhD

Travis is a postdoctoral researcher in the ECU Huntington’s Disease Research Team. His research focuses on the development of novel non-pharmaceutical treatment strategies aimed at delaying the onset and slowing the progression of Huntington’s disease (HD).

Recent Publications

Journal Articles

- Cruickshank, T., Reyes, A., Ziman, M., (2015), A systematic review and meta-analysis of strength training in individuals with Multiple Sclerosis or Parkinson disease. Medicine, 94(4), e411, DOI: 10.1097/MD.0000000000000411.

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Research Interests:

- Investigation of the effects of novel non-pharmaceutical treatment strategies on clinical and biological predictors of disease progression in patients with Huntington’s disease
- Exploring the neural mechanisms underpinning the onset and progression of clinical features in Huntington’s disease
- Identifying and developing novel clinical methods for tracking the clinical course of Huntington’s disease
Dr Lauren Fortington
PhD, MHSc, BP&O
Dr Fortington is an injury epidemiologist who works to improve the collection, analysis and reporting of injury data in different sports settings to best understand the impact of injuries and ways to prevent them occurring. She conducts epidemiological investigations of the injuries that occur in elite and community sport including men’s and women’s football codes (rugby union, rugby sevens, Australian football), Gaelic sports and Olympic sports. Lauren’s research seeks to improve the understanding of longitudinal data (when multiple injuries are sustained over time in individuals) as well as reporting and analysis of non-acute, non-time loss injuries in sports settings. Dr Fortington is also leading studies of safety in community sports organisations, aimed towards informing policy on the prevention and best management of serious and fatal events in sport. Lauren is a member of the Australasian Injury Prevention Network, the Australasian Epidemiological Association, Sports Medicine Australia and the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics. Lauren is an Associate Editor of the Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport and Prosthetics and Orthotics International.

Selected Publications

Journal Articles
- Fortington LV, Bekker S, Morgan D, Finch CF. “It doesn’t make sense for us not to have one”—understanding reasons why community sports organizations chose to participate in a funded automated external defibrillator program. Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine. 2017; early online at doi:10.1097/jsm.0000000000000524

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Research Interests:
- Injury data and definitions of injury
- Injury epidemiology
- Prevention of sports injury
- Community sports safety
Research Highlights

Centre for Research Excellence (CRE) in Prostate Cancer Survivorship

The Centre for Research Excellence (CRE) in Prostate Cancer Survivorship is a multidisciplinary collaboration between Edith Cowan University, Griffith University, Cancer Council Queensland, Cancer Council NSW, Monash University, University of Adelaide and the University of Queensland. Our CRE is funded through a $2.5m National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grant. The Exercise Medicine Research Institute has been at the forefront for over a decade pursuing research into how exercise acts as a medicine to improve the lives of men with prostate cancer.

More than 10 Australian men are diagnosed with prostate cancer every hour and around 200,000 Australian men are living with prostate cancer today. The CRE is translating research into action across four main themes for the benefit of men diagnosed. These themes include exercise medicine, psychosocial and psychosexual health, the economic costs of prostate cancer and geographic inequalities in prostate cancer outcomes. The results of the work carried out by the CRE will generate critical information on the role of exercise as a therapeutic intervention to delay patient morbidity associated with prostate cancer primary therapy. Additionally, we aim to build on current evidence supporting exercise as a low-cost, minimal-risk intervention to improve physical function, fitness, and quality of life and disease-related symptoms of anxiety and depression in individuals with prostate cancer.

The CRE in Prostate Cancer is a collaborative effort that has wide-ranging, direct benefits to the Australian population.

Healing Right Way:

Enhancing rehabilitation services for Aboriginal Australians after brain injury

Brain impairment resulting from stroke and traumatic brain injury is known to occur up to three times more frequently in Aboriginal Australians than non-Aboriginal Australians and at a younger age, yet Aboriginal stroke and traumatic brain injury survivors are under-represented in mainstream hospital-based rehabilitation services. Healing Right Way is an ECU-led NHMRC Partnership Project aimed at improving quality of life for Aboriginal people following brain injury in Western Australia by improving access to culturally appropriate inter-disciplinary rehabilitation services.

Partners: University of Western Australia, Notre Dame University, Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service, University of Technology Sydney, Monash University, the WA Department of Health, Royal Perth Hospital Medical Research Foundation, Sir Charles Gairdner, Royal Perth, St John of God Midland, and Fiona Stanley-Fremantle Hospitals, Western Australian Country Health Service (Broome, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Port Hedland), Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services, Bega Garnbirringu Health Services, Kalgoorlie, Warrika Maya Health Service, Port Hedland, Neurological Council of WA, Stroke Foundation.
Melanoma Research Group

The Melanoma Research Group is a dynamic interdisciplinary team of high calibre clinicians and researchers focused on the development of blood-based markers for the diagnosis and prognosis of melanoma and other cancers.

Their world-class laboratories at ECU are equipped with state of the art equipment for the isolation and characterisation of circulating tumour cells, circulating tumour DNA, exosomes and immune cells using a variety of molecular and protein-based technologies. The group led by Professor Mel Ziman and Dr Elin Gray has an excellent track in securing funding from federal and state governments, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies as well as non-government organisations. They have secured continuous funding for their melanoma research since 2010 with over $8 million dollars from state and federal national funding agencies and international pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

Their tests are the subject of patent applications and have been, in some cases, adopted for routine clinical testing in Western Australia. In 2018, their MelDx test for the diagnosis of Melanoma has secured funding for implementation into the clinic and has been submitted for an international PCT patent.

The group is leading a partnership with the biotech, BioRad, to develop a blood test for treatment decisions, monitoring of melanoma patients and to assess treatment efficacy. The research is in collaboration with Macquarie University, University of Queensland and University of Western Australia as well as all major hospitals in Perth.

Their research has been funded by the Pharmaceutical company Merck Sharpe and Dohme to investigate the use of circulating tumour cells in blood to identify patients most likely to benefit from immunotherapy, and to identify earlier to improve patient outcome.

A partnership with Rotary WA (Rotary for Melanoma Research (R4MR) has engaged the community to raise awareness of melanoma and its treatment. Over 1000 Western Australian Melanoma patients have participated in the research to date and it is anticipated that the adoption of these tests worldwide will assist with melanoma detection and monitoring to improve patient outcomes.

The technologies developed by the Melanoma Research Group are also now being utilised for testing of breast, lung, ovarian and prostate cancer patients.
Applying for a Research Degree

Getting ready to apply for a research degree can seem quite daunting so we’ve laid out the following process to assist you. We recommend that you complete your application four to six weeks prior to any deadline. An incomplete application will result in delays, which means you could potentially miss deadlines, so make sure that your application is complete before submitting it.

Check your dates
Masters by Research courses and the Integrated PhD have a specific start date and application deadlines. However, applications for the standard PhD are open all year round. Keep in mind that ECU’s Research Scholarships also have opening and closing dates. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, visit the Scholarships website: ecu.edu.au/scholarships

Know your topic
You will need to prepare a 300-word abstract and a two-page proposal on your topic. Your initial abstract and proposal will tell us about you, including how much you know about ECU, research in your area of study, how passionate you are about your subject, and how familiar you are with the prospective supervisors within the schools.

Prepare your documents
In addition to your abstract and proposal, you will need to submit the following:
• Academic certificate transcripts (secondary and/or tertiary studies) in both the original language and official certified English translation (if applicable)
• English proficiency test scores
• Copy of passport photo page (if applicable)
• Résumé/Curriculum vitae (if applicable)
• Work reference (if applicable)
• Marriage or name change certificate (if applicable)
• Copies of your Honours or Masters Thesis, as well as any publications you have produced

Apply directly to ECU or through an agent
Visit the Online Application Portal: apply.ecu.edu.au to apply for your course, including uploading your documents. You can also track the progress of your application here.

Please note that ECU requires certain nationalities to apply via an authorised agent. Visit ecu.edu.au/future-students/applying/find-an-authorised-agent to find an agent near you.

Receive our initial assessment
The initial assessment will take into account your qualifications, topic, abstract and proposal to ensure it is closely aligned with our areas of research focus, and that we have supervisors in your research area. This can take four to six weeks, depending on academic availability. Please note that during December and January this process may take longer. We will communicate with you via email, so it is important for you to check your email regularly to ensure there are no delays with your application.

Progress your application
If your application satisfies all our criteria, it will be progressed for further assessment. At this stage your qualifications will be verified and a research supervisor will be assigned to you. Processing time for the assessment of your application will vary based on academic availability.

Outcome of your application
You will be advised of the outcome of your application via email. If you are successful, you will receive an offer to commence your studies at ECU.

Accept your offer
Your offer letter will contain specific instructions as to how to accept your offer via our online system.

If you have questions about your application, contact Admissions: HDR.enquiries@ecu.edu.au
Our changing world needs a university to change with it.

A university where courses composed with industry deliver the most relevant knowledge and skills.

So be the graduate the changing world needs.

And get ready at ECU.

GREENING ECU: Edith Cowan University is committed to reducing the environmental impact associated with its operations by conducting its activities in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. This includes implementing strategies and technologies that minimise waste of resources and demonstrate environmentally sensitive development, innovation and continuous improvement.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this publication is correct at the time of production. The information is subject to change from time to time and the University requests the right to add, vary or discontinue courses and impose limitations on enrolment in any course. The publication constitutes an expression of interest and is not to be taken as a firm offer or understanding. Some information contained in this publication may not be applicable to international students.