



Renin Angiotensin Aldosterone System: *Constantly Evolving* conference program

WCP 2026 Satellite Meeting
Balgownie Estate, Yarra Valley
9–10 July 2026

We sincerely thank our Sponsors



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- ◆ U Muscha Steckelings, University of Southern Denmark, Odense
- ◆ AH Jan Danser, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam
- ◆ Tracey Gaspari, Monash University
- ◆ Jess Hudson, Monash University

Steering Committee

- ◆ Mark Del Borgo, Monash University
- ◆ Louise Burrell, University of Melbourne / Austin Health
- ◆ Chandana Herath, Monash University
- ◆ Karin Jandeleit-Dahm, Translational Medicine / Alfred Centre
- ◆ Katrina Mirabito Colafella, Monash University
- ◆ Alex Pinto, Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute
- ◆ Wally Thomas, University of Queensland
- ◆ Antony (Bill) Vinh, La Trobe University
- ◆ Yan Wang, Monash University
- ◆ Morag Young, Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute

THURSDAY 9 JULY

9:00 **Registration & Welcome**

SESSION 1 | Angiotensin / Cardiac | Chairs: Rebecca Ritchie & Jan Danser

- 9:30** **Wally Thomas (University of Queensland)**
The local cardiac renin-angiotensin system contributes to pathological remodelling
- 9:50** **Crisdion Kreteveski (EMCR, Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute)**
Conserved Transcriptional Circuits Orchestrate Fibroblast Activation and Fibrosis in Cardiac Disease
- 10:05** **Gabriella Farrugia (EMCR, Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute)**
High resolution mapping of hypertensive mouse hearts points to sex-specific mechanisms driving cardiac remodeling
- 10:20** **Yan Wang (EMCR, Monash)**
Antifibrotic drug screening for cardiac fibrosis
- 10:35** **Alejandro Torres (EMCR, Baker Institute)**
Evaluating the in vivo phenotype and cellular and metabolic mechanisms of a new model of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF)
- 10:50** **Mariela Gironacci (University of Buenos Aires)**
Beyond the plasma membrane: nuclear angiotensin receptors

11:10–11:30 **Morning Tea**

SESSION 2 | ACE2 | Chairs: Kristy Pringle & Eric Lazartigues

- 11:30** **Michael Bader (Max-Delbrück Center)**
TMPRSS2 is a modulator of ACE2 activity
- 11:50** **Mark Del Borgo (Monash)**
Covalent Mapping: Affinity Labels as Tools for the RAAS
- 12:10** **Chandana Herath (Monash)**
Angiotensin converting enzyme-2 suppresses cancer growth in a mouse model of secondary liver cancer
- 12:30** **Natalia Alenina (EMCR, Max-Delbrück Center)**
ACE2 regulates melanogenesis in the skin
- 12:45** **Jan Danser (Erasmus MC)**
Will novel antihypertensive drugs overcome non-adherence: successes and failures?

13:05–14:00 **Lunch (Main Dining Room)**

SESSION 3 | Cardiac Kidney Metabolic (CKM) / Biomarkers | Chairs: Kate Denton & Alex Pinto

- 14:00** **Eric Lazartigues (Louisiana State University)**
RAS miRNA and cardiometabolic diseases
- 14:20** **Karin Jandeleit-Dahm (Monash)**
The NADPH oxidase – NOX5 is a novel biomarker across the Cardiac kidney-metabolic Syndrome
- 14:40** **Morag Young (Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute)**
Temporal mineralocorticoid receptor activation regulates the molecular clock and transcription of cardiovascular disease modulators
- 15:00** **Grant Drummond (La Trobe University)**
Inflammasomes in Hypertension: Essential Mediators, Therapeutic Targets, and Novel Biology
- 15:20** **Marko Poglitsch (aTension.life)**
Function, Dynamics and Clinical Biomarkers of the RAAS

15:40–16:00 **Afternoon Tea**

SESSION 4 | Student Poster Pitch | Chairs: Tracey Gaspari & Robert Widdop

16:00–17:15 **All Student Posters**

3-minute talks (MAX 3 slides; no builds/ animation) to advertise your poster for the next session!

STUDENT POSTER PRESENTERS

1. **Neksha Batta (Monash)**
Decoratation of nanoparticles with the AT2R selective agonist NAc to attenuate renal fibrosis
2. **Agatha Rosenthal (Monash)**
AT2R-mediated neuroprotection
3. **Jordan Swiderski (Victoria University)**
Novel sartan JS-6 is superior to candesartan in mitigating cisplatin kidney injury through potential ACE2 activation
4. **Barisa Degal (Monash)**
Effect of IRAP inhibition on ischaemic stroke in normotensive rats
5. **Maryann Sankurikal Joseph (Monash)**
IRAP inhibition alters inflammatory response in M1-polarised THP-1 macrophages
6. **Buddhila Wickramasinghe (La Trobe University)**
IL-18-deficiency reverses DOCA/salt-induced pathophysiological shifts in the renal cellulome
7. **Thi Pham (Monash)**
Nanoparticle delivery of an AT2R peptide agonist: a novel strategy for treating the cardiopulmonary fibrosis associated with pulmonary hypertension
8. **Rianna Tadd-Lennox (Monash)**
Investigating impact of IRAP deletion and inhibition on the cerebral ischemic cascade
9. **Kevin Tran (MIPS, Monash)**
Evaluating combination therapy of mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist and sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitor in preclinical models of type 2 diabetes mellitus
10. **Tingfang Zhang (Monash)**
Two-week post-injury treatment with angiotensin II type 2 receptor (AT2R) agonist or SGLT2 inhibitor confers long-term renoprotection in ischemia-induced AKI-to-CKD transition
11. **Ahmed Abdalla (Monash)**
Investigating IRAP as a target in Stroke Heart Syndrome (SHS)
12. **Quoc Viet Ho (Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute)**
Identify the Role of Mineralocorticoid Receptor in Modulating the Inflammatory Response in Macrophages
13. **Supitchaya Watakul (Monash)**
IRAP: A New Therapeutic Target in Treatment of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

17:15–17:30 **Comfort Break**

17:30–19:00 **Poster Session & Drinks**

All students to be at posters — ECMR speakers also encouraged to display a poster of their work!

19:30 **Conference Dinner (Main Dining Room)**

FRIDAY 10 JULY

8:30 Registration

SESSION 5 | AT2R / Signalling | Chairs: Adriana Knezic & Jane Bourke

- 9:00** **Badia Kita (Vicore Pharma)**
Buloxibutid in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis: integrated clinical and translational evidence supporting Phase 2b development
- 9:20** **Olivia Young (EMCR, Monash)**
AT2R agonists buloxibutid (Compound 21) and NAc inhibit fibrogenesis using in vitro and ex vivo models of IPF-like fibrogenesis
- 9:35** **Chrishan Samuel (Monash)**
AT2R–RXFP1 functional crosstalk
- 9:55** **Muscha Steckelings (University of Southern Denmark)**
Ang-(1-5), a new endogenous AT2R agonist
- 10:15** **Colin Summers (University of Florida)**
AT2R-mediated lowering of blood pressure: Is it all in the Brain?

10:35–11:00 Morning Tea

SESSION 6 | Vascular / Hypertension | Chairs: Katrina Mirabito Colafella & Barb Kemp-Harper

- 11:00** **Minolfa Prieto (Tulane University)**
Beyond RAS Signaling: The Prorenin Receptor as a Key Regulator of Vascular Development, Inflammation, and Hypertension
- 11:20** **Antony (Bill) Vinh (La Trobe University)**
The Angiotensin II model: evolving insights from 20 years
- 11:40** **Hericka Figueiredo Galvao (EMCR, La Trobe)**
Marginal zone B cells amplify antigen-driven immune responses in experimental and human hypertension
- 11:55** **Iman Azimi (Monash)**
IRAP inhibitor HFI-419 modulates senescence phenotypes and extends replicative lifespan in cellular models of ageing
- 12:15** **Concha Peiró (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)**
Alamadine and vascular aging

12:35–14:00 Lunch (Main Dining Room)

◆ AWARDS CEREMONY ◆

Poster Abstracts & Oral and Poster Presentations

Chairs: Jan Danser & Muscha Steckelings

13:30–14:00 **Prize Presentations**
EMCR Awards | Student (Poster) Awards

14:00–16:00  **Wine Tasting (Cellar door)**

16:30 **Conference Conclusion**