

Contact person

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www.maprc.org.au

Description of key research areas

MAPrc is based within the Alfred Hospital Precinct, in Melbourne. We carry out world-class research to help make a difference to the lives of people suffering from serious mental illnesses. MAPrc comprises a multidisciplinary team of over 100 staff and postgraduate students from medicine, nursing, psychology, engineering, allied health, neuroscience, and health information services.

Research at MAPrc is extraordinarily diverse. Our projects range from neuroscience techniques that are recognized around the world for the breakthrough insights they provide into brain structure and function in health and illness, to innovative new treatments to boost the effectiveness of conventional medications for psychiatric illnesses. Estrogen as a treatment for schizophrenia and Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation for depression, pain and cognitive disorders are examples of new and effective approaches that are being developed at MAPrc. Other research streams include grassroots initiatives looking at ways to make the delivery of community mental health service more efficiently.

Therapeutic Brain Stimulation Division

The Therapeutic Brain Stimulation Division at MAPrc is headed by Professor Paul Fitzgerald and is the leading brain stimulation facility in Australasia. Our projects incorporate a range of cutting-edge neuroscience techniques to improve outcomes for people with disorders of mental and brain function.

- Cognitive Therapeutics Research Program (A/Prof Kate Hoy)
- Pain & Affective Neuroscience Unit (Dr Bernadette Fitzgibbon)
- Early Intervention for Mood & Psychotic Disorders (Dr Manreena Kaur)
- Mindfulness Neuroscience (Dr Neil Bailey)
- Neurobiological Investigations of Depression (Dr Robin Cash)

Women's Mental Health Division

The Women's Mental Health Division at MAPrc is headed by Professor Jayashri Kulkarni and is one of the few research centres worldwide that focuses on women's mental health adopting a psychoneuroendocrinology approach. Our projects incorporate a biopsychosocial model, combined with novel interventions to improve outcomes for people with mental ill health.

- Women's Mental Health Unit (Prof Jayashri Kulkarni)
- Cognitive Neuroscience Unit (Dr Caroline Gurvich)
- Perinatal Psychiatry (Prof Jayashri Kulkarni, Dr Carolyn Breadon)
- Trauma & Psychopathology (Prof Jayashri Kulkarni, Dr Caroline Gurvich, Dr Natalie Thomas, Dr Gemma Sharp)
- Gender & Hormone Research (Prof Jayashri Kulkarni, Dr Caroline Gurvich, Dr Natalie Thomas, Dr Gemma Sharp)

Mental Health Service Research Program

We aim to improve mental health service provision through examining patient, staff and environmental contributors to care provision and outcome, and the experience and effectiveness of new therapy or care approaches.

- Promoting community / hospital mental health service innovation (Dr Stuart Lee, Dr Liza Hopkins)
- Psychological intervention to improve neurocognition and care engagement (Dr Stuart Lee)