

2018-19

Townsville Speakers Program

Looking For A Speaker?



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To
book a
speaker:

James Cook University is delighted to offer Service Clubs in Townsville a selection of contrasting, pithy, witty and serious presenters for your 2018-19 meetings. None of our speakers need high-tech equipment.

- Step 1:** Consult the chart at the end of the brochure which gives the contact details for each speaker and any specific times when they cannot attend meetings.
- Step 2:** Please email the speaker(s) of your choice direct.
- Step 3:** Should you have any problems contacting speakers please email alumni@jcu.edu.au and your problem will be solved.

On Offer In 2018-19:

Producing a fit-for-purpose medical workforce in rural, remote, indigenous and tropical health

Presented by Professor Tarun Sen Gupta
Professor of Health Professional Education

Tarun Sen Gupta is a general practitioner and former rural doctor who was a foundation appointment when the JCU medical school was established in 2000. He has worked in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education, is a Co-Director of Queensland's Rural Generalist Pathway and completed a PhD in 2005.

His interests are in education and training: how can we produce a fit-for-purpose workforce that best meets community needs. The JCU medical program has a social accountability mandate, and has oriented its selection processes, curriculum and placements to meet community needs. The School has produced over 1300 graduates who have special experience in rural, remote, Indigenous and tropical health.

Analysis of their pattern of practice shows striking differences to other Australian graduates, being much more likely to practise in regional, rural and remote locations and to undertake generalist careers including general practice and rural medicine.



The education of nurses in Australia: *A brief history*

Presented by Professor Melanie Birks,
Academic Head Nursing and Midwifery

The profession of nursing has changed much over recent years. The system of education of nurses has evolved in response to the milestones of history, thus ensuring the successful adaptation of a profession that meets the needs of the individuals and communities it serves.

This presentation will reflect on the early history of nurse training in Australia, debate the transfer of nursing education to universities and examine how the education, regulation and practice of nurses has changed, and will continue to change, in the decades to come.



Primary health care in Papua New Guinea: JCU Nursing and Midwifery in partnership with YWAM medical ships



Presented by Marie McAuliffe PhD, RN, RM,
MMid, BEd, BMgmt, Senior Lecturer Nursing
and Midwifery

The Western and Gulf Provinces of Papua New Guinea are as remote as anywhere on earth. Without electricity and running water, the people lead a subsistence village life. English is the third or fourth spoken language for most people in these areas.

This presentation will describe my experience of providing midwifery care for the women in these provinces as a member of the YWAM Medical Ship Primary Health Care team while supporting nursing and midwifery students on placement in this setting.

How nursing in the Vietnam war is still relevant today

Presented by Dr Narelle Biedermann,
Senior Lecturer and Academic Lead,
Course Co-ordinator, Master of Nursing

When we think about the involvement of Australians in the Vietnam War, we rarely consider the role of nurses. But war and nursing are unequivocally linked.

A total of 43 Australian Army nursing sisters were sent to Vietnam between April 1967 and November 1971, undertaking tours of duty of up to 12 months. The nurses were assigned to an Australian military hospital in a war zone with little advanced preparation, particularly as clinicians with exposure to trauma, critical care or operating theatres.

The contribution of these women undoubtedly affected many soldiers in profound ways. Dr Narelle Biedermann describes the experiences of nursing in the Vietnam War using the words of these inspirational servicewomen.

These veterans tell tales of femininity interspersed with the reality of the military environment through their stories of trauma, distress, tears and grief that went on for many years, and stories of underwear, fun and the simple things in life.



"My PhD research explored the nature of nursing work in the Vietnam war and is still very relevant for Australian audiences today. I have spoken at all kinds of forums around Australia including Legacy, Vietnam Veterans Day, RSL etc., about the findings of my research, using the stories of the participants to describe courage, service, honour, and leadership."

Physiotherapy for outpatients in rural and remote communities



Presented by Dr Anne Jones, Senior Lecturer,
Discipline of Physiotherapy

Anne is a physiotherapy lecturer at JCU with an interest in acute care/cardiorespiratory physiotherapy. Her focus is on people receiving physiotherapy who have been admitted to hospital or who have cardiovascular and respiratory conditions.

Anne's presentation will also include how health services are developed and delivered especially in rural, remote and under served populations. She is also researching ways to improve students learning including the use of simulated learning environments.

Ed's story opens doors for dementia



Presented by Associate Professor David Lindsay, Academic Lead, Student Advocacy and Experience Nursing and Midwifery

Contemporary healthcare is person-centred, with the recipients of care and their support network at the centre of care planning and health management. Therefore, lived experiences and personal stories are rich sources of knowledge that can inform how health professionals approach their work.

Ed's Story is one such lived experience story. Ed's journal describes his world as he cares for Mary, diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia. Analysis of Ed's Story informed the development of an open-access online learning resource for students in the health professions, health care providers, policy developers, and formal and informal carers.

This presentation will provide an overview of the project and describe to participants the online resources. Designed for ease of use, each module encompasses the carer's voice, incorporates discussion points and learning activities to enhance knowledge, and builds practical skills in understanding, recognising, and responding to a complex chronic condition.

Ultimately, this suite of electronic resources will supplement the growing body of research on effective support for carers of people diagnosed with dementia. Thus, by providing a better understanding of the world of a carer, service provision may be better informed to improve health outcomes for the person and those around them.



New technologies in physiotherapy

Presented by Carol Flavell PhD, MSc, GDip Phty, Lecturer in Physiotherapy

Carol's research expertise relates to chronic back pain physiotherapy examination and management, new technologies in physiotherapy. She has a particular focus on a new technology which she is trialling to measure muscles related to the spine using ultrasound imaging. Carol also has an interest in the physiotherapy management of people living with HIV.



Running to raise awareness

Presented by Roisin Lyons, Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery

Roisin is the coordinator of *Run To Better Days (RTBD)*, a charity made up of JCU students who fundraise and raise awareness for poverty by running down the Queensland coast every winter holidays.

The group speak at schools and community organisations on the way and give educational talks on poverty. As part of the Effective Altruism movement, the group looks primarily at the evidence-based ways that are best suited to combating poverty - essentially getting the most bang for your buck when fighting poverty.

Metabolism, cancer and the inflammation of the liver and colon

Presented by Dr Lionel Hebbard, Senior Lecturer, College of Public Health, Medical & Vet Sciences

Dr Hebbard is a Senior Lecturer in Molecular and Cell Biology at James Cook University. He completed his PhD in Germany and worked at the University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland and the Burnham Institute for Medical Research, La Jolla, USA.

He returned to Australia in 2008 and established a research group at the Westmead Institute for Medical Research in Sydney. In July 2015 Dr Hebbard relocated his group to James Cook University in Townsville and his research focuses on the role of metabolism (obesity) in cancer and inflammation of the liver and colon.

Mouse, cellular models and patient samples are used to test how certain genes and proteins can influence the progression of these diseases, with the aim to develop new therapeutic strategies.



Understanding drug addiction

Presented by Michelle Bellingan (PhD)
Associate Professor and Head of Pharmacy

Michelle has always been fascinated by how drugs work. That fascination led her to study a Bachelor of Pharmacy thirty years ago and she has not stopped learning about drugs since.

Illicit drug use has become increasingly problematic for all sectors of society. Some of the common illicit drugs currently abused in North Queensland include: ecstasy, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine (ICE). Given the devastating impact of drug abuse on the user, their loved ones and broader society, we might ask ourselves, "Why don't they just stop taking these drugs?" Michelle's presentation will explain how the most common illicit drugs work in the body and why people become addicted to them. She also explains why it is difficult to simply stop using them.

Michelle has spoken to various audiences (ranging from professional organisations to community groups) and can adapt presentations according to requirements.



New technologies to tackle antimicrobial drug resistance

Presented by Patrick Schaeffer PhD, Associate Professor Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Deputy Director Comparative Genomics Centre, Head Supramolecular and Synthetic Biology Group

Antimicrobial resistance poses one of the greatest risk to our modern society. Some pathogens have already become totally resistant to all approved drugs. Ironically, the pharmaceutical industry is not very much interested in this problem and public funding has become very scarce.

To fight the never-ending emergence of new drug resistance, scientists will need to develop innovative technologies and mechanisms of action. Patrick Schaeffer's work focusses on tropical infectious diseases and he will present innovative ways to tackle antimicrobial resistance.

Speech pathology

Communication involves speaking, hearing, listening, understanding, social skills, reading, writing and using voice. Speech pathologists assess, diagnose and treat communication and swallowing disorders across the lifespan.



Communication and swallowing disorders

Presented by Frances Cochrane, Lecturer in Speech Pathology

At least 30% of people who have a stroke will have difficulties with understanding and using language. 85% of people with Parkinson's Disease have voice, speech and/or swallowing difficulties. People with communication and swallowing difficulties can experience frustration, anger, embarrassment or grief.

Fran's potential presentations topics would include awareness and educational information regarding communication and swallowing disorders with a focus on health conditions most relevant to the North QLD region (e.g. respiratory disorders, Parkinson's Disease, dementia, stroke, brain injury) as well as ageing.



Accessing speech pathology

Presented by Louise Brown, Course Coordinator, Speech Pathology

Speech Pathology services have been developing in a number of settings where populations have been underserved in the past. JCU students and staff have been working with rural and remote communities in Northern Australia, Vietnam, Timor and Cambodia to address the limited services available.

Louise's potential presentation topics would include the application of service learning to help address poor access to speech pathology services. She would also be happy to present on the topic of voice problems experienced by people who need their voices for work or social activities or any other topic related to speech pathology.



Stress, trauma and mental illness – a survival guided

Presented by Zoltán Sarnyai MD, PhD
Professor of Pharmacology (Biomedicine)
Head, Laboratory of Psychiatric Neuroscience

Bad things happen to all of us. It gets under our skin and can lead to illness, both of the body and the of the brain. However, not everyone who experiences stress and trauma will develop disease.

What makes someone prone, while others seemingly resistant, to the effects of stress and trauma? Is it in our genes or the way we were brought up?

This talk will explore these questions with the help of the most recent scientific discoveries.

You are what you eat: The food, the bugs and the brain – explaining “gut feeling”

Presented by Zoltán Sarnyai MD, PhD
Professor of Pharmacology (Biomedicine)
Head, Laboratory of Psychiatric Neuroscience

The ancient Greek physicians Hippocrates already realised that food could be the cure or the cause of diseases. However, it took more than 2,000 years to get a glimpse into how food can influence our brain function.

Food and mood are intimately connected. And they are likely to be connected through our gut, hence the term “gut feeling”, where trillions of bacteria live happily in a mutually beneficial relationship with us, the host organism.

The talk will introduce the audience to the cutting edge science of “psychobiotic revolution”, our new understanding of how food influences the brain through the gut microbiome and will show how mental health can be maintained by carefully tending our home-grown gut bacteria.



Searching for Jurassic dinosaurs and other four-legged vertebrates

Presented by Dr Espen Knutsen, Senior Curator Palaeontology

Espen is a vertebrate palaeontologist who is currently working in the Gregory Range north of Richmond, where he is searching for Jurassic (160-145 million years ago) dinosaurs and other four-legged vertebrates.

Fossils from this time interval are historically very rare across Australia, but this locality exposes approximately 4000 square kilometres of ancient river and lake sediments with great potential for new discoveries.



Navigating business, law and governance through constant change

Presented by Professor Elizabeth Crawford Spencer, Head of Law

Professor Crawford Spencer researches and writes about franchising, with a focus on franchise law and regulation. She also researches and writes about development aid, intellectual property small business and social enterprise and legal education.

Summary of topics:

- Franchising, franchise law and regulation
- Intellectual property
- Small business and social enterprise
- Legal education
- International development cooperation (aid)

Elizabeth's scholarship in franchising law and regulation has earned her recognition domestically and overseas. She has been an invited speaker at international events and conferences in Australia, the US and Asia, including the Macquarie University Division of Law Research Seminar Series, the Franchise Council of Australia National Conference, Law Asia, the International Society of Franchising, the European Network on the Economics of



the Firm, and the Vietnam Conference on Corporate Governance.

She has co-chaired the International Society of Franchising Annual Conference and chaired the first Australian Franchise Law Colloquium. She consults with industry, the profession and governmental bodies. In addition to authoring many articles, Professor Crawford Spencer has authored two books:

- *Relational Rights and Responsibilities: Perspectives on Contractual Arrangements in Franchising*, Bond University Press, 2011.
- *The Regulation of Franchising in the New Global Economy*, Edward Elgar, 2010.

Elizabeth also conducts research in the areas of intellectual property management, non-profit governance, and contracting relationships in development cooperation.



Developing marine ornamental captive breeding techniques at JCU

Presented by Chaoshu Zeng, PhD, Associate Professor in Aquaculture, College of Science & Engineering

The global marine aquarium trade is a fast growing industry with tens of millions marine ornamentals traded annually, and the industry can easily be fuelled by high profile exposure through movies such as 'Finding Nemo'.

Unfortunately, currently > 95% of marine ornamentals are sourced from the wild, largely from the world's coral reefs. Extraction occurs primarily from biodiverse coral reefs within the Coral Triangle Region, and often by highly damaging methods (e.g. using cyanide or exposure), which negatively impact on fragile coral reef ecosystems.

JCU marine ornamental breeding program, headed by A/Prof Chaoshu Zeng, has focused on developing breeding techniques for marine ornamentals for many years.

The program aims at producing captive bred ornamentals as a sustainable alternative to supply world marine



aquarium trade to alleviate collection pressure on coral reefs while create a new industry sector.

With dedicated research, to date, about 30 marine ornamental species, including several world firsts, have been successfully bred at JCU, an achievement that is world-leading.

The presentation will outline the current status and issues of global marine ornamental trade, difficulties and major technical bottlenecks for breeding marine ornamentals, as well as achievements of the JCU research program to date.

Tips for senior travellers

Presented by Dr. Irmgard Bauer College of Healthcare Sciences College of Public Health, Medical & Veterinary Sciences

Irmgard's main research areas are travel medicine, and tourism's impact on health in developing countries. She is able to present topics pertinent to older travellers, such as 'The Senior Traveller', 'Senior Adventure Travellers to Peru' (the content translates to other destinations as well), 'Travel with a Disability', 'The Female Traveller', 'Romance Tourism'.

Critical views on the impact of our travels: 'Sex Tourism', 'Voluntourism', 'Medical Voluntourism', 'The Exploited Host'.

Some exotic topics relating to travels in South America: 'Candiru – a little fish with bad habits' and 'Ayahuasca: A risk for travellers?'

NB: Irmgard will require access to a computer and projector screen for her presentation.



Community attitudes and refugees

Presented by Wendy Li, PhD, Senior Lecturer, Psychology

Despite there being a marked increase in the number of refugees settling in northern Australia, there is little research into the attitudes held by the community toward refugees.

Past studies have suggested that prejudice reflects negative affect which is associated with out-groups. As individuals entering a different society, refugees are able to be conceptualised as an out-group, and so prejudicial attitudes towards them may be influenced by this status.

Members of local community may also feel that refugees are threat to their job opportunities and the welfare system.

By surveying the attitudes held by the communities in northern Australia, this study investigates the relationship between perceived threat by refugees and racial prejudice towards refugees.

Restoring the giant's path: *Exploring tortoise-friendly farming*

Presented by Kyana Pike, Research Assistant,
College of Science and Engineering

Kyana is about to embark on a PhD and her aim is support the recovery of the endangered San Cristobal giant tortoise, which now faces habitat loss and migratory barriers due to land modifications for farming. She will investigate how modifying farmland to accomodate tortoises during their seasonal migrations could help create a win-win scenario for biodiversity preservation and agricultural production. This is an opportunity to meet a keen young researcher right at the commencement of her career and learn what drives her and why she chose this fascinating topic in the exotic location of the Galapagos.



Assessment of Health Status in Sea Turtles by Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis

Presented by Sara Kophamel, PhD Student

Sara Kophamel's research covers general health assessment of sea turtles. More specifically, Sara is looking at the body composition of sea turtles. Meaning, she wants to know how fit and strong turtles are for surviving in the wild. Sara uses a tiny device called BIA (bioelectrical impedance analyser) to examine if they are healthy or not.

BIA uses a non-noticeable electric current to measure the amount of muscle and fat they have. This device is basically the same as the fat-measuring scales we use at the gym. Apart from the BIA, she will perform ultrasound measurements of the flipper muscles, expecting to find differences between turtles in a good shape and turtles with a poor body condition.

Sara's aims are therefore to provide new insights into sea turtle body composition and physiology, to facilitate triage decisions (e.g. needed in case of a mass-stranding event), to gain a better understanding of the aptness to breed of nesting females and also to examine the productivity of foraging grounds along Queensland. She expects that her project will set up benchmarks for future sea turtle population studies and marine conservation planning.



JCU Townsville Speakers Program 2018-19

CONTACT DETAILS AND AVAILABILITY

Please contact the speaker of your choice DIRECT as below.

In the first instance, please send an EMAIL rather than phoning. A follow-up by phone is fine.

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Marie McAuliffe	marie.mcauliffe1@jcu.edu.au	0407 116 894	Y	Y	Y	
Narelle Biedermann	narelle.biedermann@jcu.edu.au	0407 955 513	Y	Y	Y	
Anne Jones	anne.jones@jcu.edu.au	4781 4085	Y	Y	X	
David Lindsay	david.lindsay@jcu.edu.au	0429 899 086	Y	Y	Y	
Roisin Lyons	roisin.lyons@my.jcu.edu.au	0407 259 104	Y	Y	Y	
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Patrick Schaeffer	patrick.schaeffer@jcu.edu.au	4781 4448	X	Y	Y	
Frances Cochrane	frances.cochrane1@jcu.edu.au	0409 585 886	Y	X	Y	
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Wendy Li	wendy.li@jcu.edu.au	0451974 739	X	Y	X	
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Sara Kophamel	sara.kophamel@my.jcu.edu.au	0422 808 532	Y	Y	Y	NOT Weds or Thurs