



Experience & Expertise

Kidney & Metabolic

George Clinical's Kidney & Metabolic Scientific Leadership Team is focused on generating strong evidence to implement real change in practice and policy for the prevention of renal and metabolic disease, specifically for chronic kidney disease, acute kidney injury and IgA nephropathy. We leveraged our in-depth expertise to design effective studies, select the best sites and accelerate recruitment.



Hiddo Lambers Heerspink, PhD, PharmD

Professor Heerspink focuses on optimizing treatment strategies, finding new CKD therapeutic approaches and personalized medicine. He is Professor of Clinical Trials and Personalized Medicine and a clinical trialist at the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology, University Medical Center Groningen and Clinical Pharmacologist University Medical Center Groningen. His expertise includes clinical trial design and methodological aspects and statistical analyses of clinical trials.



Martin Gallagher, MBBS, FRACP, MPH, PhD

Professor Gallagher focuses on acute kidney injury, the epidemiology of renal disease and clinical trials. He is Head of the Discipline of Medicine and Head of the South Western Sydney Clinical School at UNSW, and a practicing Clinical Academic Nephrologist at Liverpool Hospital. He was Director of the Renal and Metabolic Division at The George Institute for Global Health for 11 years and now leads the AKI program within the Division. He has worked extensively within the ANZ Society of Nephrology in renal guidelines, clinical policy and research.



Jonathan Barratt, PhD, FRCP

Professor Barratt focuses on glomerular disease, multi-system renal disease and complications of CKD, in particular renal associated anemia. He is The Mayer Professor of Renal Medicine & Honorary Consultant Nephrologist and leads the Renal Research Group within the College of Life Sciences University of Leicester, UK. He is the IgA nephropathy Rare Disease Group lead for the UK National Registry of Rare Kidney Diseases (RaDaR) and a member of the steering committee for the International IgA Nephropathy Network.



Vivekanand Jha, MBBS, MD, DM, PhD, FRCP, FAMS

Dr. Jha focuses on understanding the global societal impact of kidney diseases and development of affordable, scalable and sustainable prevention tools. He is Executive Director, The George Institute for Global Health, India; Professor and Chair of Global Kidney Health, Imperial College, London; Conjoint Professor of Medicine, University of New South Wales; Professor, Prasanna School of Public Health, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India; and Immediate Past President (2019 – 2021) International Society of Nephrology. He has led research projects in more than 20 countries and has worked with many organizations including WHO to develop clinical practice guidelines and advocacy papers.



Adrian Liew, MD, MBBS, MRCP, FAMS, FASN, FRCP, MCLinEpid

Dr. Liew focuses on glomerular diseases, peritoneal dialysis, kidney transplantation and diabetic kidney disease. He is Senior Consultant Nephrologist and Director of The Kidney & Transplant Practice, Mount Elizabeth Novena Hospital, Singapore; the current elected secretary and executive of the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis; and the chair of the ISN Renal Disaster Preparedness Working Group. He is member of several KDIGO Guideline working groups and chairs the Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology Clinical Guidelines on Diabetic Kidney Disease.



Roberto Pecoits-Filho, MD, PhD, FACP, FASN

Dr. Pecoits-Filho is a practicing Nephrologist and clinical investigator focused on evolving the way CKD patients are treated in day-to-day clinical practice by integrating observational research with clinical trials. He is the Scientific Director of the DOPPS program at Arbor Research Collaborative for Health, Michigan, and a professor of Medicine at the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná, Brazil.



Muh Geot Wong, MBBS, MRCP, PhD

Dr. Wong is a clinical trialist with interests in strategies to delay CKD progression, biomarkers research, randomized controlled clinical trials and translational research. He is Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Sydney, Researcher and Educator, and a Senior Consultant Nephrologist and Director of Renal Research at the Department of Renal Medicine, Concord Repatriation General Hospital. He is a Council member of the Asia Pacific Society of Nephrology (APSN), and the Honorary Executive Officer of the Australia New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN).

**David Wheeler, MB ChB, MD, FRCP**

Dr. Wheeler's research focuses on CKD and its complications, specifically those that increase cardiovascular disease burden and/or accelerate kidney failure progression. He heads a clinical research team at the Royal Free Hospital in London and is Professor of Kidney Medicine at University College London. He has been involved in the development of Clinical Practice Guidelines for Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) and was KDIGO co-chair between 2012 and 2019.

**Vlado Perkovic, MBBS, PhD, FRACP, FASN**

Dr. Perkovic's focus is clinical trials and epidemiology, particularly in preventing kidney disease progression and its complications. He is the Provost, UNSW Sydney, where he was previously the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health and Scientia Professor. He was also a Professorial Fellow at The George Institute, Australia, and Staff Specialist in Nephrology at the Royal North Shore Hospital. He leads several major international clinical trials and serves on the Steering Committees of others. He has contributed to developing Australian and global kidney disease, cardiovascular risk assessment and blood pressure management guidelines.

**Sradha Kotwal, BHB, MBChB, FRACP, GRAD DIP (CLIN EPI), PhD**

Associate Professor Kotwal focuses on CKD, hypertension, innovative clinical trials and is passionate about embedding research into clinical practice. She is program head, Kidney and Metabolic Division at The George Institute for Global Health, Associate Professor, University of NSW and nephrologist at Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney. She is principal investigator for the Global Kidney Patients Trial Network and the Chronic kidney disease Adaptive Platform Trial Investigating Various Agents for Therapeutic Effect (CAPTIVATE). She has delivered several clinical trials to completion and participates on several steering committees.

**Hernán Trimarchi, MD, PhD, FACP, FASN**

Dr. Trimarchi focuses on glomerular diseases, particularly in proteinuria and podocytopathy, IgA nephropathy, focal and segmental glomerulosclerosis, lupus nephritis and Fabry disease. He is Head of the Division of Nephrology and Renal Transplantation at the Hospital Británico de Buenos Aires and a member of the Steering Committee of the International IgA Nephropathy Network. He is involved in many clinical research protocols related to glomerular diseases and CKD as member of the advisory board and Steering Committee, as KOL or national coordinator.

**Chee Kay Cheung, PhD, FRCP**

Dr. Cheung's clinical and research interests focus on glomerular diseases, especially IgA nephropathy, vasculitis, lupus nephritis and CKD. He is a Consultant Nephrologist and Honorary Associate Professor, University of Leicester, UK. He leads a number of investigator-initiated studies in these areas and has served as UK national chief investigator and principal investigator on multiple international randomized clinical trials. He is a Steering Committee member of the International IgA Nephropathy Network and several national working groups.

**Julio Pascual, MD, PhD**

Dr. Pascual focuses on clinical immunosuppression and kidney transplantation in elderly and frail renal patients. He is Medical Director, Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre, Madrid. Since 1995, he has managed the hospitalization unit within the Kidney Transplantation Program at Hospital Ramon y Cajal and has had a very active role in the development of new immunosuppressive strategies. He is a well-known clinical research leader in industry-sponsored and investigator-driven projects with many collaborative efforts.

**Irene de Lourdes Noronha, MD, PhD**

Dr. Noronha focuses on the study of the cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in kidney fibrogenesis and the progression of renal diseases in several experimental models of CKD. She is full professor of Nephrology, University of São Paulo Medical School, and Head, Renal Division, Hospital das Clinicas, University of São Paulo Medical School. She has served as Principal Investigator on nearly 100 clinical trials. Her clinical focus is on glomerular diseases as well as in kidney transplantation.

**Manthinda Hettiarachchi, BSc, PhD***George Clinical Senior Project Director and Global Therapeutic Head, Kidney & Metabolic*

Dr. Hettiarachchi specializes in clinical trial operational strategy for recruitment, retention and successful trial delivery. An experienced clinical trial specialist, he has nearly three decades of clinical research experience in academic research, CROs, pharma and biotech. He has managed many global clinical trials from start-up to CSR in various therapeutic areas, specializing in pivotal renal trials (IgAN, CKD, DKD, etc.) and in supporting operational teams in APAC and globally. He is exploring opportunities for clinical trials in new countries where there is high patient availability.

**Brendon Neuen, MBBS(Hons I), MSc(Oxon), PhD, FRACP, FASN**

Associate Professor Neuen is an internationally recognized expert on the efficacy and safety of SGLT2 inhibitors. He is a Staff Specialist Nephrologist and Director, Kidney Trials Unit at Royal North Shore Hospital and Senior Research Fellow at The George Institute, Australia. Dr. Neuen serves as the founding Secretariat of the SGLT2 Meta-Analysis Cardio-Renal Trialists' Consortium (SMART-C). He is involved in the leadership of multiple ongoing international multi-centre randomized trials. His work has directly informed both KDIGO Guidelines and American Diabetes Association Standards of Care.

