



HEAL 2025 Conference




“Weaving Diverse Knowledges into Climate Action for Better Health Outcomes”



HEAL



Healthy Environments And Lives (HEAL) Early- and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCR) Steering Committee

Name	Bio
 <p data-bbox="204 972 491 1088">Ms Kris Vine University Centre for Rural Health</p>	<p data-bbox="563 600 1390 1189"><i>Kris Vine BSc/BA (USyd) MPH (UNSW) is a Research Fellow at the University Centre for Rural Health with a background in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care (PHC) service deliver and research. A non-Indigenous ally, Kris is currently working as the project manager for the Healing Country project, an Aboriginal-led project developing digital data-story maps and supporting communities design and implement local climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. She has worked across sectors in Indigenous primary health care and social justice, including with not-for-profits and Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations. She is a PhD candidate with the University of Sydney looking at community-led evaluation approaches to improve the overall health and wellbeing outcomes of Aboriginal communities and Country in response to local climate challenges.</i></p>
 <p data-bbox="204 1559 536 1709">Dr Luise Kazda University of Canberra Sydney School of Public Health.</p>	<p data-bbox="563 1261 1390 1675"><i>Luise is an early career Research Fellow in the Health Systems Resilience and Sustainability Theme of the HEAL National Research Network and at the Sydney School of Public Health. She is a member of Wiser Healthcare and of Asthma Australia's National Implementation Committee for Quality and Sustainable Asthma-care Roadmap. Her research explores ways to make health systems more sustainable whilst improving quality of care and reducing harms. Luise investigates approaches to decarbonise healthcare through “green care” (low carbon alternatives) and “lean care” (reducing low value care), specifically in areas of clinical carbon hotspots.</i></p>
	<p data-bbox="563 1783 1390 2018"><i>Manoj Bhatta is a HEAL Postdoctoral Researcher at the Menzies School of Health Research in Alice Springs. He is part of the HEAL Rural and Remote Health Theme and the NT Communities of Practice. He has a multidisciplinary background, conducting socio-ecological research using mixed-method research approaches, with a current focus on climate change and environmental health. His research</i></p>

Dr Manoj Bhatta
Menzies School of
Health Research



examines the health impacts of climate change on remote populations and involves working collaboratively with remote communities to co-design innovative adaptation and mitigation solutions.

Dr Mira Cooper
University of South
Australia.



Mira Cooper is a Research Associate in UniSA STEM, University of South Australia. Her research focuses on environmental microbiology and environmental health, with a particular interest in water quality. She is currently undertaking an NHMRC-funded postdoctoral fellowship with the Healthy Environments and Lives (HEAL) network, where she works on rainwater and wastewater projects.

Mira has a strong background in environmental health, having worked with the Victorian Department of Health on the statewide SARS-CoV-2 wastewater surveillance program. She completed her PhD at Flinders University, where she investigated human zoonotic parasites, advocating for One Health and environmental health approaches to improve disease control and prevention.



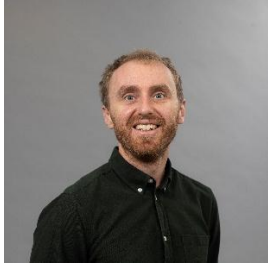
Dr Rishu Thakur
Menzies School of
Health Research

Rishu Thakur is a postdoctoral researcher with the Climate Change Research Team at Menzies School of Health Research in Central Australia. She has a background in soil microbiology and environmental health, with expertise in soil-plant-microbe interactions and the role of soil rhizobacteria in improving crop resilience. Her current research focuses on monitoring environmental health using low-cost sensors and citizen science approaches to improve climate resilience in remote Australia.



Ms Sharna Motlap
Menzies School of
Health Research

Sharna is a proud Indigenous woman from the Mbabaram tribe of Queensland, and from Hammond Island of the Torres Strait. She is a nutritionist and Research Fellow at Northern Institute. Sharna has gained numerous awards including the New Colombo Plan scholarship. Sharna is currently completing a double degree studying a Master of Public Health and Master of Health Research with Menzies School of Health Research, where she was awarded the prestigious 'Menzies Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Postgraduate Coursework Scholarship'. Her research interest includes nutrition, climate change, public health, and Indigenous health.



Dr Tom Swan
University of Sydney

Tom's curiosity in science was sparked by interactions between humans and humanities' deadliest threat: mosquitoes.

This curiosity has afforded him with opportunities to work with a variety of different cultures and communities around the world, researching innovative and novel approaches to survey and control mosquitoes. In turn, this work has helped educate people and reduce both the morbidity and mortality rates caused by mosquitoes.

More recently, Tom's focus has turned towards other evidence-based approaches to assist and help solve some of the other world's pressing issues. These include: soil, food and water security, land rehabilitation and development agricultural. Having worked directly with numerous Aboriginal and Indigenous cultures both within Australia and around the world, Tom is particularly interested in bottom-up and participatory action research approaches to instigate meaningful change.

Tom is also very interested in interdisciplinary approaches to research and teaching and has extensive experience with integrating across disciplines such as: ecology, entomology and genomics, to provide scientific and management solutions.



Dr Yonatal Tefera
University of Adelaide |
South Australian Health
and Medical Research
Institute (SAHMRI)

Dr. Yonatal Tefera is a Research-Policy Translation Officer with strong background in the field of Occupational and Environmental Health and expertise in research translation and public health policymaking. His research focuses on understanding the social determinants of Health and the interplay between researchers and policy actors to facilitate evidence-based decisions and public policies that affect human health and wellbeing. He has gained extensive experience in various domains, including research, teaching, consultancy, and project management, working with academic institutions, government and industries. Yonatal's diverse skill set makes him a valuable asset in driving evidence-based solutions for public and environmental health challenges.

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