The Menzies Institute for Medical Research
The Menzies Institute for Medical Research, at the University of Tasmania, is one of Australia’s leading health and medical research institutes. We strive for a world where the diseases that currently touch every one of us – such as multiple sclerosis, dementia, arthritis, heart disease and cancer – are halted. We want to know how to prevent, treat and cure these diseases, and make the benefits available to everyone. We work collaboratively with the community and consumers, other researchers, health services, government, industry and funders to achieve our purpose to enable healthier, longer and better lives through internationally significant medical research. We undertake excellent laboratory, clinical and population health research in themes that reflect the burden of disease in our community and our expertise in addressing these conditions. Our local research is of global significance.

Our multidisciplinary research program extends across our themes and includes health services research, epidemiology, chronic disease prevention, health economics, molecular biology, computational biology and bioinformatics.

Research themes

Public Health, Primary Care and Health Services
We work to improve prevention and management of important health problems that impact large sections of our population. We focus on lifestyle and environmental risk factors, obesity, multiple sclerosis and mental health.

Theme leader: Prof Andrew Palmer andrew.palmer@utas.edu.au

Available Projects:
- Addressing high healthcare usage        Dr Claire Morley
- Assisting working people with MS        Prof Ingrid van der Mei
- Air pollution and childhood development Prof Fay Johnston
- Can better wood burners improve health?  Prof Fay Johnston
- Finances, employment and prostate cancer Dr Jessica Roydhouse
- Improving data accuracy for economic evaluation Dr Ingrid Cox
- Interstitial lung disease: health economics Dr Ingrid Cox
- Lung cancer care pathways                Dr Ingrid Cox
- Transforming lunch provision in Tasmanian schools Dr Kylie Smith
- Incentivising physical activity          A/Prof Verity Cleland
- Walkability in rural communities        A/Prof Verity Cleland
- The heart health benefits of fitness    Dr Brooklyn Fraser
Brain Health and Disease
Brain diseases like multiple sclerosis and motor neurone disease affect many Australians and impact movement and memory. Our research focus is to discover the causes of each disease and develop effective treatments to guard the nervous system.

Theme leader: Prof Kaylene Young kaylene.young@utas.edu.au
If you are interested in Neuroscience PhD, please contact the theme leader.

Cardiovascular and Respiratory Health and Disease
We focus on the prevention and management of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. Our aim is to reduce the impact of stroke, heart, and lung disease in Tasmania.

Theme leader: A/Prof Seana Gall seana.gall@utas.edu.au
Available Projects
- Adiposity, mental health and CVD health Dr Jing Tian
- Sleep, obesity and heart health Dr Jing Tian
- eHealth interventions to prevent stroke A/Prof Seana Gall
- mHealth for stroke prevention A/Prof Seana Gall
- The clinical value of exercise BP A/Prof Martin Schultz

Musculoskeletal Health and Disease
Our research focuses on common bone and joint diseases, including osteoarthritis and osteoporosis. We work to improve pain and musculoskeletal health.

Theme leader: A/Prof Dawn Aitken dawn.aitken@utas.edu.au
Available Projects
- Multiomics of musculoskeletal disorders Dr Feng Pan
- Air pollution and bone health Dr Lieke Scheepers
- Musculoskeletal health in children Dr Lieke Scheepers
- Investigating chronic plantar heel pain Dr Tania Winzenberg

Genetics and Cancer
Our priorities are to understand the genetic and molecular cause of cancer, blinding eye diseases, cardiovascular diseases, and multiple sclerosis and share this knowledge to prevent, diagnose, and treat diseases.

Theme leader: Prof Kathryn Burdon kathryn.burdon@utas.edu.au
Available Projects
- The evolution of multiple sclerosis risk Dr Bennet McComish
- Structural variants and CVD A/Prof Phillip Melton
- Familial interstitial lung disease genes Dr Sionne Lucas
- Epigenetic drivers of tumour metastasis Prof Joanne Dickinson
- Discovery of rare cancer risk variants A/Prof Liesel FitzGerald
- Genetics of childhood cataract Prof Kathryn Burdon
Graduate Research Co-ordinators

Prof Kathryn Burdon  kathryn.burdon@utas.edu.au
Dr Owen Marshall  owen.marshall@utas.edu.au
Prof Ingrid van der Mei  ingrid.vandermei@utas.edu.au
Dr Barbara de Graaff  barbara.degraaff@utas.edu.au
A/Prof Phillip Melton  phillip.melton@utas.edu.au

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