



# International Centre for Future Health Systems News



UNSW  
International Centre for  
Future Health Systems

## International Centre for Future Health Systems (ICFHS) News August 2025

### Message from the ICFHS Directors



Welcome to the third newsletter of the International Centre for Future Health Systems (ICFHS), based at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). We thank you for the support and interest you have been providing to our new interdisciplinary centre for health systems research, policy and advocacy.

Since our last newsletter Patricia (Trish) Davidson has joined ICFHS as co-director, following Michael Kidd taking up his role as Australia's Chief Medical Officer on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025. Michael continues to work 0.2FTE with ICFHS.

In this newsletter we are providing you with updates on our policy work, projects, publications, and advocacy, as well as the individual achievements of ICFHS members.

Among the highlights in this newsletter, we are pleased to provide details of our research into how patient enrolment in primary care impacts continuity and quality of care, integrating mobile health app data into electronic medical record systems, the promise and pitfalls of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in health care, improvements in chronic condition management, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on inequities in children's access to dental care, and the use of linked data in evaluating health services utilisation to assist with future health systems planning, and much more.

ICFHS continues to convene thought leadership events to advance our agenda on health system innovation and reform. Recently we conducted a workshop on the evolving role of community navigators in health systems, and co-hosted a healthy ageing workshop with the UNSW Centre for Population Ageing Research, which brought together researchers, government, and the community to discuss the challenges and enablers of healthy ageing in Australia and around the world. On 25<sup>th</sup> November, we will be hosting the inaugural ***UNSW International Centre for Future Health Systems Ian Webster Oration***, which will be delivered by Flying Doctor Adjunct Professor Shannon Nott, speaking about ***Heroes of Australian Health Care: what the future holds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service***. We will share more details about this exciting event closer to the date, but hope you will be able to join us for this event which will be held in the new UNSW Health Translation Hub Building.

We look forward to continuing working with you as we lead research, policy and advocacy work on health systems reform at local, national and global levels. We welcome the opportunity to discuss ways you can engage with our work.

Best wishes

Professor Michael Kidd AO FAHMS & Professor Patricia M. Davidson FAAN  
Directors  
International Centre for Future Health Systems

## Our Research Highlights

**Report of the Australian Government Review on Private Health Insurance Rebates for Natural Therapies**



Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care published the *Report of the Review of the Australian Government Rebate on Natural Therapies for Private Health Insurance*. ICFHS Director, Professor Michael Kidd AO, led this review for the Australian Government, supported by an advisory panel of experts, the Natural Therapies Review Expert Advisory Panel. [Read more.](#)

## ICFHS researchers publish research on improvements in chronic condition management



Research led by ICFHS researcher, Dr Cathy O'Callaghan, explores health staff understanding and implementation of the Integrated Care for People with Chronic Conditions (ICPCC) program. This program aims to reduce preventable hospitalisations by coordinating care for people with complex chronic conditions, using both a hospitalisation risk prediction algorithm and professional referrals. The research shows strong support for person-centred care, with the algorithm helping identify high-risk patients but missing some people with growing needs, making clinician referrals valuable. [Read more.](#)

## ICFHS researchers publish on promise and pitfalls of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in health care



ICFHS researchers Professor Patricia Davidson and Dr. Peter Brown have published an invited commentary in the *European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*, examining the opportunities and challenges of using artificial intelligence (AI) in clinical risk prediction models. Responding to a recent study on Intensive Care Unit stays by people with heart failure, the authors highlight how AI can enhance predictive accuracy and support real-time decision-making. The commentary outlines key considerations for developing trustworthy and effective AI tools, including transparency, bias mitigation, and robust data governance. [Read more.](#)

## ICFHS team reviews the impact of integrating mobile health app data into electronic medical record systems





An ICFHS research team, led by Dr Jialing Lin, has reviewed global evidence on how mobile health app data is being integrated into electronic medical record (EMR) systems, and how this impacts health care delivery and patient outcomes. This review revealed that the evidence base is sparse compared with the large number of mobile health apps currently in use. Evidence has revealed some benefits including enhanced patient education and self-management, real-time data being shared with clinicians, improved support for clinical decision-making, improved communication between patients and their clinicians, and improvements in patient outcomes. [Read more.](#)

## ICFHS researchers contribute to review finding COVID-19 widened inequities in children's dental care



The study published in BMJ Open was based on research which informed the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care Report on the Fifth Review of the Dental Benefits Act. The research reviewed 54 studies from 17 countries. Substantial delays to routine dental care, leading to more dental problems and ongoing need, especially untreated dental caries, were observed with a disproportionate impact on socioeconomically disadvantaged and vulnerable children and families. Changes during the pandemic to the configuration of dental services included greater rates of emergency treatment, reductions in use of aerosol-generating procedures, and greater use of teledentistry. [Read more.](#)

## ICFHS contributes to a new study revealing the financial challenges facing many Australians managing chronic illness



Professor Michael Kidd AO has contributed to a new systematic review revealing the lived experience of out-of-pocket healthcare costs among many Australians with chronic health conditions. Despite support provided by Medicare, many people face financial hardship, often sacrificing other basic needs to afford health care. [Read more.](#)

## ICFHS team's review of how patient enrolment in primary care impacts continuity and quality of care just published in the Medical Journal of Australia



A research team, led by ICFHS Research Fellow Dr Shona Bates, with colleagues Dr Jialing Lin, Associate Professor Luke Allen, Associate Professor Michael Wright, and Professor Michael Kidd AO, undertook a review of primary care patient enrolment schemes around the world. This was completed to help understand what to expect from the introduction of MyMedicare - a patient enrolment scheme introduced in Australia in 2023 – that aims to improve continuity of care and enable the delivery of other primary care reforms. [Read more.](#)

## ICFHS researcher publishes a new study on the use of linked data in evaluating health services utilisation to assist with future health systems planning



This work, led by ICFHS researcher Dr Jialing Lin, in collaboration with colleagues from the School of Population Health, School of Clinical Medicine, School of Medical Sciences, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, The George Institute for Global Health, Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Royal North Shore Hospital, Concord Repatriation General Hospital, St. Vincent's Hospital, and University of Sydney was published in *Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice*. [Read more.](#)

## ICFHS Adjunct Lecturer writes in *The Mandarin* on how to build expertise in the Australian Public Service



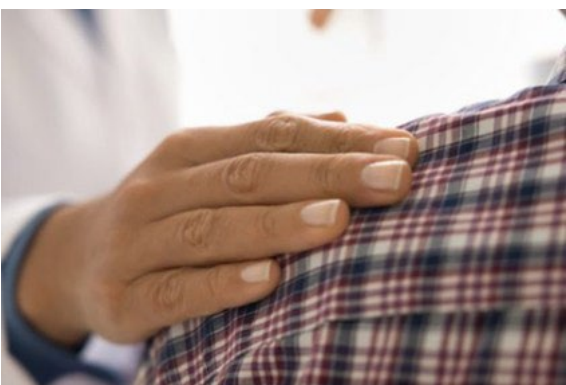
ICFHS Adjunct Lecturer Dr Isabel Hanson has published an article in *The Mandarin* titled “*Building expertise in the Australian Public Service: Lessons from medical training.*” The piece reflects on how the Australian Public Service could strengthen learning and capability development by drawing on insights from medical training. Aimed at policymakers, the article explores how apprenticeship-style approaches and structured learning environments can foster expertise across large systems, blending educational theory with personal experience. [Read more.](#)

## ICFHS researcher publishes a study on the heritability of breast cancer in South African women



Polygenic risk scores (PRS) can revolutionize personalized care, but current models lack diversity. A South African study published by ICFHS researcher Associate Professor Freddy Sitas reveals European-derived PRS poorly predict breast cancer risk in African women, highlighting the urgent need for ancestry-specific tools to ensure equity in precision medicine—especially in multicultural nations like Australia. [Read more.](#)

## ICFHS researchers write in Croakey Health Media about 'healthcare election' and the importance on quality care



In a recent article for Croakey Media, ICFHS researchers Rafal Chomik, Associate Professor Michael Wright, and Dr Shona Bates discuss election pledges for healthcare. They welcome new funding for Medicare bulkbilling but stress that meaningful reform requires addressing incentives that currently favour higher volumes of shorter consultations. They argue that managing chronic illness and mental health requires sustained investment in continuity and comprehensiveness of care, which, according to new analysis presented in the article, appear underfunded. They propose structural reform that would see changes to Medicare rebates to better support longer consults, the potential expansion of the Practice Incentives Program, and/or a shift toward blended payment models to strengthen patient-centred primary care. [Read more.](#)

## Our People

### ICFHS researcher Dr Shona Bates has been promoted to Senior Research Fellow



Congratulations to Dr Shona Bates on being promoted to Senior Research Fellow in the recent rounds of promotions at UNSW. Shona is the Arts, Design and Architecture appointment in the Future Health Systems Research Team, and is currently focusing on informing the primary care reforms in Australia, understanding policy shifts towards place-based or neighbourhood care in both Australia and the UK, and also understanding the learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic on the organisation of primary health care globally. Click [this link](#) to see Dr Shona Bates' research profile

## News & Media

### ICFHS Director launched the 4th edition of the GP Companion at UNSW



The 4th edition of the GP Companion was launched by Professor Michael Kidd AO and General Practice Registrars Australia (GPRA) at UNSW, offering a practical, accessible resource for medical students and GP trainees. Created by GPRA, it supports general practice education nationwide, with updates by experienced doctors. Available in print and digital formats, it's praised for aiding quality patient care. [Read more.](#)

### ICFHS welcomes visiting academic Professor Martin Curley from Maynooth University, Ireland





On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025, Professor Martin Curley presented to ICFHS researchers on 'Enabling and Empowering Patients to deliver integrated care and Stay Left, Shift Left-10X; The Patient Capability Maturity Framework'. This new healthcare paradigm uses digital innovation and patient enablement to deliver more timely care closer to home. He highlighted its global impact and potential to support vulnerable populations; in Ireland the model improves access for groups like migrants and homeless individuals through electronic health records to improve health care access. [Read more.](#)

## Leadership in Healthcare with the next Chief Medical Officer of Australia, and Director of the UNSW International Centre for Future Health Systems, Professor Michael Kidd AO



Professor Michael Kidd AO joins UNSW's medical student podcast 'Bedside Murmurs' to share insights on global primary care, medical leadership, and the future of healthcare. [Watch on Youtube.](#)

## ICFHS Director Professor Michael Kidd AO speaks at the Australian Ethical Health Alliance (AEHA) 2025 Symposium



ICFHS Director Professor Michael Kidd AO participated in a panel discussion at the Australian Ethical Health Alliance (AEHA) 2025 Symposium on 19th May. The symposium's theme was 'Ethical Health in an Era of Disinformation and Misinformation'. The symposium brought together 180 health professionals, advocates, and sector leaders to explore how we can uphold transparency, accountability, and integrity in healthcare amid growing challenges to public trust and truth. [Read more.](#)

## ICFHS hosted an event with Healthdirect Australia

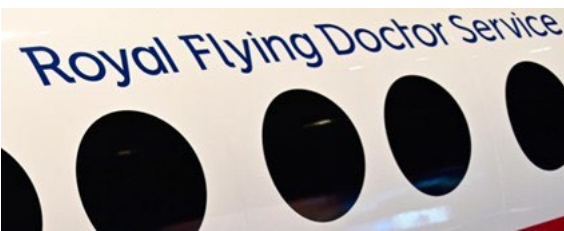




The International Centre for Future Health Systems hosted an engaging event with Healthdirect Australia on 13th May 2025. ICFHS researchers and other UNSW academics exchanged knowledge and initiated collaborations with guest speakers Mitchell Burger, Zhixin Liu, and Lijing Ma from Healthdirect Australia. [Read more.](#)

## Future Events

You are invited to 'Navigating the horizon: Designing resilient health systems for rural and remote Australia with Associate Professor Shannon Nott' on Thursday 7 August @ Teams



Join ICFHS and Associate Professor Shannon Nott to explore global healthcare megatrends and their impact on rural and remote communities, drawing on insights from virtual care reforms and Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) programs to highlight opportunities for innovative, equitable, and sustainable models of care. [Link to register.](#)

## Our publications

- [Genome-wide association study identifies common variants associated with breast cancer in South African Black women](#)  
By Mahtaab Hayat, Wenlong Chen, Chantal Babb de Villiers, Sang Hyuck Lee, Charles Curtis, Rob Newton, Tim Waterboer, **Freddy Sitas**, Debbie Bradshaw, Mazvita Muchengeti, Elvira Singh, Cathryn M. Lewis, Michele Ramsay, Christopher Mathew & Jean-Tristan Brandenburg
- [Trends in use of sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitors among people with type 2 diabetes following hospitalisation with heart failure: A population-based study](#)  
By **Jialing Lin**, Tamara Y. Milder, Claire T. Deakin, Juliana de Oliveira Costa, Alys Havard, Brendon L. Neuen, Nicholas A. Buckley, David Brieger, Jerry R. Greenfield, Min Jun, Richard O. Day, **Sallie-Anne Pearson**, Michael O. Falster
- [The impact of patient enrolment in primary care on continuity and quality of care around the world, 2014–2024, and lessons for Australia: a scoping review](#)  
By **Shona Bates**, **Jialing Lin**, **Luke Allen**, **Michael Wright**, **Michael Kidd**

- [Lived experience of out-of-pocket costs of health care and medicines by people with chronic conditions and their families in Australia: a systematic review of the qualitative literature](#)  
By Jane Desborough, Charles Maskell-Knight, Shelley Wang, Anne Parkinson, Danielle Butler Hsei-Di Law, Kamania Butler, Leanne Watts, Elisabeth Huynh, Fiona Hodson, Samar Ibrahim, Julie Veitch, Jillian Kingsford-Smith, **Michael Kidd**, Cam Donaldson
- [Access to dental services for children: a scoping review on the impact of COVID-19 and implications for future models of care](#)  
By Sally Hall Dykgraaf, **Anthony Sunjaya**, Daniel James, **Michael Kidd**
- [Integrated Care Coordination for Managing Chronic Conditions: Views of Health Staff on the Implementation of a Program Using an Algorithm to Identify People at Higher Risk of Hospitalisation in Sydney, Australia](#)  
By **Cathy O'Callaghan**, Julie Osborne, **Margo Barr**, Damian Conway, Ben Harris-Roxas
- [The promise and potential pitfalls of artificial intelligence in risk prediction models](#)  
By **Patricia Davidson**, **Peter Brown**
- [Characteristics of patient enrolment policies in primary care: a qualitative analysis of 15 schemes from 12 high-income countries](#)  
By **Shona Bates**, **Michael Wright**, **Peter Brown**, **Rafal Chomik**, **Jialing Lin**, Tara Kiran, **Michael Kidd**, **Luke Allen**
- [Integration of rehabilitation and primary healthcare: global perspectives](#)  
By **Michael Kidd**, Albert Lee
- [Integrating Mobile Health App Data Into Electronic Medical or Health Record Systems and Its Impact on Health Care Delivery and Patient Health Outcomes: Scoping Review](#)  
By **Jialing Lin**, **Shona Bates**, **Luke Allen**, **Michael Wright**, **Limin Mao**, **Michael Kidd**
- [Building capacity in the academic general practice research workforce](#)  
By Clare J Taylor, Anthony J Avery, Faraz Mughal, **Michael Kidd**, Sanjiv Ahluwalia, Luke Daines, Louise Dubras, Joanne Harris, Richard J McManus, Scott Wilkes, Richard Hobbs, **Aziz Sheikh**
- [Patient Portals and Shared Decision-Making in US Adults With or at Risk of Cardiovascular Diseases: A Cross-Sectional Study](#)  
By Yuling Chen, Erin M. Spaulding, Suratsawadee Kruahong, Sarah Slone, Binu Koirala, **Patricia Davidson**, Yvonne Commodore-Mensah, Cheryl R. Dennison Himmelfarb
- [Business and Health: An Insidious Mix](#)  
By **Patricia Davidson**, David C. Currow
- [Asking the tough questions and having crucial conversations: promoting the value and quality of healthcare simultaneously](#)  
By **Patricia Davidson**, David C Currow, Steven Z Pantilat, Kenneth Hillman
- [How Can We Promote Trust in Technology to Increase Access and Equity in Health Care?](#)  
By **Patricia Davidson**, Muhammad H Zaman, Caleb Ferguson, David C Currow
- [The Association of Unmet Palliative Care Needs and Physical Frailty with Clinical Outcomes: A Prospective Study of Adults with Heart Failure](#)  
By Lyndsay DeGroot, Noelle Pavlovic, Nancy Perrin, Nisha A Gilotra, Hailey Miller, Quin E Denfeld, Colleen K McIlvennan, Sydney M Dy, **Patricia Davidson**, Sarah L Szanton, Martha Abshire Saylor

- [A Bourdieusian Approach to Protecting the Wellbeing of Intimate Partner Violence Research Teams](#)  
By Kelly Lewer, Luke Molloy, Cristina Thompson, Tylah Emslie, Bronislava Brankovic, **Patricia Davidson**
- [Translation and validation of the Chinese version of quality of physician-patient interaction scale](#)  
By Jing Li, Thitipong Tankumpuan, Aurawamon Sriyuktasuth, **Patricia Davidson**
- [An Expert Opinion on the Management of Frailty in Heart Failure from the Australian Cardiovascular Alliance National Taskforce](#)  
By Julee McDonagh, Caleb Ferguson, Sarah N Hilmer, Ruth E Hubbard, Richard I Lindley, Andrea Driscoll, Andrew Maiorana, Lindsay Wu, John J Atherton, Beata V Bajorek, Bridie Carr, Kim Delbaere, Elsa Dent, Mai H Duong, Louise D Hickman, Ingrid Hopper, Quan Huynh, Sunita R Jha, Anthony Keech, Marc Sim, Gursharan K Singh, Anthony Villani, Catherine Shang, Meng Hsu, Jamie Vandenberg, **Patricia Davidson**, Peter S Macdonald
- [Comparative analysis of the effectiveness of pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions on arteriovenous fistula cannulation-related pain in patients receiving hemodialysis: A systematic review and network meta-analysis](#)  
By Amir Masoud Sharifnia, Ginger Chu, Elizabeth Manias, **Patricia Davidson**, Ritin Fernandez
- [The promise and potential pitfalls of artificial intelligence in risk prediction models](#)  
By **Patricia Davidson**, **Peter Brown**
- [Sociodemographic and clinical factors affecting advance care planning: results from a large community cohort in New South Wales, Australia](#)  
By Eleanor Yang, Alamgir Kabir, Joel Rhee, **Cathy O'Callaghan**, **Margo Barr**
- [Community health navigators in Australian general practice: an implementation study](#)  
By **Cathy O'Callaghan**, Elizabeth Harris, Sabuj Kanti Mistry, **Mark Harris**
- [Change in herpes zoster vaccination uptake before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States older adults](#)  
By **Jialing Lin**, Zhaoli Dai, Chenxi Li, Wen-Qiang He
- [Characteristics of patient enrolment policies in primary care: a qualitative analysis of 15 schemes from 12 high-income countries](#)  
By **Shona Bates**, **Michael Wright**, **Peter Brown**, **Rafal Chomik**, **Jialing Lin**, Tara Kiran, **Michael Kidd**, **Luke Allen**

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