Monash Alfred Psychiatry research centre (MAPrc) is one of Australia’s largest clinical research centres in psychiatry. The centre has a long track record of producing world class research with direct clinical translation.

The key goal of MAPrc is to conduct clinical research aimed at developing new treatments with direct, effective, and immediate applications. The research covers all ages and many different mental illnesses. MAPrc research is integrated with clinical practice, based in the Alfred Hospital in affiliation with Monash University.

We have a multidisciplinary group of researchers with a research agenda that meets clinical and social needs and has a short 1-5 year timeline to real clinical impact.

See more: www.maprc.org.au

PROJECTS AVAILABLE:

The neurobiology of borderline personality disorder
**Supervisor(s):** Dr Robin Cash, Prof Paul Fitzgerald, Prof Jayashri Kulkami and Dr Natalie Thomas
**Email:** robin.cash@monash.edu

An investigation of Ultra-Runners
**Supervisor(s):** Dr Bernadette Fitzgibbon and Dr Donna Urquhart
**Email:** bernadette.fitzgibbon@monash.edu

Increasing the speed of thought: Using brain stimulation to enhance speed of information processing
**Supervisor(s):** Assoc Prof Kate Hoy and Dr Bernadette Fitzgibbon
**Email:** Kate.hoy@monash.edu

Lost in translation: assessing the applicability of motor cortical tDCS findings to the DLPFC
**Supervisor(s):** Assoc Prof Kate Hoy and Prof Paul Fitzgerald
**Email:** Kate.hoy@monash.edu

Pain Perception in psychiatric and neurological disorders
**Supervisor(s):** Dr Bernadette Fitzgibbon
**Email:** bernadette.fitzgibbon@monash.edu
Brain stimulation combined with an adjunctive non-pharmaceutical treatment for the relief of persistent pain
**Supervisor(s):** Dr Bernadette Fitzgibbon  
**Email:** bernadette.fitzgibbon@monash.edu

Exploring the neurobiology of depression with brain stimulation
**Supervisor(s):** Dr Robin Cash and Prof Paul Fitzgerald  
**Email:** robin.cash@monash.edu

Enhancing plasticity induction using brain stimulation
**Supervisor(s):** Dr Robin Cash and Prof Paul Fitzgerald  
**Email:** robin.cash@monash.edu

Investigating the neurobiology of chemotherapy induced cognitive impairment (CICI) using non-invasive brain stimulation
**Supervisor(s):** Assoc Prof Kate Hoy and Dr Stuart Lee  
**Email:** kate.hoy@monash.edu

Case control study of neonatal intensive care / special care nursery (NICU/SCN) admissions and antipsychotic exposure using data from the National Register of Antipsychotic Use in Pregnancy (NRAMP)
**Supervisor(s):** Prof Jayashri Kulkarni and Dr Carolyn Breadon  
**Email:** jayashri.kulkarni@monash.edu

Cross sectional study of borderline personality disorder symptomatology and trauma history in women with polycystic ovary syndrome compared to healthy controls
**Supervisor(s):** Prof Jayashri Kulkarni and Ms Emmy Gavrilidis  
**Email:** jayashri.kulkarni@monash.edu

Study of premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD) in women with borderline personality disorder (BPD)
**Supervisor(s):** Prof Jayashri Kulkarni and Dr Natalie Thomas  
**Email:** jayashri.kulkarni@monash.edu

Toddler and pre-school development in children (1-5 years) born to women who took antipsychotic medication during pregnancy, using data from the National Register of Antipsychotic Medication in Pregnancy (NRAMP)
**Supervisor(s):** Prof Jayashri Kulkarni and Dr Carolyn Breadon  
**Email:** jayashri.kulkarni@monash.edu

A First Investigation of Temporal Cortex Inhibition Using TMS-EEG
**Supervisor(s):** Dr Manreena Kaur and Prof Paul Fitzgerald  
**Email:** manreena.kaur@monash.edu

Characterisation of perimenopausal anxiety in women
**Supervisor(s):** Prof Jayashri Kulkarni and Ms Emmy Gavrilidis  
**Email:** jayashri.kulkarni@monash.edu

The Heart Side of the Brain: Examining the effect of repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation on the autonomic nervous system
**Supervisor(s):** Dr Manreena Kaur and Prof Paul Fitzgerald  
**Email:** manreena.kaur@monash.edu

Impact of type and timing of childhood trauma on adult cognition and emotion regulating in borderline personality disorder (BPD)
**Supervisor(s):** Dr Caroline Gurvich and Prof Jayashri Kulkarni  
**Email:** caroline.gurvich@monash.edu

Cognitive functioning and emotion processing associated with perimenopausal depression (healthy control subjects compared with depressed patient data)
**Supervisor(s):** Dr Caroline Gurvich and Prof Jayashri Kulkarni  
**Email:** caroline.gurvich@monash.edu

Depression and the oral contraceptive pill – substudy of types of pill used and depressive mood
**Supervisor(s):** Prof Jayashri Kulkarni and Dr Natalie Thomas  
**Email:** jayashri.kulkarni@monash.edu

The influence of genetics on neuroplasticity
**Supervisor(s):** Dr Robin Cash and Prof. Paul Fitzgerald  
**Email:** robin.cash@monash.edu

Comparing what clinical factors drive occupational violence and aggression and its consequences across three public hospitals
**Supervisor(s):** Dr Stuart Lee and Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajan  
**Email:** Stuart.lee@monash.edu

Assessing the reliability and validity of a new measure of functional independence for people with severe mental illness and factors that predict level of independence and rehabilitation progress
**Supervisor(s):** Dr Stuart Lee, Daniel Cartlidge and Justin Rowe  
**Email:** Stuart.lee@monash.edu
1) **PROJECT TITLE:** Promoting the Health and Well-being of Children and Young People in Out of Home Care

**PRIMARY SUPERVISOR(s):** Dr Monica Korpershoek

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR(s):** Dr Liza Hopkins

**PROJECT SUMMARY (100 words):** Children and young people who enter Out Of Home Care (OOHC) are at increased risk for a range of poor outcomes, including poor mental and physical health. To promote normal development of children in OOHC, a representative of Alfred CYMHS will attend the planning meetings which occur within 72 hours of a child/young person first being placed in OOHC.

This study will evaluate the process of incorporating mental health care into OOHC placement planning and examine a range of factors such as ability of services to coordinate effectively, family involvement and health, education and mental health outcomes for the child/young person.

2) **PROJECT TITLE:** How do people with schizophrenia view the impacts of cognitive impairment and approaches to addressing this?

**PRIMARY SUPERVISOR(s):** Dr Stuart Lee

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR(s):** Dr Narelle Warren, Prof Susan Rossell

**PROJECT SUMMARY (100 words):** Cognitive impairment is experienced by approximately 85% of people with schizophrenia, is one of the strongest predictors of impaired functioning, and is an aspect of difficulty many want help with. Despite this and the development of an array of pharmacological, psychological and behavioural interventions aimed at enhancing cognition in people with schizophrenia, cognitive rehabilitation is rarely offered as part of routine practice. This study will conduct semi-structured interviews with adults with schizophrenia to explore their experience of cognitive impairment and how this impacts, what has been done to compensate for or improve this, and what they want from cognitive rehabilitation.

3) **PROJECT TITLE:** Assessing the reliability and validity of a new measure of functional independence for people with severe mental illness and factors that predict level of independence and rehabilitation progress.

**PRIMARY SUPERVISOR(s):** Dr Stuart Lee

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR(s):** Daniel Cartlidge, Justin Rowe

**PROJECT SUMMARY (100 words):** Difficulty with independent living, illness self-management and social participation is often experienced by people with severe mental illness. To provide intensive rehabilitation support, residential rehabilitation units provide multidisciplinary treatment and support for a period of up to 1-2 years. To improve collaborative care planning and monitoring of recovery progress, senior clinicians of Alfred Psychiatry developed the ARCC Rehabilitation Scale. Additional measures were collected including clinician-rated psychiatric symptom severity, cognition and disability and consumer-rated medication adherence and psychosocial difficulty. This project will use previously collected data to assess the scale’s reliability and validity and predictors of level of functioning.