

Podiatry Symposium

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Bachelor of Podiatric Medicine

Speakers and Chair Biographies

Dr Luke Donnan

Senior Lecturer and Course Director – Podiatry (Charles Sturt University)



Luke is the Course Director and Senior Lecturer in Podiatric Medicine. He leads the Bachelor of Podiatric Medicine and the Undergraduate Certificate in Foot Health. He brings extensive experience in podiatry education, with expertise in podiatric biomechanics, sports medicine, and evidence-based practice.

Luke is recognised for his innovative contributions to online and blended learning, supported by a Master of Learning and Development and Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (UK). He is committed to delivering high-quality, student-centred education that prepares graduates for podiatric practice.

Julie Nguyen

Lecturer – Podiatry (Charles Sturt University)



Julie has a Bachelor of Podiatry, Master of Public Health and Graduate Certificate in Tertiary & Adult Education. Julie is currently completing her post-graduate research studies at the University of Melbourne School of Population and Global Health. Julie has extensive clinical experience in both the public and private health sectors. Julie has worked in various positions including Podiatrist, Project Officer in public affairs, health promotion and Acting-Director & Lead Project Officer for projects including Department of Health funded projects.

For two consecutive years, Julie received the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Exemplary Practice in Learning & Teaching (2021 & 2022). Julie is a Committee Member of the Advanced Practising Podiatry High Risk Foot Group and leads the National Mentor Program, and a Director and Secretary of the Australasian Council of Podiatry Deans.

Samuel Turner

Podiatrist & Orthotist – Life Performance



Sam is a highly skilled and compassionate Podiatrist dedicated to providing exceptional foot and ankle care to all patients. Sam has an interest in all areas of Podiatry but has a keen focus on biomechanics and complex orthotic presentations. When not treating in clinic, Sam consults for both the Men's and Women's teams for Western United in the A-league along with several NPL clubs.

Sam is a member of the Australian Podiatry Association, Sports and Exercise Podiatry Australia and has spoken at several conferences about his passion of Podiatry and football medicine. Additionally, Sam has an Instagram page that highlights his love for football medicine – [@thatfootballpodiatrist](https://www.instagram.com/thatfootballpodiatrist)

Speakers and Chair Biographies

Professor Sarah Verdon

Professor in Speech and Language Pathology



Professor Sarah Verdon specialises in research regarding children's speech, language and literacy in culturally and linguistically diverse contexts. She is a speech pathologist and early childhood researcher who is passionate about embracing the diversity of children from different cultures, languages, socioeconomic backgrounds and levels of ability to create equal opportunities for all children to have a strong start to life and reach their full potential. Sarah is co-chair of The International Expert Panel on Multilingual Children's Speech which advocates for professional practice with children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. She oversaw the development the Speech Pathology Australia national position paper and clinical guidelines for "working in a culturally and linguistically diverse society". Sarah also applies her research and skills in a volunteer capacity as a director of the Trinh Foundation Australia, an Australian-based international not-for-profit organisation whose mission is to develop speech therapy in Vietnam.

Kahlil Wilson

Managing Director - Orthotech Laboratory



Kahlil Wilson has spent the past 27 years leading Orthotech Laboratory and working alongside podiatrists throughout Australia and Southeast Asia to advance orthotic and lower-limb care.

An industry advisor to La Trobe University since 2018 and Charles Sturt University since 2011, Kahlil is a passionate educator with extensive experience in biomechanics, orthotic design, bracing and emerging 3D-printing technologies. He regularly presents at universities, conferences and professional development events, helping clinicians translate theory into practical patient outcomes.

Bianca Knight

Podiatrist & Professional Development Manager, Orthotech Laboratory



Bianca Knight graduated with Honours in Podiatry in 2014 and has more than 10 years of experience in private practice. She has worked with both recreational and elite athletes across a range of sporting codes and has a strong interest in lower-limb biomechanics, rehabilitation and evidence-based patient care.

Bianca is passionate about clinician education and helping practitioners integrate orthotic therapy and exercise-based interventions into everyday practice.



Speakers and Chair Biographies

Capt. Harriet Farquhar

Officer with The Salvation Army Australia



Capt. Harriet Farquhar has spent more than 12 years with the Salvation Army, working in leadership and management roles within complex organisational environments.

Harriet has extensive experience in education as a lecturer at Charles Sturt University and is passionate about assisting people to transform their lives.

Dr Paul Tinley

Podiatrist & Clinical Educator - Charles Sturt University



Dr Paul Tinley has over 40 years' experience in Podiatry education within two countries and five teaching environments. He is a leader of the podiatry profession and the founding member of Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC), a former national assessing and accreditation authority in Australia. Paul was a member of the NSW and National Podiatry Registration Board for over 20 years. Paul has a demonstrated track record in quality teaching in both undergraduate and post-graduate courses.

Paul has successfully supervised many Honours, Master and PhD students and published in several peer reviewed journals. He is currently a Clinical Educator at the School of Allied Health, Exercise & Sports Sciences and a Clinical Educator at the Community Engagement and Wellness Centre (CEW), Charles Sturt University.

Adjunct A/Prof. Caroline Robinson

Adjunct Associate Professor – Podiatry (Charles Sturt University)



Caroline Robinson is the Adjunct Associate Professor (Podiatry) in the School of Allied Health, Exercise and Sports Sciences at Charles Sturt University. She moved to Australia from the UK in 2005, where she completed her Fellowship in Podiatric Surgery and Master Pharmacology. Caroline has 34 years' experience of podiatry education and curriculum design, with a particular interest in sustaining and growing the podiatry workforce, developing cultural capabilities for podiatry practice, and ageing well. Currently her research is focused on podiatry career pathways to enable access and build the podiatry workforce.

Caroline was the inaugural Chair of the Australasian Council of Podiatry Deans (2020-2023), collaborating with Podiatry Program Leaders in Australia and New Zealand to provide an important voice for podiatry educators and enabling a coordinated approach to education initiatives and issues that affect podiatry courses and student education. She enjoys writing for forums such as The Conversation and STRIDE, presenting complex information in an accessible format to promote awareness of podiatry issues and improve health literacy in the community.

Speakers and Chair Biographies

Associate Professor Kristy Robson

Three Rivers Department of Rural Health (Charles Sturt University)



Dr Kristy Robson has over 30 years' experience as a rural clinician, academic, and researcher. Kristy brings deep expertise in allied health curriculum design and interprofessional education. She has a strong track record in leading collaborative, applied research that delivers tangible impact for rural communities, particularly in the areas of rural workforce, health service delivery, and ageing.

Kristy is an experienced non-executive director in the health sector with more than a decade of involvement in health regulation at both the national level and within the NSW co-regulatory environment. She has served as the NSW practitioner member on the Podiatry Board of Australia since 2018 and was appointed Chair in December 2024. In these roles, she has demonstrated strong capability in governance, risk management, strategic oversight, and stakeholder engagement.

Alyssa Marshall

Podiatry Clinic Coordinator & Clinical Educator – Podiatry (Charles Sturt University)



Alyssa commenced work at Charles Sturt University in 2021, as a Clinical Educator and Sessional Academic before stepping into the role of Podiatry Clinical Practicum Coordinator for 2024.

Alyssa has since assumed the role of Podiatry Clinic Coordinator, where she is responsible for overseeing the clinical education requirements for the podiatry undergraduate course within the on-campus Podiatry Clinic at the CEW. This role also involves managing the overall operations of the clinic, facilitating Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities, promoting the Podiatry course and profession within the community, and collaborating on special projects within the CEW.

Alyssa has been based in the North East region as a Podiatrist since graduating from CSU with a Bachelor of Podiatry in 2015. She has a keen interest in management of complex patients, biomechanics and diabetic foot care.

Brad White

Podiatrist – Footaroo Foot Solutions



Brad is in his 18th year of podiatric practice with experience across private practice, sports podiatry and aboriginal health. For the past 12 years, he has worked in Aboriginal health across remote and urban settings, developing extensive experience working within diverse communities and navigating the cultural, clinical and practical considerations of delivering effective health care in these environments. Alongside Aboriginal health Brad has maintained a strong focus on sports podiatry supporting people across a broad range of activity levels helping patients remain active and achieve their physical goals.

His professional experience is complemented by his elite running career having competed at multiple world championships eventually winning the 10km trail world championships. He also coaches middle distance athletes at an elite level with one representing Australia and obtaining a bronze medal at the 2026 Oceania championships in the 800m.

Speakers and Chair Biographies

Jaryd Bourke

Podiatrist, Monash University



Originally from Wodonga, Jaryd studied podiatry at Charles Sturt University before making the move to Hobart, where he now lives and works. He balances clinical practice with teaching and research as a lecturer at Monash University.

Jaryd is currently completing his PhD, which investigates the efficacy of heel lifts for the management of Achilles tendinopathy. When he's not working, he enjoys making the most of Tasmania's outdoors by hiking and trail running through the state's endless mountains.

Dr Leah Cook

Podiatric Surgeon, (FASA & Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons (ACPS))



Dr. Leah is a registered podiatric surgeon and an endorsed prescriber with the Podiatry Board of Australia. Leah obtained her undergraduate podiatry degree in 1995 Graduating from QUT (with Distinction). Leah also completed her Master of Podiatry from UniSA (2008). Leah then undertook her specialist training in podiatric surgery (foot reconstructive surgery) with the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons and has been a fellow since 2008.

Leah was fortunate to expand her clinical and surgical training overseas with Foot Surgical Preceptorships in the United Kingdom in the National Health Service and in the United States at the Podiatry Institute. During this time, Leah trained under pioneers in the field of foot surgery. Leah's major interests include the surgical management of hallux valgus (bunions), revision foot and ankle surgery and minimally invasive surgery for common forefoot conditions, such as hammer toes. Leah is currently a Director of the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons.

Dr Tristan Fairbairn

Podiatric Surgeon (Brimbank Foot and Ankle & FASA)



Tristan Fairbairn is a Fellow of the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons (ACPS) and a registered specialist in reconstructive foot and ankle surgery. He has undertaken advanced surgical training in Australia and internationally. His practice focuses on evidence-based management of forefoot, midfoot, and hindfoot conditions, from diagnosis and conservative care through to reconstructive surgery. He consults in East Melbourne and Albury.

Speakers and Chair Biographies

Emma Baker

Lecturer – Podiatry (Charles Sturt University)



Emma is a Lecturer in Podiatry at Charles Sturt University and Academic Workplace Learning Coordinator. After completing a Bachelor of Health Science (Podiatry) in 2011, she worked extensively in private practice across the Riverina before joining Charles Sturt University in 2016.

Her teaching interests include workplace learning, pharmacology, paediatrics, and diabetes management. Emma holds postgraduate qualifications in Diabetes Education and a Master of Higher Education and is an endorsed podiatrist with scheduled medicines endorsement.

Jessica Barton

Podiatrist & Level 1 Lymphoedema Practitioner (Albury Wodonga Health) and Clinical Educator (Charles Sturt University)



Jess Barton is a podiatrist and Level 1 Lymphoedema Practitioner who graduated from Charles Sturt University. Jess has experience across regional health services on the border and Northeast.

Jess currently works within the Albury Wodonga Health High Risk Foot and Community Health team. She is passionate about delivering quality care and helping patients put their best foot forward.

Abagtha Sardar

Compression Consultant, OPC Health



Aby Sardar is a Compression Clinical Consultant with OPC Health and brings a strong medical background as a General Practitioner trained overseas. Aby has a particular interest in lymphoedema management, having completed specialised lymphoedema training in Sydney in 2025.

In Aby's current role, Aby works closely with clinicians and patients to support evidence-based compression therapy. Aby experience includes conducting compression consultations and measurements, facilitating compression education workshops, and assisting therapists in the management of complex patient cases. Aby is passionate about improving patient outcomes through effective compression strategies and empowering health professionals with the knowledge and tools required to deliver best-practice care.



Speakers and Chair Biographies

Tim Pargeter

Podiatrist – (Foot and Ankle Podiatry Clinic)



Tim is a Podiatrist focused on helping people recover from injury and move without pain. He completed his podiatry degree at Charles Sturt University in 2016 and began his practice at Wollongong Podiatry, working with patients of all ages - from kids and busy parents to local athletes.

In 2020, Tim joined the Wollongong Foot and Ankle Centre as a Clinical Lead. The multi-disciplinary environment combined podiatrists, foot and ankle surgeons, and diagnostic imaging under one roof, giving him the opportunity to co-consult on complex cases, support post-surgical rehabilitation, and learn alongside experienced specialists.

Wanting to bring that same focused approach home, Tim founded Foot & Ankle Albury in 2022. The clinic concentrates entirely on foot and ankle pain and injury, with a mission of delivering the highest quality of care for the lower limb.

Pam Webb

Associate Lecturer – Podiatry (Charles Sturt University)



Pamela Webb is an Associate Lecturer in Podiatry with more than 14 years of experience across public, private, and university healthcare settings in both metropolitan and rural environments. She joined CSU in 2011 as a Clinical Educator and progressed to a lecturer role in 2022.

Pam has particular interests in wound care, amputation prevention, and interprofessional practice. Passionate about education, she is also undertaking postgraduate studies in learning and teaching in higher education.

Dr Muhammad (Mo) Maarj

Podiatrist – Narrabeen Sports Medicine Centre



Dr. Mo is the principal sports podiatrist at Narrabeen Sports Medicine Centre, specialising in the management of chronic musculoskeletal injuries. He works alongside paediatricians, sports physiotherapists, sports physicians, and orthopaedic specialists under one roof, taking a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to achieving the best outcomes for his patients.

Mo holds a PhD examining the role of podiatry in managing symptomatic hypermobility and is a published researcher with four first-author publications, including the first paper internationally to investigate custom-made orthotics in joint hypermobile children and adolescents.

Mo has presented at numerous national and international conferences on hypermobility and sits on the Ehlers-Danlos Society International Consortium.

Speakers and Chair Biographies

Dr Jennifer Sonter

Senior Lecturer – Podiatry (Charles Sturt University)



Jennifer Sonter is a podiatry lecturer at Charles Sturt University with a passion for improving health outcomes through clinician-led research. Her work focuses on allied health and healthy aging with a particular interest in chronic disease, health service delivery and vulnerable populations.

Jennifer is driven by a commitment to generating, conducting and supporting research that informs practice, policy and better patient outcomes.

Anna Horn

Lecturer – Podiatry (Charles Sturt University)



Having joined CSU in 2017 as a Clinical Educator, Anna is a Lecturer in Podiatry and has held the Academic Workplace Learning Coordinator role within the podiatry team. Anna is a current PhD candidate, focusing primarily on non-incisional nail surgery procedures.

Along with an emerging publication track record in this space, Anna is recognised as an award winning educator for her novel approaches to teaching undergraduate students about digital surgical techniques.

Daniel Perri

Director (The Foot Clinic)



Daniel Perri graduated from Charles Sturt University and began his career at Wagga Foot Clinic in 2016. He became a Director of the clinic four years ago and has since combined his clinical expertise with a passion for adopting innovative techniques across both treatments and employment structures.

Daniel is particularly focused on creating supportive environments where podiatrists can grow, develop, and thrive. His approach reflects a commitment to building a sustainable future for podiatry through progressive clinical care and modern workforce development.