

2024 Pharmacy Research Achievements

Publications:

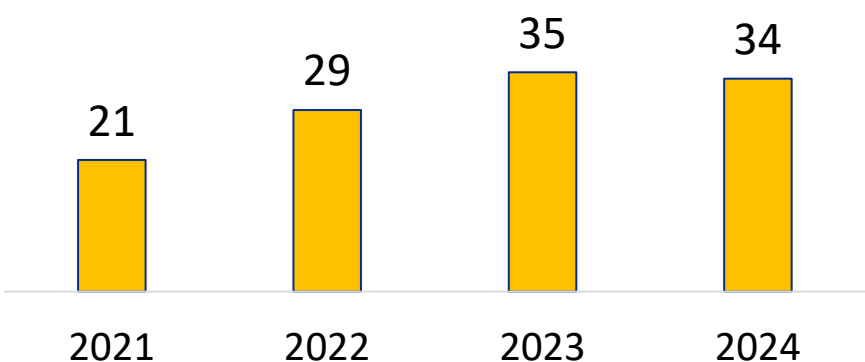
11 Journal Publications in 2024:



34 Successful Abstracts:

18 Accepted by the
Medicines Management MM2024 Conference

6 Accepted by the
Eastern Health Research Forum



Core Research Outputs:

- 3 Undergraduate Research Projects
- 6 IFP Research Projects
- 6 Foundation Residency Projects
- 2 Advanced Residency Projects
- 3 Postgraduate Research Projects
- 1 Higher Degree Research

\$13,255 Research Grant Funds

Research Collaborators:

Universities:

- Monash University
- RMIT University
- University of Tasmania
- University of Queensland



Eastern Health Departments:

- Office of Research and Ethics
- Eastern Health Clinical School
- Mental Health Program
- Emergency Department
- Cancer Services
- Gastroenterology Department
- General Medicine Unit
- Anaesthesia & Pain Medicine
- Renal Medicine
- Palliative Care Unit

2024 Pharmacy Research Achievements

2024 Flagship Project

A Retrospective Clinical Audit: Antipsychotic Polypharmacy and High-dose Antipsychotic Prescribing on Discharge from a Mental Health Inpatient Unit

Principal Investigator: Carolyne Wong

Associate Investigators: A/Prof Jeremy Couper, Kayin Chan, Saly Rashed, Colin Curtain

Key Findings:

- 53% (90) of patients with schizophrenia/schizoaffective disorder were prescribed ≥ 2 regular antipsychotics on discharge
- The most frequent comb. was olanzapine & paliperidone (n=19)
- 47% (80) of patients received antipsychotics above max recommended doses
- 82% of involuntary patients received doses exceeding max recommended vs 17% voluntary patients (p=0.001)

Future Directions:

- Research in the community setting evaluating the outcomes of high-dose antipsychotic prescribing and polypharmacy
- Evaluating the need for EH guidelines on high-dose antipsychotic prescribing practices

This project was presented at the 2024 EH Mental Health Research Forum and received the People's Choice Award!



PPRG members 2024

Sam Maleki	Senior Translational Research Pharmacist
Cathy Ngo	Mental Health Pharmacist Educator & EH Research Fellow
Jeremy Szmerling	Analgesic Stewardship Service Pharmacist
Geoffrey Haar	Senior Pharmacist Gastroenterology
Stella Koo	Senior Medicines Information Pharmacist & Clinical Lead
Jenny Chen	Senior Pharmacist Education & Training
Darshana Meanger	Senior Pharmacist General Medicine
Sarah Fussell	Senior Pharmacist Infusion Pumps
Violet Zhu	Senior Pharmacist Emergency Services
Bessie Wong	Senior Palliative Care Pharmacist & Pharmacy Manager WH
Sam Dihm	Senior Pharmacy Technician-AH/PJC/WH & Research
Carolyne Wong	Senior Pharmacist Mental Health
Abhitha Vora	Senior Perioperative Medicines Pharmacist & Pharmacy Manager BPSC
David Taylor	Director of Research and University Relations
Kayin Chan	Program Director Pharmacy (Acting)
Mazdak Zamani	APD Pharmacy-AH/PJC/WH -Quality Use of Medicine
Saly Rashed	APD Pharmacy-MH/YRH/HVH -Operations (Acting)
Galahad Gu	APD Pharmacy-BHH/BPSC -Clinical Services

Major projects in 2024

Impact of extended-hours emergency department pharmacy service on hospital length of stay for high-needs patients.

Principal Investigator: Sam Maleki

Associate Investigators: Dr Mazdak Zamani, A/Prof Paul Buntine, Galahad Gu, Kayin Chan, Dr Catherine Martin, Anne Goulopoulos

12-months evaluation of the AGS program's impact on prescribing practices in a metropolitan hospital network

Principal Investigator: Jeremy Szmerling

Associate Investigator: Sam Maleki, Galahad Gu, Dr Gordon Mar, Anne Goulopoulos

A comprehensive analysis of polypharmacy and deprescribing trends in the Eastern Health Palliative Care Unit

Principle Investigator: Bessie Wong

Associate Investigator: Sam Maleki, Dr Grace Walpole, Dr Yok Yin, Dr Vivek Nooney,

Embedding a clinical pharmacist during medical ward rounds to improve quality of clinical documentation: A descriptive study.

Principal Investigator: Wei Mann Chew

Associate Investigator: Darshana Meanger, Sam Maleki, Dr John Coutsouvelis

Clinicians' intervention in resolving medication-related problems in a post-discharge telephone service: A retrospective cohort study.

Principal Investigator: Kum Chuan Leong

Associate Investigator: Darshana Meanger, Wee Tjun Tee, Mitchel Simango, Philip Wu, Alex Wong, Bianca Levkovich

Paper of the year 2024

The 2024 pharmacy publication has been awarded to:

Maleki, S., Gu, G., Buntine, P., Zamani, M., Zhu, V., Chan, K., Martin, C. and Goulopoulos, A. (2024), The effect of an extended-hours ED clinical pharmacy service on admission medication prescribing errors. *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, 36: 688-694. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1742-6723.14415>

This study assessed the impact of the ED pharmacy service at Box Hill, Maroondah and Angliss EDs on admission medication errors.

Key findings:

- For patient reviewed by ED pharmacist (intervention arm), 74 (70.5%) had ≥ 1 medication error, compared to 113 (82.5%) in the control arm (total errors 206 vs 407).
- The error rate was 1.4 in the intervention arm, compared to 2.7 in the control arm [RR 0.66 (95% CI: 0.56, 0.78); P<0.001].
- Intervention arm had 33 moderate-risk errors and no high-risk errors, compared with 84 moderate-risk and 3 high-risk errors in the control group.

In conclusion, the ED pharmacy service was associated with a reduction in medication prescribing errors and improved time to BPMH and medication reconciliation.

2024 Pharmacy Research Achievements

Eastern Health Pharmacy Department published 11 papers in 2024; including 8 with pharmacy as first author:

1. Rashed, S., Maleki, S., Alkinany, M., Sheikh, M.A., Akan, S. and Nooney, V.B. (2025), Evaluation of nursing administration records of high-risk medications at a hospital network: a retrospective audit. *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/jppr.1960>
2. Leong, K.C., Gibson, S., (2024), Parkinson's disease medications in hospital: A retrospective audit of prescribing and administration errors. *National Journal of Physiology, Pharmacy and Pharmacology*. 14(4): 746-752.
<http://doi.org/10.5455/njppp.2023.13.08388202318092023>
3. Szmerling, J., Maleki, S., Mar, G. and Gouloupoulos, A. (2024), Cultivating optimal analgesic prescribing practices in a metropolitan hospital network: evaluating an analgesic stewardship program. *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*, 54: 228-235.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/jppr.1914>
4. Tao, W., Rodda, H., Monypenny, N., & Wembridge, P. (2024). Improving Accuracy of Discharge Summary Medication Lists – A Comprehensive Electronic Medical Record Quality Improvement Project. *Asia Pacific Journal of Health Management*, 19(2).
<https://doi.org/10.24083/apjhm.v19i2.3427>
5. Maleki, S., Gu, G., Buntine, P., Zamani, M., Zhu, V., Chan, K., Martin, C. and Gouloupoulos, A. (2024), The effect of an extended-hours ED clinical pharmacy service on admission medication prescribing errors. *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, 36: 688-694.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/1742-6723.14415>
6. Wembridge, P., Ta, L., Callinan, M., Chan, K., Fejgl, A.-j., Colaci, J. and Zamani, M. (2025), Evaluation of a weight-based process for real-time accurate confirmation of oral liquid controlled drug balances. *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/jppr.1955>
7. Wembridge, P., Rashed, S., Monypenny, N. and Rodda, H. (2024), Implementation of hospital electronic medical record Patient Friendly Medication Lists and Interim Medication Administration Charts. *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*, 54: 412-416.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/jppr.1927>
8. Wembridge P, Szmerling JD, Mar G, Williams A. (2024), Evaluation of opioid prescribing for surgical patients discharged from three metropolitan hospitals between 2012 and 2020. *Anaesthesia and Intensive Care*. 52(4):214-222.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0310057X241235222>
9. Zhong YY, Anton A, Xie O, Tan N, O'Haire S, Maleki S, Inderjeeth AJ, Parente P, Spain L, Gibbs P, Tran B. (2024) Impact of Comorbidities and Drug Interactions in Patients With Metastatic Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer Receiving Androgen Receptor Pathway Inhibitors. *JCO Oncology Practice*, 20(9):1231-1242.
<https://doi.org/10.1200/OP.24.00036>
10. Van Huizen P, Wembridge P, Russo PL, Manias E, Connell CJ. (2024) The handling of hazardous medications by nurses and midwives: A retrospective cohort study. *International Journal of Nursing Studies*, 160:104889.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijnurstu.2024.104889>
11. Weeks, G. R., Gobarani, R. K., Abramson, M. J., Bonevski, B., Webb, A., Thomas, D., Paul, E., Sarwar, M. R., Smith, B. J., Perinpanathan, S., Kirsas, S., Parkinson, J., Meanger, D., Coward, L., Rofe, O., Lee, P., van den Bosch, D., & George, J. (2024) Varenicline and Nicotine Replacement Therapy for Smokers Admitted to Hospitals: A Randomized Clinical Trial. *JAMA network open*, 7(6), e2418120.
<https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.18120>

Oral Presentations:

EMPOWERING PATIENTS: STANDARDISING COMPLEX MEDICATION LABELS FOR CANCER CARE

Medicines Management 2024 - 48th National Conference of Advanced Pharmacy Australia
2024-11-15 | Contribute paper
Contributors: [Bonnie Jongue](#), Jessica Tan, Sam Maleki, Josephine Foo, Galahad Gu

ENHANCING ELECTROCONVULSIVE THERAPY SEIZURE QUALITY WITH LOW-DOSE CAFFEINE: A CASE REPORT

Medicines Management 2024 - 48th National Conference of Advanced Pharmacy Australia
2024-11-15 | Contribute paper
Contributors: [Ko Ye Cheong](#), Cathy Ngo, Dr. Ehsan Nikrad

THE PHARMACY HIGH NEEDS SCREEN POWERFORM: AN INNOVATIVE TOOL FOR NURSING-LED PHARMACY REFERRALS IN SURGERY

Medicines Management 2024 - 48th National Conference of Advanced Pharmacy Australia
2024-11-16 | Contribute paper
Contributors: [Lisa Xu](#), Abhitha Vora

ENHANCING PODIATRY EDUCATION: INTEGRATING PHARMACY-LED INITIATIVES FOR ENDORSEMENT IN SCHEDULED MEDICATIONS (ESM).

Australian & New Zealand Association for Health Professional Educators (ANZAHPE 2024)
2024-7-3 | Contribute paper
Contributors: [Jenny Chen](#)

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A MULTISITE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY ANALGESIC STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM: A 12-MONTH RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY.

2024 Eastern Health Research Forum
2024-11-20 | Oral Presentation
Contributors: [Jeremy Szmerling](#)

Recognition & Awards:

Eastern Health Cancer Service (NEMICS) pharmacy team was the award recipient of the 2024 Aspire to Inspire (A2i) award for *Consumer Participation*.



Project title: Patient-centred approach to optimise cancer patients understanding of complex medication labels.

Contributors: Jessica Tan, Bonnie Jongue, Sam Maleki Josephine Foo & Galahad Gu



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