

# 2021 Fellows of the Occupational Therapy Australia Research Academy

## Professor Reinie Cordier

Reinie has led research for developing play-based interventions for children with developmental disorders over the past 20 years. He developed the first observational assessment of pragmatic language skill, which is fundamental to developing psycho-social and play skills. A major focus for his research is how to ensure that people from different populations and social strata experience participation, remain engaged, socially connected and live healthy lives. He aims to produce scientific evidence in support of the effectiveness of occupational therapy interventions in different clinical populations. His work is applied and intended to influence practice, so he researches service-delivery arrangements and intervention techniques in terms of how well they achieve such outcomes. Much of his work is interdisciplinary and he actively advocates for the expansion of conventional occupational therapy practice areas to included children who has been exposed to domestic violence and developing life skills for young people who is leaving care.



## Professor Pamela Meredith

Professor Meredith's early clinical experiences in child and youth mental health simulated her motivation to understand how characteristics and experiences originating in childhood are linked with physical and mental health outcomes throughout life. To this end, she has focussed on how attachment and sensory patterns, developed and evident early in life, are related to longer-term health behaviours, health conditions, and treatment outcomes.

Related to this overall aim, Professor Meredith's research targets:

- Parenting and child trauma;
- Persistent/chronic pain;
- Burnout;
- Mental illness and substance use; and
- Palliative care, grief, and loss.



Attachment and sensory-informed approaches are widely recognised as underpinning more individual, person-centred, and trauma-informed care, which optimise quality-of-life, health, and engagement outcomes throughout the life span.

The goal of this body of work is to provide evidence and insights to inform clinical reasoning and the therapeutic process, including prevention, early intervention, and evidence-based practice.

## Professor Iona Novak

Iona's research discovers, tests and translates new treatments, in priority areas identified by people with cerebral palsy.

Her major research contributions are in:

- Inventing an evidence rating system with traffic light colour codes to help parents, clinicians and policymakers tell ineffective treatments from effective ones. The work has been implemented in 24 countries to update care;
- Leading and implementing a world-first clinical practice guideline for the early diagnosis of cerebral palsy. Diagnosis previously occurred between 12-24 months of age but is now possible at 3-months, enabling early intervention and parent support;
- Establishing home programs, botulinum toxin, CO-OP and stem cell treatments for cerebral palsy; and
- Co-founding the Australian Register, which recorded a 30% reduction in the rate of cerebral palsy, conferring \$2 billion in savings. She is known for blue-sky thinking, leadership of global collaborative endeavours, translation of treatments from bench-to-bedside-to-healthcare-to-policy and capacity-building new talent.



## Associate Professor Mandy Stanley

Mandy Stanley is Associate Professor in Occupational Therapy at Edith Cowan University and holds an adjunct position with the University of South Australia. Since completing her PhD in 2006 Mandy has developed an international reputation for her expertise in qualitative research methodologies and is known for her contribution to occupational science and occupational therapy education. She has attracted over \$3.6 million in research funding and published more than 60 peer reviewed journal papers and book chapters. Associate Professor Stanley chairs the Editorial Board of the Journal of Occupational Science and was an Associate Editor for 9 years. She has a passion for research which seeks the perspective of consumers and for developing research capacity in occupational therapists. Mandy is an active supervisor of higher degree and undergraduate research students and collaborates with researchers in Sweden, Ireland, New Zealand and Canada.





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