

RECOVER Injury Research Centre

2026 Symposium

Aligning Science and Systems –
Delivering Better Outcomes After Injury

Tuesday, May 5th, 2026

9:00 am – 5:00 pm, followed by a Canapé Reception

In-person: Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Online: Via Zoom



Keynote

Rethinking whiplash through a neural lens

Prof. Annina Schmid

Professor of Pain Neurosciences and Specialist Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist, Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, Oxford University



Professor Annina Schmid leads Oxford University's Neuromusculoskeletal Health and Science Lab, which uses a translational and interdisciplinary approach to study the pathophysiology of neuromusculoskeletal conditions with the ultimate goal of improving

management for patients.

Annina and her team specialise in deep clinical phenotyping, combining clinical methodologies (e.g. psychophysical testing, neurophysiological recordings, sensory profiling) with advanced neuroimaging (e.g. diffusion tensor imaging, MR neurography) and cellular and molecular analyses of human bio-samples to gain a detailed understanding of changes associated with nerve injuries and neuropathic pain. Annina also has a special interest in the physiotherapeutic management of

neuropathic pain, entrapment neuropathies and other neuromusculoskeletal conditions with the ambition to develop precision therapy for these patients.

In her keynote address, "Rethinking Whiplash Through a Neural Lens", Annina will offer new insights into the mechanisms behind whiplash, opening the door to more targeted assessment and management strategies.

The most common type of whiplash injury, called Whiplash Associated Disorder grade II (WADII), is traditionally viewed as a musculoskeletal condition without overt nerve injury. There is a growing body of evidence suggesting that some patients with WADII may exhibit neural pathology and neuroinflammation, potentially contributing to their symptoms. In her keynote, Annina will synthesise this evolving body of evidence and present data from a recent longitudinal cohort study supporting a neural contribution to WADII.

Guest presenters

Perspectives of a funding partner – the future of research partnerships

Ms Gaenor Walker

Acting Insurance Commissioner, Motor Accident Insurance Commission (MAIC), Queensland



Ms. Gaenor Walker is Queensland's acting Insurance Commissioner within the Motor Accident Insurance Commission (MAIC). They are responsible for overseeing a range of statutory insurance schemes, including the lifetime scheme for serious

injury (NIISQ). Their role encompasses managing regulatory frameworks and maintaining long-term sustainability, with the ultimate goal of ensuring

these schemes provide lasting and meaningful benefits for individuals injured on Queensland roads.

In this presentation, Gaenor will draw on data insights from statutory insurance schemes, including the National Injury Insurance Scheme Queensland. Gaenor will outline the strategic imperatives driving funding, the critical link between research and real-world outcomes and share insights into how sustainable, system-focused approaches can deliver meaningful, long-term benefits for people injured on Queensland roads.

Reshaping recovery: How innovation and collaboration are transforming brain injury care in Queensland

Prof. Fatima Nasrallah

Professorial Research Fellow, Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland



Professor Fatima Nasrallah's research focuses on developing translational neuroimaging methods that convert neuroscientific discoveries into clinical tools for early diagnosis and prediction of outcomes after brain injury.

Predict TBI, which is advancing earlier diagnosis and more personalised care through imaging biomarkers, and the Queensland Brain Injury Collaborative, which brings together researchers, clinicians, health professionals and people with lived experience to foster collaboration, translate research into practice, and accelerate system-wide improvements in outcomes after traumatic brain injury.

In this presentation, Fatima will explore how innovation is reshaping brain injury recovery in Queensland. She will discuss initiatives such as

Panel

Neural perspectives on whiplash: How should they inform physiotherapy practice?

Canapé reception

For in-person attendees, the day will conclude with a canapé reception, providing an opportunity to connect with colleagues, continue conversations from the program, and build new collaborations across research, clinical practice and policy.

Program

Morning session

8:45 am	Registration opens
9:15 am	Welcoming address Prof. Trevor Russell – Director RECOVER Injury Research Centre, The University of Queensland Professor Karen Moritz – Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Health, Medicine and Behavioural Sciences, The University of Queensland Ms Gaenor Walker – Acting Insurance Commissioner, Motor Accident Insurance Commission (MAIC), Queensland
9:35 am	Keynote Rethinking whiplash through a neural lens Prof. Annina Schmid, Oxford University
10:20 am	Panel Neural perspectives on whiplash: How should they inform physiotherapy practice?
10:50 am	Morning tea
11:20 am	Is physiotherapist-delivered stress inoculation training integrated with exercise (StressModex) cost-effective for acute whiplash injury? Dr Christopher Papic – RECOVER Injury Research Centre, The University of Queensland
11:40 am	Evaluating Whiplash-Associated Disorder classification systems: Perspectives from clinicians, researchers, insurers and consumers Mr Junze Chen – RECOVER Injury Research Centre, The University of Queensland
12:00 pm	Designing what matters: Real-world feasibility of OMED Assist, a digital brief psychological intervention for chronic pain and opioid medication use Dr Rachel Elphinston – RECOVER Injury Research Centre, The University of Queensland
12:20 pm	Perspectives of a funding partner – the future of research partnerships Ms Gaenor Walker – Motor Accident Insurance Commission (MAIC), Queensland
12:50 pm	Lunch

Afternoon session

1:50 pm	From "doing and touching" to "seeing and speaking": A systematic review of physiotherapists' perspectives on videoconferencing for telerehabilitation Dr Joshua Simmich – RECOVER Injury Research Centre, The University of Queensland
2:10 pm	Designing a virtual reality and conversational AI tool to support job interview skills after traumatic brain injury Dr Robert Cuthbert – RECOVER Injury Research Centre, The University of Queensland
2:30 pm	Preliminary evaluation of the implementation of a virtual reality therapy program for communication rehabilitation Dr Clare Burns – RECOVER Injury Research Centre, The University of Queensland
2:50 pm	Reshaping recovery: How innovation and collaboration are transforming brain injury care in Queensland Prof. Fatima Nasrallah – Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland
3:20 pm	Afternoon tea
3:50 pm	Is it worth gamifying pain monitoring apps for young people? An evaluation of a gamified version of the Pain ROADMAP app Dr Nicole Andrews – RECOVER Injury Research Centre, The University of Queensland Ms Rachel Cobcroft - Consumer
4:10 pm	The 12-Month health burden of minor to moderate road crash injuries: New findings using general population comparators Dr Nigel Armfield – RECOVER Injury Research Centre, The University of Queensland
4:30 pm	Exploring clinical supervision models for psychologically informed physiotherapy practice Dr William McCann – RECOVER Injury Research Centre, The University of Queensland
4:50 pm	Closing remarks
5:00 pm	Canapé reception
6:30 pm	Symposium concludes

The RECOVER Injury Research Centre is a joint initiative of the Motor Accident Insurance Commission and The University of Queensland.

For more information

RECOVER Injury Research Centre

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