New ACvA Board Directors.

Jason Kovacic
MBBS, PhD, FRACP, FACC, FAHA

Professor Jason Kovacic is the Executive Director of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute. He graduated from The University of Melbourne Medical School in 1994, and then undertook residency and cardiology specialty training in interventional cardiology at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, becoming a Fellow of The Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 2003. Jason then completed a PhD in cardiovascular medicine at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute.

In 2007, he was elected as a Fellow of The American College of Cardiology and relocated to the USA, to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland. At the NIH, Jason discovered critical new pathways that lead to blockage of the body's blood vessels. Jason then moved to The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. In parallel with his vital ongoing research to define new ways to prevent and treat vascular disease, Jason is a practicing clinical cardiologist, specializing in vascular disease and blockages of the heart arteries.

He has authored numerous scientific and clinical papers on heart and vascular disease and serves on a number of NIH committees. He has a particular interest in unraveling the pathobiology of the vascular diseases, fibromuscular dysplasia and spontaneous coronary artery dissection.

In addition to his many achievements in medicine and in biomedical research, Professor Kovacic was an elite athlete, having been a world-class rower, plays classical guitar and speaks several languages.

Kerry-Anne Rye
PhD

Prof. Kerry Anne Rye, BSc (Hons), PhD, FAHA brings three decades of Australian-based experience in basic scientific discovery, extensive involvement in preclinical testing of drugs involved in cardiovascular clinical outcome trials and, most recently, the development of bi-functional therapies for cardiometabolic disease. Prof. Rye also holds extensive leadership experience at a national and international level. Her National Activities have involved: • Research training of the next generation of CV researchers • SPHERE CV Clinical Academic Group: A collaborative effort between UNSW and affiliated MRIs, The George Institute for Global Health, Liverpool Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital, Campbelltown Hospital, St George and Sutherland Hospitals, SESLHD, University of Technology Sydney and Western Sydney University. Prof. Rye is the co-lead for the Mechanisms and Causes of Disease theme of the program, the overarching goal of which is to reduce CV disease burden in the community. Prof. Rye's International Activities include: American Heart Association (AHA) involvement. Vice-Chair (2012-2014) and Chair (2015-2018) of the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions Program Committee for the Arteriosclerosis Thrombosis and Vascular Biology (ATVB) Council. Prof. Rye was instrumental in ensuring that the Australian CV research community was well represented on the faculty of AHA Annual Scientific Sessions. Mentoring: In 2010 Prof. Rye developed and launched the first ever Council-based mentoring program for the AHA. This program was hugely successful, was subsequently adopted by other AHA Councils, and was rolled out in an online format across the entire AHA in 2017. Leadership qualities: Selected previous and current leadership roles and responsibilities are listed below: Academic leadership roles: 2013-2015: Acting Director, Centre for Vascular Research, UNSW. 2015-2016: Head, Mechanisms of Disease and Translational Research, School of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW. 2016-Present: Deputy Head and Member of the Executive, School of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW. Chair of the School of Medical Sciences Animal Advisory Committee. Chair of the School of Medical Sciences Heads of Research Committee. Member of the Faculty of Medicine Higher Degree Research Committee. Member of the Faculty of Research Committee.

Christina Bursill
PhD

A/Prof Christina Bursill is a cardiovascular biologist with expertise in the biology and mechanisms of atherosclerosis, diabetes-impaired angiogenesis and wound healing. She is Co-director of the Vascular Research Centre at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) and currently holds the National Heart Foundation Lin Huddleston fellowship. She is a Chief Investigator on the Australian Research Council Centre of Nanoscale Biophotonics (CNBP) leading research that applies CNBP technologies to better detect and treat cardiovascular disease and wound healing.