

General Surgery Department

Meet the team

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1 Peter Ferguson, Head of General Paediatric Surgery

Peter Ferguson works at Monash Children's Hospital, Clayton.

He studied Medicine at St Andrew's University, Scotland before undergoing his clinical studies at Manchester University.

He graduated in medicine in 1996 and was granted membership of the Royal College of Surgeons in 2001.

Peter completed his paediatric surgical training at various hospitals in the United Kingdom including the Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, and Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh.

He achieved the FRCS Paediatric Surgery (UK) in 2007 and FRACS Paediatric Surgery (Australia) 2008 following his emigration to Australia.

Peter is the departmental supervisor of paediatric surgical training and is a member of the clinical examination committee for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.



2 Guin Wilson

Guin Wilson received her undergraduate degree at Monash University in 1990.

She gained her fellowship in general surgery before specialising in paediatric surgery.

She has had extensive international training at The Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh, Scotland, Sophia Children's Hospital Rotterdam and Wilhelmina Children's Hospital, Utrecht.

Guin specialised in paediatric surgery at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne where she was the senior registrar.

She has an interest in minimally invasive approaches in paediatric surgery and undertakes procedures laparoscopically or thoracoscopically whenever possible.

Guin is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS) and a Member of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Paediatric Surgeons (ANZAPS.)



3 Amiria Lynch

Amiria Lynch completed her medical degree at the University of Otago, New Zealand in 2000.

She underwent her training in various surgical centres in New Zealand and the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. She achieved her Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in Paediatric Surgery in 2011.

Amiria was the Paediatric Colorectal Fellow at Leeds General Infirmary, United Kingdom for more than 12 months learning subspecialty skills. She also spent time at Cincinnati Children's Colorectal Center to further her skills in managing patients with paediatric colorectal conditions.

Returning from her post-fellowship international experience to take up a position at Monash Children's Hospital in 2013, Amiria is an enthusiastic member of the department.

Amiria's interests are paediatric colorectal disorders and trauma management.



4 Ram Nataraja, Director of the Paediatric Surgical Simulation Department, Monash Children's Hospital, Monash University lecturer.

Ram received his bachelor's degree in Medicine and Surgery at the Royal Free and University College Hospital School of Medicine.

During this time he also obtained an intercalated bachelor's degree in Molecular Medicine with Basic Clinical Sciences. He completed the Paediatric Surgery Training program in the London Deanery, which included a fellowship at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne.

During his training he was also awarded the Nuffield Professor Book Prize for Paediatric Surgery by Prof L Spitz at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Ram was appointed as a Consultant Paediatric Surgeon at the Royal London Hospital then Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in London. During this time he was also an Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer at Imperial College Medical School.

He joined Monash Children's Hospital in early 2015.

Ram has an interest in minimally invasive techniques for both paediatric and neonatal surgery and uses these for novel techniques such as thoracoscopic congenital diaphragmatic hernia repairs in newborns.

Ram also has a very strong passion for teaching and training. He has co-authored a Paediatric Textbook *Rapid Paediatrics & Child Health* published by Wiley-Blackwell and now in its second edition.

His main interest is in surgical simulation, which started when he was the primary researcher in the first validated paediatric surgical laparoscopic trainer at Great Ormond Street Hospital in 2003.

He is Director of the new Paediatric Surgical Simulation Department at Monash Children's Hospital and a Senior Lecturer at Monash University.

Ram is also affiliated with the Monash Institute of Medical Engineering (MIME) at Monash University involving various projects such as surgical innovation, robotics and simulationbased research using evolving technologies.

Ram has co-authored a number of articles in peer-reviewed journals on minimally invasive techniques for common paediatric surgical conditions including appendicitis.

He is coordinating various clinical trials at Monash Children's Hospital to improve the care that children receive worldwide.



5 Liz McLeod

Liz McLeod studied medicine at the University of Melbourne and has Fellowships of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in General and Paediatric Surgery.

She has worked at Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, and has a particular interest in colorectal surgery, including anorectal malformations, Hirschprung's disease and inflammatory bowel disease.

Liz is on the Board of Paediatric Surgery, and also has an interest in global health, recently attaining a Master of Public Health.

She has worked in the Pacific, Eastern Indonesia and South-East Asia and is involved with the RACS Global Health Department as Chair of the Pacific Islands Project Evaluation and Monitoring Committee.



6 Mr Tom Clarnette

Mr Tom Clarnette is a respected and experienced paediatric surgeon who performs almost all of the paediatric hepatobiliary surgery in Melbourne and Victoria.

He has held his position as a consultant surgeon in the Department of Paediatric and Neonatal Surgery at The Royal Children's Hospital since 2004.

He also has consultant appointments in paediatric surgery at Monash Children's Hospital, Northpark Private Hospital, Sunshine Hospital and Goulburn Valley Health.

Mr Clarnette graduated from the University of Adelaide Medical School in 1988 before completing his surgical training in South Australia and Victoria.

At the conclusion of his paediatric surgical training he undertook three and a half years of post-fellowship training in the United Kingdom. This included eighteen months at King's College Hospital in London specialising in hepatobiliary surgery in children, which remains his key area of interest.



7 Mr Maurizio Pacilli

Maurizio completed his medical degree in Italy at the University of Rome “La Sapienza” in 2000. He underwent basic surgical training in Italy and moved to the United Kingdom in 2003 to focus on his career in clinical research. Maurizio obtained a higher degree (MD Research) with the University College London for his research on minimally invasive surgery in children. He has been awarded prizes for his research from the Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (UK), the Royal College of

Surgeons of Edinburgh (UK) and the Canadian Association of Paediatric Surgeons (Canada). He was also awarded the prestigious Peter Paul Rickham Prize from the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons (UK) in 2008. Maurizio has published over thirty articles in peer review scientific journals, three chapters in books and he is author of more than fifty presentations at international conferences.

Maurizio was granted the membership of the Royal College of Surgeons in 2006 and completed his paediatric surgical training at various hospitals in the United Kingdom, including Great Ormond Street Hospital, London; Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London; Cambridge University Hospital and Oxford University Hospital. He also trained for one year at the Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne (Australia). He completed his training in the United Kingdom and achieved the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in Paediatric Surgery in 2015.

Maurizio has a very strong passion for teaching and training and has delivered numerous formal lectures on several topics of paediatric surgery to medical students and other health professionals.

Maurizio joined Monash Children’s Hospital in early 2017. He has an interest in minimally invasive techniques for both paediatric and neonatal surgery, colorectal surgery, including anorectal malformations and Hirschsprung’s disease. He also has a particular interest in clinical research focussed on minimally invasive surgery and randomised controlled trials.



8 Dr Robert Stunden

Dr Robert Stunden graduated from Edinburgh Medical School and subsequently trained in adult, then paediatric surgery.

He gained experience in the UK, Toronto and Cape Town before returning to Monash in 1987. His interests include general paediatric surgery and paediatric urology.

He is Head of Paediatric Surgery at Casey Hospital, and also works in Monash Children’s Hospital, Clayton and Peninsula Health, Frankston.