

# General Surgery Department

## Meet the team

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## 1 Dr Amiria Lynch, Head of General Paediatric Surgery

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.



## 2 Dr Peter Ferguson

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.



### **3 Dr 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.)



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

Ram is a dual-qualified (UK & Australia) Academic General Paediatric Surgeon working at Monash Children's Hospital. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Paediatrics at Monash University and coordinates paediatric simulation-based educational activities at MCH in his role as the Director of Surgical Simulation and Monash Children's Simulation. He has been a pioneer in both minimally invasive surgery in children and surgical simulation for many years having designed the first validated paediatric surgical bench trainer model in 2002 at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London. This innovation has continued with the incorporation of novel and emerging technology to increase the impact of education. He has an educational and clinical research background with more than 115 peer reviewed publications including RCTs, 95 international conference presentations, 2 textbooks published by Wiley-Blackwell and 11 book chapters.

He is also passionate about educational reform in Low- and Middle-Income countries having led various traditional and virtual programmes in various countries including Myanmar and Papua New Guinea for the last 6 years. He has received various awards for his simulation work including the Monash University Vice Chancellors Award for Innovation in Education in 2021 and the Project Innovation Award from Simulation Australia in 2022. He also works as a Consultant in Surgical Education at the World Health Organisation in the Western Pacific Regional Office and Geneva.



## 5 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.



## 6 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.



## 7 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.



## 8 Dr Lucy Goddard

Lucy studied Medicine at the University of Otago, completing her degree in 2009. She was awarded her Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in Paediatric Surgery in 2022, having been trained in both New Zealand and Australia. She has a special interest in Paediatric Colorectal Surgery and has completed post-fellowship training in Starship Hospital, Auckland, Sydney Children's Hospital and The Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow.

Lucy is very excited to have joined the team at Monash Children's Hospital in March 2025 and is passionate about providing a high standard of care to the children of Victoria.



## 9 Dr Damir Ljuhar

Dr Damir Ljuhar, FRACS (Paed), is a paediatric surgeon with a clinical and academic interest in surgical education, simulation, and global health. He completed his surgical training across major tertiary paediatric centres in Australia and holds a Master of Surgical Education and a Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. He has published extensively in paediatric surgery and global surgery, with a focus on simulation-based education and improving surgical outcomes in low- and middle-income settings.