



NATIONAL **FERTILITY** CONFERENCE

16-18 SEPTEMBER 2016

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
MELBOURNE

FINAL PROGRAM

www.nationalfertilityconference.com

Restoring Fertility Holistically

Organised by the *Australasian Institute for Restorative Reproductive Medicine (AIRRM)*,
In collaboration with the National Fertility Awareness Agencies:

Australian Council of Natural Family Planning Inc.

FertilityCare Centres of Australasia Inc.

Ovulation Method Research and Reference Centre of Australia Ltd.



AUSTRALASIAN
INSTITUTE FOR
**RESTORATIVE
REPRODUCTIVE
MEDICINE**



Billings LIFE™
Leaders in Fertility Education

FRIDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2016

Meetings of Fertility Awareness Agencies:

- Australian Council of Natural Family Planning Inc.
- FertilityCare Centres of Australasia Inc.
- Ovulation Method Research and Reference Centre of Australia Ltd.

Free Public Forum and Opening of Conference:

Restorative Reproductive Medicine in Australian Healthcare

Address: **Mercy Lecture Theatre**
Australian Catholic University
17-29 Young St (off Victoria Parade)
Fitzroy, Melbourne

Co-chairs: Dr Elvis Šeman and Dr Mary Walsh

- 6:30pm **Light Refreshments**
- 7:00pm **Welcome and Opening of Conference**
Dr John Ballard *BA MHA PhD*,
Associate Vice-Chancellor, ACU Melbourne
- 7:10pm **Infertility in the Year of Mercy:
A Pastoral Response**
The Most Reverend Mark Edwards OMI
DD PhD, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne
- 7:30pm **Reproductive Medicine –
A Restorative Model of Care;
Mater Mothers' Hospital Brisbane**
Ms Madonna McGahan *BBA MA(Theology)*,
Executive Director Mission Leadership,
Mater Health Services
Dr Luke McLindon *MBBS FRACGP FRANZCOG*
NFPMC, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist,
Mater Hospital, Brisbane
Ms Monica Vane *BNursing RN RM*,
Clinical Midwife, Mater Hospital, Brisbane
- 8:15pm **Panel Discussion**
- 9:00pm **Close**

SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2016

National Fertility Conference Day 1

Mercy Lecture Theatre, ACU

- 8:15am **Registration**
- 8:50am **Welcome**

SESSION 1: Fertility Awareness and Restorative Reproductive Medicine

Co-chairs: Dr Mary Walsh and Dr Luke McLindon

- 9:00am **Overview of Three Fertility Awareness Methods:
Biomarkers in Charts as Diagnostic Tools**
Dr Cathy Lennon *MBBS FRACGP NFPMC FCP*
IBCLC, Fertility Care Cherrybrook, Sydney
Fertility Awareness (FA) instructors:
Mrs Edwina Gotz, Mrs Lesa Meese,
Mrs Marian Corkill
- 9:40am **Fertility Awareness – The Key Elements
of a Future Primary Care Model**
Dr Kerry Hampton *RN RM MA(Women's
Studies) GradDip(Health Ed) PhD*,
Wise Women Business, Melbourne

- 10:10am **Discussion**
- 10:30am **Morning Tea**

SESSION 2: Reproductive Endocrinology

Co-chairs: Dr Terrence Kent and Mrs Sharon Young

- 11:00am **Thyroid Disease in
Infertility, Pre-conception Planning
and Pregnancy**
Dr Neisha D'Silva *MBBS FRACP*,
Specialist in Endocrinology and Obstetric
Medicine, Mater Hospital, Brisbane
- 11:30pm **Demystifying Luteal Phase Defect**
Dr Lucia Murnane *MBBS FRACGP*
DCH GradDipBioethics NFPMC FCP,
Manningham General Practice Fertility
Assessment Clinic, Melbourne
- 12:00pm **Discussion**
- 12:30pm **Lunch**

See conference website
www.nationalfertilityconference.com
for details on CPD points, pre-reading,
and conference papers.

SESSION 3: Adoption and Fostering in Australia

Co-chairs: Mrs Edwina Gotz and Dr Lucia Murnane

- 1:30pm **Rethinking Adoption in Australia**
Ms Kristan Dooley *BSc(Hons) MA GradDipACG AGIA*, Company Secretary and Managing Director of Women's Forum Australia
Dr Gregory K Pike *BSc(Hons) PhD*, Manager of Research Integrity at the University of South Australia
- 2:15pm **Life-Giving Love: The Legacy that Lives On Open Adoption: Equal Choices**
Ms Agnes-Mary Hanna *BPsych(Hons) MCLinPsych MAPS*, Clinical Psychologist, Melbourne
- 2:45pm **Panel Discussion**
- 3:15pm **Afternoon Tea**

SESSION 4: Restorative Gynaecological Surgery

Co-chairs: Dr Adrian Thomas and Dr Alison Bignell

- 3:45pm **The Art and Science of Restorative Surgery for Tubal Infertility**
Dr Martin Ritossa *MBBS FRANZCOG*, Director of Gynaecology, Lyell McEwin Hospital, Adelaide
- 4:05pm **Enhancing the Outcomes of Restorative Fertility Surgery**
Dr Elvis Šeman *MBBS FRANZCOG FRCOG EUCOGE PhD*, Head of Urogynaecology, Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide
- 4:20pm **Endosurgical Panel Discussion**
Dr Martin Ritossa *MBBS FRANZCOG*, Gynaecologist & Laparoscopic Surgeon, Adelaide
Dr Elvis Šeman *MBBS FRANZCOG FRCOG EUCOGE PhD*, Gynaecologist, Adelaide
Dr Brendan Miller *MBBS FRACGP FRANZCOG NFPMC*, Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, Toowoomba
Dr Luke McLindon *MBBS FRACGP FRANZCOG NFPMC*, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Brisbane
- 5:00pm **Close**

SATURDAY EVENING 17 SEPTEMBER 2016 (optional)

Conference Mass

- 6:00pm **Vigil Mass**
St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne
Principal Celebrant & Homilist:
The Most Reverend Mark Edwards,
Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne

Conference Dinner

- 7:30pm **North Café**, Mary Glowrey Building, Australian Catholic University, 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy, Melbourne
Presentation of the inaugural *Nicholas Tonti-Filippini Memorial Scholarship for Bioethics*

SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2016

National Fertility Conference Day 2

Mercy Lecture Theatre, ACU

SESSION 5: Advancements in Restorative Reproductive Medicine in Australia

Co-chairs: Mrs Marian Corkill and Dr Gabriel James

- 9:00am **Update on the Brown Ovarian Monitor**
Dr Adrian Thomas *MBBS FRANZCOG FRCOG*, Consultant Gynaecologist Reproductive Medicine Clinic, Mercy Hospital for Women, Melbourne
- 9:15am **Research Update**
Dr Luke McLindon *MBBS FRACGP FRANZCOG NFPMC*, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Mater Hospital, Brisbane
- 9:30am **AIRRM Grand Rounds**
Hyperprolactinaemia and Hypothyroidism
Mrs Gillian Barker, Senior Research Officer, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Mercy Hospital for Women, Melbourne
Recurrent Miscarriage
Dr Terrence Kent *MBBS FRACGP NFPMC FCP*, Raceview Surgery, Brisbane
Ureaplasma and Infertility
Dr Lucia Murnane *MBBS FRACGP DCH GradDipBioethics NFPMC FCP*, Manningham General Practice Fertility Assessment Clinic, Melbourne
A Diagnostic Dilemma
Dr Mary Walsh *MBBS FRACGP*, Manningham General Practice Fertility Assessment Clinic, Melbourne
- 10:30am **Morning Tea**

SESSION 6: Ethics

Co-chairs: Dr Elvis Šeman,
Dr Adrian Thomas, Mrs Edwina Gotz,
Dr Brendan Miller, Dr Luke McLindon

Ethicists: Dr Greg Pike, Rev Dr Gerald Gleeson,
Rev. Fr Paschal Corby OFM

11:00am **Bioethical Issues in Reproductive Medicine**

Interactive case discussions involving ethicists, doctors, and fertility educators, analysing ethical issues in fertility assessment and treatments; prenatal testing and diagnosis; and management dilemmas in complicated pregnancies.

1:00pm **Lunch**

SESSION 7: Male Fertility

Chair: Dr Brendan Miller

2:00pm **Male Fertility: Assessment and Management including Restorative Surgical Approaches**

Dr Darren Katz *MBBS FRACS (Urology)*, Medical Director of Men's Health Melbourne

2:40pm **Discussion**

3:00pm **Afternoon Tea**

SESSION 8: Further Directions for AIRRM

3:30pm **Where to from here? Planning for the future of Restorative Reproductive Medicine in Australia**

Co-chairs: Dr Luke McLindon *MBBS FRACGP FRANZCOG NFPMC*, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Mater Hospital, Brisbane and Ms Anna Johnstone *B Mus MStratComm*, Clinical Educator ACNFP

4:30pm **Close of Conference**

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Friday 16 September 2016 – Public Forum

The Most Reverend Mark Edwards OMI *DD PhD*, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne



Bishop Mark Edwards' family settled in Glen Waverley where he met the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate while studying at Mazenod College, Mulgrave. After obtaining his Bachelor of Science from Monash University in Melbourne in 1980, he entered the Oblates and completed his ecclesiastical studies at Catholic Theological College, Melbourne, being ordained a priest in 1986. Later, Fr Edwards continued his studies at Monash University, obtaining a Doctorate in Philosophy. He worked as a teacher in Oblate secondary schools for 11 years. From 1998-2010 he held a number of positions in the Oblate formation community St Mary's Seminary in Mulgrave. Fr Edwards also worked as a lecturer at Catholic Theological College from 2005-2010.

In 2010 Fr Edwards became Rector of Iona College from where, in late 2014, he was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne being placed in the Eastern region of the diocese.

Bishop Edwards is on the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Commission for Family, Youth and Life and through this has become involved with fertility awareness methods of family planning.

Ms Madonna McGahan *BBA MA(Theol)*, Group Director Mission Leadership, Mater Group



Madonna is responsible for Mission Integration, including clinical ethics and pastoral care within the Mater Group since 2008. Commencing her career in nursing and midwifery, Madonna completed a degree in Business Administration before occupying various senior positions in the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing in policy development and program management. She was previously Director of Policy and Research at Catholic Health Australia, and the National Director of Mission Strategy for Little Company of Mary Health Care. She completed a Masters of Arts (Theology) at this time.

Madonna is committed to reinforcing and building on the Mater Group's integration of its Mission and Values across the Health, Education and Research groups. Delivering compassionate care to people within a dynamic, challenging environment comprising health, education and research, demands creative and innovative approaches and Mater's community continues to demonstrate its readiness and ability to do so.

**Dr Luke McLindon MBBS
FRACGP FRANZCOG NFPMC,
Obstetrician and Gynaecologist,
Mater Hospital, Brisbane**



As a rural GP Luke found couples facing the real prospect of childlessness. With very little to offer in primary care, he undertook further training in all the fertility awareness methods, ultimately leading to further specialist training as an obstetrician gynaecologist. Presently he is undertaking an Advanced Laparoscopic Surgical fellowship in Brisbane, works in the Mater Health's Natural Fertility Service with Dr Terry Kent and Dr Alison Bignell, and is Principal Investigator for a series of randomised controlled trials looking at progesterone use in high risk pregnancies. His support team consisting of his wife Madonna and family, and the midwives of the fertility clinic.

**Mrs Monica Vane
BNursing RN RM Clinical Midwife,
Mater Hospital, Brisbane**



Monica has been a midwife for 34 years and has experience in all areas of midwifery practice. Having worked for 10 years as a Lactation Consultant, Monica and 2 other lactation consultant's, established the Breastfeeding Support Centre at the Mater Mothers' Hospital, Brisbane. She also practised for several years in midwifery education as a Clinical Midwifery Facilitator. Since 2011 Monica has worked in the Fertility Service at the Mater Mothers' Hospital in Brisbane and gained accreditation as a Natural Fertility Educator in 2012. Monica is involved in a number of clinical research trials for Pregnancy Achievement and Maintenance, including Threatened Miscarriage which are being conducted by the Fertility Service at Mater Health. In 2013 Monica trekked the Great Wall of China for 5 days with the Mater Foundation team to raise funds for fertility research at Mater.

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September

**Mrs Gillian Barker, Senior Research
Officer, Department of Obstetrics
and Gynaecology, Mercy Hospital
for Women, Melbourne**



Gillian Barker is a Senior Teacher of the Billings Ovulation Method® who has been involved in the training of doctors, health professionals and teachers of the Billings Ovulation Method™ in China, Pakistan, Vietnam, USA and Australia. Gillian has made a very substantial contribution to the scientific validation of the Billings Ovulation Method® as collaborator with Emeritus Professor James B Brown in the study of ovarian hormones. She is currently employed by the University of Melbourne, as a Senior Research Officer at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Mercy Hospital for Women where she has been involved in research into Ovarian Cancer and Early Pregnancy complications including Gestational Diabetes and investigating the different pathways that are involved in the development of pregnancy complications.

**Rev. Fr Paschal M. Corby OFM Conv,
Bioethics Lecturer John Paul II
Institute for Marriage and Family,
Melbourne**



Fr Paschal Corby is a priest of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual. He is the rector of students at St. Joseph of Cupertino House of Studies, Dingley, as well as the assistant priest of the Parish of St. Joseph's, Springvale. He has recently become a lecturer in bioethics at the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family, Melbourne. He holds undergraduate degrees in Medicine (Monash) and Theology (Catholic Theological College), has a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical John Paul II Institute in Rome, and is currently waiting to defend his Doctoral Dissertation from the same Institute, of a thesis entitled "The Hope and Despair of Human Bioenhancement: A Virtual Dialogue Between the Oxford Transhumanists and Joseph Ratzinger".

**Mrs Marian Corkill,
Senior Billings Ovulation
Method Trainer, Melbourne**



Marian is a Senior Trainer of the Billings Ovulation Method® and has extensive experience in teaching couples and training trainers, doctors and health professionals in Australia and numerous overseas countries. Marian is Chair of the Education Committee and Coordinator of Training for OMR&RCA and is a Director of WOOMB International Ltd. She is also an Education Activity Representative and represents OMR&RCA as an Accredited Provider of the RACGP CPI&QD Program, offering ALMs throughout Australia on Fertility Awareness and the Billings Ovulation Method®.

**Ms Kristan Dooley BSc(Hons)
MA GradDipACG AGIA, Company
Secretary and Managing Director
of Women's Forum Australia**



Kristan Dooley is the Company Secretary and Managing Director of Women's Forum Australia. Kristan previously worked in the Australian Public Service and Royal Australian Navy for over twenty years specialising in corporate governance, finance and administration. She has served on various boards and governance committees both in Australia and overseas. Kristan holds a Certificate IV in Accounting, a First Class Honours degree in Mathematics and a Master of Arts in International Relations. She also holds a Graduate Diploma in Applied Corporate Governance and is a member of the Governance Institute of Australia.

**Dr Neisha D'Silva MBBS FRACP,
Specialist in Endocrinology
and Obstetric Medicine,
Mater Hospital, Brisbane**



Dr D'Silva is a Staff Specialist in Endocrinology and Obstetric Medicine at the Mater Adult and Mater Mothers' Hospitals since completing her training

in 2006. Her special interests are in Type 1 diabetes and insulin pump therapy and she is the clinical lead at the Mater Young Adult Health Service Brisbane, Transition Service. She is a Senior Lecturer with the University of Queensland.

**Rev. Dr Gerald Gleeson,
Vicar General, Sydney**

Fr Gerald Gleeson is Vicar General of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. He comes to this role after many years teaching philosophy and Christian Ethics at the Catholic Institute of Sydney. He is a graduate of the University of Cambridge, and the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and was a member of the NHMRC Australian Health Ethics Committee from 2006-12. He was Director of Mission at CatholicCare for two years until his appointment as Vicar General in March 2015, and he continues as a member of the CatholicCare Board. He is a research associate at the Plunkett Centre for Health Ethics.



**Mrs Edwina Gotz
FCP BSc BAppSc(Clin Sc)
B Osteo Sc GradDip(Ex Rehab)
GradDip(Tert Ed), FertilityCare
Practitioner, Melbourne**

Edwina Gotz is a FertilityCare Practitioner who teaches the Creighton Model FertilityCare System in Melbourne. She is also employed by Victoria University where she teaches anatomy.



**Dr Kerry Hampton
RN RM MA(Women's Studies)
GradDip(Health Ed) PhD,
Wise Women Business, Melbourne**

Dr Kerry Hampton is a Registered Nurse and Registered Midwife. Kerry joined general practice in 2008 where she provides fertility-awareness counselling for couples who are planning a pregnancy or wish to use natural methods of contraception. Kerry holds a Graduate Diploma in Health Education and a Master of Arts in Women's Studies. In her PhD study undertaken at Monash University, Kerry identified the critical elements of a primary care model in fertility-awareness to help reduce infertility in general practice. Kerry is a Teaching Associate at Monash University and a leader in professional development in her chosen field.



**Ms Agnes-Mary Hanna
BPsych(Hons) MCLinPsych MAPS,
Clinical Psychologist, Melbourne**

Aggy (Agnes-Mary) Hanna is a Clinical Psychologist registered with the Psychology Board of Australia. She holds Full Membership of the Australian Psychological Society (MAPS), and is a



member of the College of Clinical Psychologists being also a member of the Christian Psychologists of the APS (Christianity and Psychology Interest Group-CAPIG). Aggy is in full-time Private Practice in Melbourne and consults for both the Naprotechnology and Billings Ovulation Method Clinics (Manningham General Practice Fertility Assessment Clinic) in Melbourne. Aggy has a special interest in fertility and women's health, having undertaken specialised studies in physiological psychology, as well as sexual and medical bioethics (including FABM at the Franciscan University of Steubenville); and post-graduate training and experience in Clinical Psychology, Health Psychology, and Neuropsychology.

**Dr Darren Katz MBBS FRACS
(Urology), Medical Director of
Men's Health Melbourne**

Dr Darren Katz is the Medical Director of Men's Health Melbourne – The Centre for Specialist Men's Health, Urology and Fertility.



Dr Katz is the first urologist in Victoria to have undertaken a sub-specialty fellowship in male infertility and microsurgery at the prestigious Cornell Center for Male Reproductive Medicine and Microsurgery in New York, USA. Dr Katz worked with some of the world leaders and pioneers in male infertility – Marc Goldstein and Peter Schlegel.

As well as being trained as a general urologist, Dr Katz has undertaken both a clinical and research sub-specialty urology fellowship in the areas of urological prosthetics, andrology and male sexual & reproductive medicine. He spent a total of 2 years at world-renowned Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, where he learnt some of the latest innovations and techniques to treat patients with erectile dysfunction, voiding problems and incontinence, Peyronie's disease and hormonal problems. Dr Katz has been an invited faculty member for various workshops around Australia on infertility procedures, penile implants and prosthetic devices.

Dr Katz is heavily involved with research and has been awarded both national and international grants as well as presenting his research at many major national and international conferences. He is the author of multiple peer-reviewed journal articles and serves as a reviewer for the Journal of Urology, Andrology, Journal of Sexual Medicine, The Asian Journal of Andrology and the Journal of Andrology and Gynaecology: Current Research. Dr Katz is a member of the Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand, The Fertility Society of Australia, The American Urological Association, The European Association of Urology and The Sexual Medicine Society of North America.

**Dr Terrence Kent
MBBS FRACGP NFPMFC FCP,
Raceview Surgery, Brisbane**

Dr Terrence Kent graduated from the University of Queensland in 1987. He worked at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Woolloongabba,



then Ipswich Hospital and Mater Hospital South Brisbane. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners in 1997. He has worked at Raceview Surgery from 1997 until present and has worked at the Mater Mothers' Natural Fertility Clinic from 2007 to present. He gained a Natural Family Planning Medical Certificate from the Pope Paul VI institute in Omaha, Nebraska in 2006. He also gained a Creighton Model FertilityCare Practitioner qualification in 2008. He is the President of the Guild of Saint Luke (Catholic Doctors Queensland). He has worked in NaproTechnology since 2006. He lives in Brisbane with his wife Angela and their eight children. His interests include music and gardening.

Dr Catherine Lennon
MBBS FRACGP NFPMC FCP IBCLC,
Fertility Care Cherrybrook, Sydney



Dr Catherine Lennon is a General Practitioner working in Cherrybrook, Sydney with special expertise in Women's Health, Fertility and Counselling. She has been a pregnancy help counsellor for ten years and was a medical adviser for the book "A Consumer's Guide to the pill and other drugs" by John Wilks. Dr Lennon was awarded her Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in 2001 and became a qualified lactation consultant in 1997. She has had experience in obstetrics and gynaecology during her General Practice training in 1995. Dr Lennon has trained in Fertility Awareness Methods including the Billings Ovulation Method (was a teacher for 10 years), and more recently the FertilityCare Creighton Model System. Dr Lennon also offers couples Restorative Reproductive treatments through her knowledge study of Fertility Awareness Methods and Naprotechnology. Catherine and her husband Richard Lennon with four other Australian doctors set up Matercare Australia in 2000, which aims to reduce the high mortality rates of mothers and babies in developing countries by improving obstetric and emergency care.

Dr Luke McLindon
MBBS FRACGP FRANZCOG NFPMC,
Obstetrician and Gynaecologist,
Mater Hospital, Brisbane



See biography in Friday speaker details.

Mrs Lesa Meese RN,
Natural Fertility Services,
Melbourne



Lesla Meese trained as a general nurse and worked for twenty years at Mercy Private Hospital while raising seven children. She has trained in the Sympto-Thermal Method of Natural Family Planning in 2008 and has been running Natural Fertility Services, Melbourne (an ACNFP centre) since 2010.

Dr Brendan Miller MBBS FRACGP
FRANZCOG NFPMC, Obstetrician
& Gynaecologist, Toowoomba



Brendan commenced private practice at St Vincent's in Toowoomba in February 2015 after completing an AGES Fellowship in Advanced Laparoscopy at the Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide. Graduating from the University of Queensland in 1995, he worked as a General Practitioner before doing a course in Naprotechnology in Omaha Nebraska in 2006. This inspired him to seek further training in obstetrics and gynaecology. In 2014 Dr Miller was involved in setting up a centre in Adelaide (Fertility Fundamentals) for providing infertile couples alternative treatments to In-Vitro Fertilisation. He is keen to offer couples with difficulty conceiving or recurrent miscarriage these alternative treatments.

Dr Miller works as a general Obstetrician and Gynaecologist operating at St Vincent's and St Andrew's Hospitals in Toowoomba and can now offer couples both medical and surgical NaproTechnology treatments. He has now delivered a number of babies that were conceived with the help of NaproTechnology.

Dr Lucia Murnane MBBS FRACGP
DCH GradDipBioethics NFPMC FCP,
Manningham General Practice
Fertility Assessment Clinic,
Melbourne



Dr Lucia Murnane is a general practitioner who has done additional training in fertility awareness methods of family planning, and their associated medical applications in assisting with the diagnosis and management of women's health issues. She is a part of Manningham General Practice's Fertility Assessment Clinic, along with Dr Mary Walsh. The clinic offers medical advice and assistance in preparation for pregnancy, and assessment and management of sub-fertility from a holistic, and restorative approach. Medical education and ethics are two concurrent interests.

Dr Gregory K Pike BSc(Hons) PhD,
Manager of Research Integrity at
the University of South Australia



Dr Gregory K Pike is the founding Director of the Adelaide Centre for Bioethics and Culture in Adelaide, South Australia and former Director of the Southern Cross Bioethics Institute. He has a research background in neurobiology at the University of Adelaide and University of Pittsburgh, and also in clinical trials in laparoscopic surgery at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

In 1998 he moved into Bioethics, having a particular interest in its relationship with public policy. He has worked on ethical issues related to illicit drugs, stem cells, cloning, abortion, reproductive technology, genetics, and end-of-life decision-making. He has participated in public debate and engaged widely with policy makers and the community.

He is currently the Manager of Research Integrity at the University of South Australia. He has served on several government consultative committees, and was member of the Australian Health Ethics Committee for the 2006-09 triennium.

**Dr Martin Ritossa MBBS FRANZCOG,
Director of Gynaecology,
Lyell McEwin Hospital, SA**



Dr Martin Ritossa graduated from Adelaide University in 1992 and completed his fellowship of the RANZCOG in Sept 2000. He is currently the Divisional Director of the Women's and Paediatric services of the Northern Adelaide Health Service. He is a current Board Member and Treasurer of the RANZCOG. A recognised laparoscopic surgeon, he is a past Board Member of the Australian Gynaecological Endoscopy Society and one of a hand full of surgeons in Australia performing laparoscopic reversal of tubal sterilisation.

**Dr Elvis Šeman MBBS
FRANZCOG FRCOG EUCOGE PhD,
Head of Urogynaecology,
Flinders Medical Centre, SA**



Dr Elvis Šeman trained in obstetrics & gynaecology in Australia, France & the UK. His professional interests include restorative reproductive medicine, improving maternal health care in the developing world, and teaching and research at Flinders Medical Centre, SA, where he heads the Urogynaecology Unit. In 2016, Elvis was conferred a PhD for his thesis on laparoscopic pelvic floor repair. He is part of the Fertility Fundamentals team in Adelaide and is presently completing his qualification as a Natural Family Planning Medical Consultant and furthering his studies in classical piano.

**Dr Adrian Thomas MBBS FRANZCOG FRCOG,
Consultant Gynaecologist Reproductive Medicine
Clinic, Mercy Hospital for Women, Melbourne**

Dr Adrian Thomas is an obstetrician gynaecologist at the Mercy Hospital for Women in Melbourne. After specialising in obstetrics and gynaecology he studied reproductive medicine in Sheffield, England and on returning to Australia took up a position at the Mercy Hospital in both the reproductive medicine and general obstetrics and gynaecology units at the Mercy

Hospital where he has worked for the past 35 years, as well as being in private practice. He has been a member of the Ethics Committee since 2005.

Dr Thomas works closely with the Billings organisation in Melbourne and has also collaborated with the late Professor James Brown on the clinical applications of the home monitor. He has published extensively in the field of reproductive medicine, was the corresponding author for Professor Brown's "Continuum" paper, published posthumously in Human Reproduction Update, and was joint author of an editorial/obituary on Professor Brown's contribution to reproductive medicine, published concurrently with the "Continuum" paper.

The plight of women giving birth in developing countries resulted in Dr Thomas joining Matercare, an organisation of Catholic health professionals dedicated to reducing the unacceptable high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity in these countries. Matercare's work of advocating for the wellbeing and dignity of women continues unabated. A concern about rubella infection in pregnancy led Dr Thomas to being appointed chairman of the rubella committee of the Deafness Foundation (Victoria), a position he held for 25 years and culminated in him being made an Honorary Life Member of the Foundation and awarded the Peter Howson Medal for his long standing and significant contribution to the aims of the Foundation.

**Dr Mary Walsh MBBS FRACGP,
Manningham General Practice
Fertility Assessment Clinic,
Melbourne**



Mary is a general practitioner in Melbourne. In 2011 she established the Fertility Assessment Clinic as a special interest clinic offering pre-pregnancy preparation and medical management of sub-fertility from a holistic and restorative perspective. The clinic includes fertility awareness education from accredited Billings Ovulation Method teachers. She has been involved in developing RACGP and RANZCOG accredited CPD in fertility awareness and has lectured in sexual health and fertility awareness at the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family. In 2016, Mary attended training in Rome in FEMM medical management protocols for women's health developed by the Reproductive Health Research Institute (RHRI) and Professor Pilar Vigil in Santiago, Chile. Mary and her late husband Nicholas Tonti-Filippini have raised four adult children. She has recently joyously welcomed a grandson.

We acknowledge and thank our sponsors:

Australian Catholic University • John Paul II Institute, Melbourne • Life, Marriage and Family Office, Melbourne • MaterCare Australia



JOHN PAUL II INSTITUTE
for Marriage and Family, Melbourne



**Life Marriage
and Family Office**
CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

