



AOA
AUSTRALIAN
ORTHOPAEDIC
ASSOCIATION

Academy of
Clinical
Excellence in
Orthopaedics

**AOA ACADEMY OF CLINICAL
EXCELLENCE IN ORTHOPAEDICS (ACE)**

Launch & Education Forum

THURSDAY 19 - FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2026

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

IMPROVING
MUSCULOSKELETAL
OUTCOMES FOR EVERY
AUSTRALIAN



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ASSOCIATION



CELEBRATING 90 YEARS
OF CLINICAL EXCELLENCE
AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Welcome from the Convenors



AOA Academy of Clinical Excellence in Orthopaedics (ACE) Education Forum – “Improving musculoskeletal outcomes for every Australian”

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the official launch of the AOA Academy of Clinical Excellence in Orthopaedics (ACE).

This significant occasion brings together leaders and representatives across Australia who share a commitment to improving musculoskeletal health and patient care. The program has been designed to encourage opportunities for collaboration and discussion regarding the challenges and opportunities surrounding musculoskeletal research in Australia and how we can leverage resources and expertise in this area to address musculoskeletal conditions, which are the leading cause of disability and disease burden worldwide.

We look forward to welcoming delegates, including patients with lived experience, representatives from government, insurers, industry, and research organisations from across the country. Together, we aim to explore new ways of working collectively to strengthen musculoskeletal research, education, and clinical outcomes for patients.

The Academy's mission is *“to harmonise and leverage existing AOA research infrastructure, resources, and partnerships to drive improvements in patient care for those with musculoskeletal disorders and injuries.”*

Over the past 12 months, the AOA ACE Steering Committee and key working groups have worked tirelessly to develop the core framework and structure for the AOA Academy. We extend our sincere thanks to all members and representatives whose dedication has brought us to this exciting stage and are excited to share these plans with you.

We begin with a dinner in the Paddington Room at The Star, Brisbane, featuring guest speaker Matthew Ames. Matthew, a quadruple amputee, is an accomplished executive and governance leader with nearly 20 years' experience in health, safety, and sustainability.

Passionate about improving healthcare and amplifying the voices of health consumers, patients and people with disability, Matthew will share his story of resilience and bring valuable insights from his extensive work across major health and community organisations.

The following day will see the official launch of the Academy at Room Three-Sixty, Gardens Point Campus, Queensland University of Technology (QUT). Key themes and opportunities will be explored in musculoskeletal research and clinical excellence. Attendees will gain valuable insights from an inspiring line-up of researchers, health executives, patients, and influential leaders from across the health, insurance, industry, and academic sectors. Topics include:

- Research benefits for the Australian health community and AOA members
- Overview of the Academy and its framework
- Clinical Studies and Data Analytics Business Units
- The development of the AOA MSK Registry Centre
- Discussion panels on patient perspectives and involvement, early researcher involvement, innovation, and future research partnerships
- How ACE can utilise AOA and other data to improve MSK health
- Insights from industry and insurers
- Successes, challenges, and innovation in MSK research

We invite you to be part of this significant AOA milestone in the Academy's journey and look forward to the connections, innovation, and momentum that will emerge from this event.

See you in Brisbane!

Warm regards,
Professor Michael Schuetz and Professor Richard Page
Convenors, AOA Academy of Clinical Excellence in Orthopaedics (ACE)

Faculty

SPEAKERS

More to be announced soon!

Professor	Zsolt	Balogh	<i>Professor of Surgery, University of Newcastle</i>
Dr	Christine	Beanland	<i>ANZMUSC Consumer Advisory Group Member</i>
Professor	Peter	Choong	<i>Sir Hugh Devine Professor of Surgery, and Head of Department of Surgery, Melbourne Medical School, University of Melbourne</i>
Sister	Mary-Lynne	Cochrane	<i>Patient Advocate</i>
Professor	Greg	Couzens	<i>Queensland Orthopaedic Research Foundation General Director</i>
Dr	Nick	Croker	<i>Orthopaedic Surgeon, Tamworth NSW and Founder Queensland Orthopaedic Registrar Research Collaborative (QORRC)</i>
Professor	Manuela	Ferreria	<i>NHMRC Investigator Fellow, Professor of Musculoskeletal Health and Program Head, Musculoskeletal Health, The George Institute for Global Health</i>
Dr	Julie	Glover	<i>Executive Director, Research Foundations, National Health and Medical Research Council</i>
Dr	Isabella	Gosper	<i>AOA Trainee and AOA ACE Steering Committee Member</i>
Professor	Ian	Harris	<i>Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at University of New South Wales</i>
Professor	David	Hunter	<i>Co-Director Sydney Musculoskeletal Health Flagship, University of Sydney</i>
Professor	Rachel	Huxley	<i>Executive Dean for the Faculty of Health at Deakin University</i>
Dr	James	Kennedy	<i>AOA Trainee and AOA ACE Steering Committee Member</i>
Adjunct Professor	Sheanna	Maine	<i>AOA Scientific Secretary</i>
Dr	Mark	Moroney	<i>AOA President</i>
Professor	Richard	Page	<i>AOA ACE Steering Committee Co-Chair</i>
Professor	Michael	Schuetz	<i>AOA ACE Steering Committee Co-Chair</i>
Professor	Paul	Smith AM	<i>AOANJRR Clinical Director</i>
Dr	Peter	Smitham	<i>Deputy Chair, AOA Research Committee</i>
Dr	Will	Steadman	<i>AOA Trainee and ACE Steering Committee Member</i>
Professor	Christopher	Vertullo	<i>Clinical Director - AOA ACE Clinical Studies & Data Analytics Units</i>
Associate Professor	Chris	Wall	<i>Assistant Deputy Clinical Director, AOA NJRR</i>

AOA ACE Forum Dinner

GUEST SPEAKER

Matthew Ames

Matthew Ames is an experienced executive with a background in health, safety and sustainability. He has almost 20 years of experience including strategy development, large complex project delivery, risk management, cultural change and workforce development.

Matthew's extensive governance experience has included several board and committee positions such as Deputy Chair of Metro South Hospital and Health Board, Chair of Hear and Say, and Council Member of Centacare Brisbane.

Matthew has demonstrated a passion for providing a voice for health consumers and people with a disability. He has been in integral part of improving healthcare delivery as part of a range of roles, including with the Sepsis Australia, Queensland Health's Sepsis Program, the Australian Commission for Patient Safety and Quality in Healthcare, and the Australian Digital Health Agency.



FORUM DINNER EVENT DETAILS

When:	6.30pm, Thursday 19 March 2026
Where:	The Paddington Room, The Star Brisbane
What:	Three course dinner and drinks
Cost:	\$180 (incl GST)

Program Outline

When: 20 March 2026

Where: Room Three Sixty,
Queensland University of Technology

Venue Information

QUT's Room Three Sixty features floor-to-ceiling windows, a bar and two adjoining outdoor terraces, it offers spectacular panoramic views of the city, including the Brisbane River, Kangaroo Point Cliffs and the City Botanic Gardens. It is an excellent setting for the ACE Education Forum.

City Overview

Brisbane offers a vibrant backdrop for scientific exchange, blending modern research infrastructure with a relaxed riverside setting. Its subtropical climate encourages outdoor exploration, from scenic walks along the Brisbane River to nearby parklands and vibrant neighbourhoods. Visitors can enjoy galleries, live performances, and a calendar of events that keeps the city lively year-round (hint: you should eventually go outside – after the conference of course).

Need further information? Please contact the AOA Team via: research@aoa.org.au

Register now via www.aoa.org.au/ACE

TIME	DETAIL	SPEAKER
9.30am	Forum commences Acknowledgment of Country, welcome and introductions	Mark Moroney
9.40am	Official launch of the AOA Academy of Clinical Excellence in Orthopaedics	TBC
9.55am	Research Benefit and the Australian Health Community Q&A	TBC
10.15am	Panel: Why patient perspectives matter	Moderators: Michael Schuetz and Richard Page Sister Mary-Lynne Cochrane, Christine Beanland, and more speakers TBC shortly
10.45am	Morning tea, networking and industry exhibition	
11.10am	AOA ACE Overview and Framework	Michael Schuetz & Richard Page
11.30am	Using data to improve patient outcomes	Christopher Vertullo
11.50am	AOA MSK Registry Centre as a data repository for research	Paul Smith
12.10pm	Panel: The importance of Trainee & Early Career Research	Moderators: James Kennedy and Will Steadman Isabella Gosper, Nick Croker
12.40pm	Medical Device Industry Panel Discussion Q&A	TBC
1.10pm	Road Trauma – An Insurer Perspective	TBC
1.25pm	Lunch, networking and industry exhibition	
2.05pm	Perspectives on NHMRC successful grants and funding. Industry vs the surgeon applicant. Q&A	Julie Glover
2.25pm	Innovation in Research Q&A	Peter Choong
2.45pm	Success and challenges in surgical research Q&A	Ian Harris
3.05pm	Panel: From Idea to Translation Journey – the time it takes	Moderator: Sheanna Maine Chris Wall, Christopher Vertullo, Zsolt Balogh, Peter Smitham
3.35pm	Afternoon tea, networking and industry exhibition	
3.50pm	Panel: Future Research Partners	Moderator: Greg Couzens David Hunter, Manuela Ferreria, Rachel Huxley
4.20pm	AOA ACE next steps	Michael Schuetz & Richard Page
4.30pm	Closing remarks	Mark Moroney

Sponsors

AOA would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and recognition to the following sponsors for their invaluable support in making this event possible.

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Interested to sponsor this meeting?
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