



# REGU/REGIS Newsletter | Issue 17 | 4 September 2024

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## Farewell Dr Rob Loblay

Dear colleagues,

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution of Dr Rob Loblay as he steps down as Chair of RPAH HREC after 30 years. I want to publicly extend my deepest gratitude for the remarkable dedication and leadership he has shown, not just to the committee that he has led, but to the endeavour of ethics review across NSW Health and Australia more broadly.

Dr. Loblay became Chair of the Sydney Local Health District Human Research Ethics Committee RPAH Zone in 1995. He also held the position of Chair of the RPAH Ethics of Clinical Practice Subcommittee since 1998 and convener of the RPAH Clinical Ethics Advisory Committee since 2001. His contributions in these roles have been fundamental in shaping and upholding the ethical standards for clinical practice and medical research across the Sydney Local Health District and across NSW and beyond.

Under Dr. Loblay's leadership, the RPAH HREC and its three sub-committees, have navigated the evolving landscape of medical research, particularly the complex ethical issues arising in clinical trials, emerging technologies, and patient rights. His leadership has been characterised by a deep commitment to safeguarding the welfare of research participants, promoting transparency in research practices, and ensuring that ethical considerations are integral to the design and conduct of research and clinical practice.



Dr. Loblay's role as Chair has also involved significant contributions to the development of ethical guidelines and protocols at both the state and national levels. Notably, was his work towards developing national ethical guidelines for the NHMRC Australian Health Ethics Committee; his work on the NHMRC Harmonisation of Multicentre Ethics Review (HoMER) steering group and National Ethics Application Form (NEAF) review committee, where he has contributed to streamlining the ethical review process across Australia, making it more efficient while maintaining rigorous ethical standards. This was a task that required not only profound knowledge of ethical principles but also the ability to foster collaboration among diverse stakeholders in the research community. This work facilitated harmonisation of ethical review processes and the conduct of multi-centre studies. These contributions have had a lasting impact on the governance of medical research in Australia.

I want to personally thank Rob for the wisdom that he has provided to many of the working groups and roundtables that the OHMR has conducted – his views have been invaluable to our shaping of the research environment. His guidance has not only steered his HREC through numerous challenging projects and emerging developments in trial design but has also ensured a legacy of research integrity and excellence that will undoubtedly endure for years to come. The ethics and scientific review process is essential to high quality and ethical research being conducted in our public health system and it is the selfless contribution of people such as Rob who make it possible.

It has been a genuine pleasure to work with Rob and benefit from his thinking and views. I will greatly miss his presence as will his colleagues both at RPAH and across NSW.

My thoughts and best wishes for his health into the future,

James Cokayne

## National One Stop Shop -Surveys

**Audience:** All users of REGIS

Surveys focusing on specific users and functionalities have been created to collect information from our current REGIS users. We strongly encourage all users of REGIS to provide their feedback through these

surveys. We want a broad range of feedback, weather you've been in REGIS one time or one-hundred times.

Information gathered through these surveys will help us prepare for the early October face to face meeting with the Commonwealth.

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### Surveys Close 20 September

Please share these links widely & don't miss the opportunity to give your feedback

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External Portal Users (Researchers, HREC Members, Heads of Department)

- [Providing Head of Department Approvals for Research Applications](#) - approx 5min
- [HREC Members use and barriers to using REGIS](#) - approx 5min (Research Offices please distribute this survey to your HREC members)
- [Reviewers \(for HREC or exec meetings\) use and barriers to using REGIS](#) - approx 5min (Research Offices please distribute this survey to your HREC members)
- [Application management \(Submission to Approval\) for Researchers and Coordinators](#) - approx 10-20min
- [Post Approval management for Researchers and Coordinators](#) - approx 10-20min
- [Document Management for Researchers and Coordinators](#) - approx 10 min

Internal Portal Users (Research Offices)

- [Meeting and Review use and barriers for Research Offices](#) - approx 15min
- [Application management \(Submission to Approval\) for Research Officers](#) - approx 10-20min
- [Post Approval management for Research Officers](#) - approx 10-20min
- [Document Management for Research Offices](#)- approx 10 min
- [Reporting and Dashboards for Research Offices](#) - approx 5-10min

#### NOSS Dates for Information:

**September:** REGIS user surveys will be widely distributed to seek feedback from our users on their current interactions with the system. Information gathered through these surveys will help us prepare for the early September face to face meeting. **Surveys Close 20 September**

**October:** Initial site meeting with the Commonwealth

**October:** Invites for Discovery Workshops to be distributed. (no further information currently available)

**October -December:** Details Discovery Workshops. (no further information currently available)

## A-CTEC: More than just Good Clinical Practice training

**Audience:** Researcher



### Did you know that A-CTEC offers more than just Good Clinical Practice Training?

You may be familiar with A-CTEC's Learning Management System (LMS) for its Transcelerate recognised Good Clinical Practice courses. But as their tagline says, **A-CTEC is beyond GCP!**

#### Take a look at these 3 trending courses:

- [Writing in Plain Language for Research Participants](#) is a single module that introduces the principles of plain language writing in the context of clinical trials
- [First Steps: A guide to staff new to Clinical Trials & Clinical Research](#) guides those new to clinical trials, useful for those coordinating their first clinical trials
- [Business Skills for Clinical Trial Research Managers](#) highlights business skills needed to run a clinical trial unit

The courses are evidence-based, interactive, online and **free** to all health service staff.

[A-CTEC](#) is a not-for-profit, Australia-wide education centre, originally developed in Victoria before expanding nationally in early 2023. Their aim is to provide easy access to world-class education and training opportunities, at no cost to the end user.

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*If you have feedback on any A-CTEC courses or would like to join their bank of reviewers and subject matter experts, [clinicaltrialsNSW](#) would like to hear from you!*

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## Congratulations to our Research Administrator Awards Finalists

**Audience:** Everyone

The votes are in, and we are excited to announce the finalists for the inaugural NSW Health Research Administrator Awards.

Winners will be announced on Friday 27th September as part of the NSW Health Research Office Roundtable at 1 Reserve Rd, St Leonards. We can't wait to celebrate with you all!



Award 1: The person, voted by the research community, for providing excellent customer service

Monique Macara SESLHD  
Yin Wang CCLHD  
Diana Stephens MNCLHD



Award 2: The Person, as voted by peers, as showing amazing leadership and constantly sharing knowledge and support to other research administrators

Rebecca Lavery NNSWLHD  
Janelle Thomas MLHD  
Lucia Smith SCHN



Award 3: Innovation and leadership in streamlining and supporting the review and management of quality applications

Research Governance Mandatory Pre-Submission meetings - SCHN  
SLHD Audit Preparation Tool for mandatory audits - SLHD  
Supporting quality Ethics & Timely responses (STILETTO) - HNELHD



Award 4: Early career Research Administrators Award

Parivash Eftekhari - CMN  
Kate Sutherland - SESLHD  
Smriti Robert - SVHN  
Marissa Mancuso - RR

## Upcoming events and dates

**Audience:** Research Office/Researcher



### 2024 Events and Dates

**REGIS Research Office Lunch & Learn 2024:** Lunch & Learn webinars have been scheduled for **17 September** with further sessions to be scheduled. [Click here to view the themes, topics and previous Lunch & Learns.](#)

**Research Office REGIS Training:** Research Office training for 2024 is complete! Training dates for 2025 will be released later in the year.

**Researcher REGIS Training:** Registrations for the last Researcher training for 2024 is now closed! Training dates for 2025 will be released later in the year.

## Previous Versions of REGU/REGIS Newsletter

**Audience:** Research Office/Researcher

All previous version of the fortnightly email are available from the REGIS website: <https://regis.health.nsw.gov.au/news-and-events/regis-office-webinars/>

*REGU/REGIS Newsletter: Inspiring other units within OHMR and LHDs since February 2021*