

The PARKinson's Conference 2026

Conference Overview & Speaker Guide

Seeing the Whole Story — Leading Voices. Practical Insights. Real Impact.

Thursday 8 October 2026 8.30 am–4.30 pm Maroochy RSL Events Centre, Maroochydore



REGISTER

BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS OF 2025

338

In-person delegates

70

Online attendees

34

Exhibitors

2026 PROGRAMME

16

Speakers

Conference

+ Gala Dinner

Industry Awards

Parkinson's Support Fund™ 2026

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

INTERNATIONAL GUEST SPEAKER



Professor K. Ray Chaudhuri

MD, DSc, FRCP · King's College London

Non-Motor Symptoms & Whole Person in Parkinson's

LIVE FROM LONDON

The pioneer who helped Parkinson's care look beyond movement

Director of the Parkinson's Foundation Centre of Excellence at King's College London, Founding Editor of npj Parkinson's Disease and Editor Emeritus. Authored more than 500 publications; a 2024 bibliometric analysis identified him as the most published author globally in non-motor Parkinson's research between 2013 and 2022.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

FEATURED AUSTRALIAN RESEARCHER



Assoc Prof Miguel Rentería

PhD · QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute

The Genetics of Parkinson's — What the Science Tells Us

LIVE ONLINE

Leading Australia's search for the genetic clues behind Parkinson's

Principal Investigator of the Australian Parkinson's Genetics Study — now Australia's largest Parkinson's genetics cohort, with more than 21,000 participants overall, including more than 12,000 people living with Parkinson's. Named among the world's top 2% most-cited scientists and awarded the 2026 Ruth Stephens Gani Medal.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

FEATURED CLINICAL SPEAKER



Dr Quentes de Vries

FRACP · Geriatrician & General Physician

Future Directions in Parkinson's Care

LIVE ON STAGE

The physician bringing the whole Parkinson's story together

Specialist General Physician and Geriatrician with additional training in stroke medicine and movement disorders. Key role in the Sunshine Coast University Hospital Stroke Service; also works privately at Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital and Beach Brain Clinic.

CONFERENCE THEMES & CONTENT

FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN PARKINSON'S CARE

Where Parkinson's care is heading — a clinical perspective.

Dr Quentes de Vries, Geriatrician

NON-MOTOR SYMPTOMS & WHOLE PERSON

Sleep, mood, cognition, autonomic function and quality of life.

Prof K. Ray Chaudhuri, International Guest Speaker

THE GENETICS OF PARKINSON'S

What the Australian genetics study reveals about who gets Parkinson's and why.

Assoc Prof Miguel Rentería, QIMR Berghofer

LOOKING AFTER THE MIND

Apathy, motivation and psychological wellbeing in Parkinson's.

Dr Simone Shaw, Clinical Psychologist

SLEEP & FATIGUE

From REM behaviour disorder to insomnia and daytime sleepiness.

Dr Chris Padgham, Respiratory & Sleep Physician

PAIN IN PARKINSON'S

Identifying and managing pain — one of the most underrecognised symptoms.

Andrew Duffy & Dr Colleen Johnston-Devin

MEDICATION MANAGEMENT & WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY

Medication timing, optimisation and wearable motor monitoring.

Bhaveena Patel, Clinical Pharmacist & Ryan Gee, Nurse Navigator

OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO EXERCISE

Translating exercise evidence into practical, sustainable strategies.

Dr Robyn Lamont, Research Physiotherapist

RECLAIM YOUR DAYS: THE CO-OP PATH TO CONFIDENCE

Goal-setting and occupational strategies for independence.

Dr Sarah Davies, Occupational Therapist

COMMUNICATION & SPEECH

Speech and swallowing changes, and evidence-based treatment approaches.

Karen Malcolm, Speech Pathologist

RELATIONSHIPS & CONNECTION

Intimacy, partnership and connection through the challenges of Parkinson's.

Catherine Raff, Relationship Counsellor

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Resources, peer support and advocacy for the Parkinson's community.

Parkinson's Queensland & Wellways

Faculty & Programme Overview

Expert faculty and contributors across medicine, allied health, research and community advocacy.

EXPERT FACULTY & CONTRIBUTORS

A Multidisciplinary Faculty

Featuring 16 speakers across medicine, nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, psychology, speech pathology, pharmacy, community support and lived experience.



APATHY, MOTIVATION & BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

Dr Simone Shaw

Clinical Psychologist & Neuropsychologist
Sure Psychology



NURSE NAVIGATION & MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

Ryan Gee

Nurse Navigator
Queensland Health



SLEEP & FATIGUE

Dr Chris Padgham

Respiratory & Sleep Physician
Sunshine Coast Respiratory & Sleep



OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO EXERCISE

Dr Robyn Lamont

Research Physiotherapist



RECLAIM YOUR DAYS: THE CO-OP PATH TO CONFIDENCE

Dr Sarah Davies

Occupational Therapist & Lecturer
University of the Sunshine Coast



PAIN IN PARKINSON'S

Andrew Duffy

Nursing Lecturer



COMMUNICATION & SPEECH

Karen Malcolm

Speech Pathologist
Restoring Hope Parkinson's Speech Therapy



RELATIONSHIPS & CONNECTION

Catherine Raff

Relationship Counsellor & Sexologist
Indego Sexology



PAIN IN PARKINSON'S — CO-PRESENTER

Dr Colleen Johnston-Devin

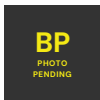
Nurse Researcher



LIVED EXPERIENCE & ADVOCACY

Steve Yellen

Patient Advocate & Author · USA



MEDICATION MANAGEMENT & WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY

Bhaveena Patel

Clinical Pharmacist · PKG & Wearable Motor Monitoring
LIVE ONLINE

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Parkinson's Queensland

Support, information and advocacy for people living with Parkinson's across Queensland.

Wellways

Carer support services provider.

PROGRAMME BREADTH

This programme is designed for people living with Parkinson's, families, carers, clinicians, researchers, allied health practitioners and community supporters. Presentations span medical, therapeutic, practical and lived-experience perspectives — together building a more complete picture of Parkinson's.

PROGRAMME DISCIPLINES REPRESENTED

Neurology & Movement Disorders
Geriatric & General Medicine
Computational Neurogenomics
Respiratory & Sleep Medicine
Nursing Research & Navigation
Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation
Occupational Therapy
Clinical Psychology & Neuropsychology
Speech Pathology
Clinical Pharmacy & Wearable Technology
Relationship Counselling
Community Advocacy & Lived Experience

Speaker Biographies

Keynote Speakers



KEYNOTE SPEAKER · INTERNATIONAL GUEST SPEAKER

Professor K. Ray Chaudhuri MD, DSc, FRCP

Director, Parkinson's Foundation Centre of Excellence · King's College London · **LIVE FROM LONDON**

Non-Motor Symptoms & Whole Person in Parkinson's

Few people have done more to move Parkinson's care beyond its visible motor symptoms than Professor K. Ray Chaudhuri. Based at King's College London, he is a global authority on the non-motor aspects of Parkinson's — including sleep, pain, mood, fatigue, cognition and autonomic function. Director of the Parkinson's Foundation Centre of Excellence at King's College London, Founding Editor of npj Parkinson's Disease and now Editor Emeritus. Authored more than 500 publications; a 2024 bibliometric analysis identified him as the most published author globally in non-motor Parkinson's research between 2013 and 2022.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER · FEATURED AUSTRALIAN RESEARCHER

Associate Professor Miguel Rentería PhD

Principal Investigator, Australian Parkinson's Genetics Study · QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute · **LIVE ONLINE**

The Genetics of Parkinson's — What the Science Tells Us

Part of the Parkinson's story is written in our genes — and Associate Professor Miguel Rentería is leading one of Australia's most ambitious efforts to understand it. Principal Investigator of the Australian Parkinson's Genetics Study and head of the Computational Neurogenomics Laboratory at QIMR Berghofer, the study is Australia's largest Parkinson's genetics cohort with more than 21,000 participants overall, including more than 12,000 people living with Parkinson's. Named among the world's top 2% most-cited scientists and awarded the Australian Academy of Science's 2026 Ruth Stephens Gani Medal.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER · FEATURED CLINICAL SPEAKER

Dr Quentes de Vries FRACP

Geriatrician & General Physician · Sunshine Coast University Hospital · **LIVE ON STAGE**

Future Directions in Parkinson's Care

Parkinson's rarely presents as one isolated problem. Dr Quentes de Vries is a Specialist General Physician and Geriatrician with additional training in stroke medicine and movement disorders. He plays a key role in the Sunshine Coast University Hospital Stroke Service and also works privately at Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital and Beach Brain Clinic. Drawing on his experience across geriatric medicine, movement disorders and complex clinical care, Dr de Vries brings an essential medical perspective to the Conference theme: understanding the whole person, rather than managing Parkinson's symptoms in isolation.



EXPERT FACULTY

Dr Simone Shaw DPsych

Clinical Psychologist & Neuropsychologist · Sure Psychology

Apathy, Motivation & Behavioural Change

Dr Simone Shaw is a Clinical Psychologist and Neuropsychologist with a clinical focus on the psychological dimensions of neurological conditions. Working from Sure Psychology on the Sunshine Coast, she supports people living with Parkinson's to navigate the cognitive, emotional and behavioural changes that accompany diagnosis and progression. Her presentation explores apathy — one of the most commonly overlooked non-motor symptoms of Parkinson's — and practical strategies for supporting motivation and behavioural engagement.



EXPERT FACULTY

Ryan Gee

Nurse Navigator · Queensland Health

Nurse Navigation & Medication Management in Parkinson's

Ryan Gee is a Nurse Navigator with Queensland Health, working with people living with Parkinson's to coordinate care across the health system and support medication management. Nurse navigators play a critical role in helping people with Parkinson's manage the complexities of their condition — connecting them with the right services, supporting medication adherence and acting as a consistent point of contact across clinical settings.



EXPERT FACULTY

Dr Chris Padgham

Respiratory & Sleep Physician · Sunshine Coast Respiratory & Sleep

Sleep & Fatigue in Parkinson's

Dr Chris Padgham is a Respiratory and Sleep Physician with extensive clinical experience in sleep disorders, including those associated with neurological conditions such as Parkinson's disease. Sleep disruption is one of the most commonly reported non-motor symptoms of Parkinson's. Dr Padgham's presentation addresses the range of sleep disorders seen in Parkinson's — including REM sleep behaviour disorder, insomnia and daytime sleepiness — and evidence-based approaches to managing them.

Speaker Biographies

Expert Faculty & Contributors



EXPERT FACULTY · JOINT PRESENTATION

Andrew Duffy & Dr Colleen Johnston-Devin

Nursing Lecturer & Nurse Researcher

Pain in Parkinson's

Pain is one of the most common yet underrecognised symptoms of Parkinson's disease. Andrew Duffy is a Nursing Lecturer with extensive clinical experience in Parkinson's care. Dr Colleen Johnston-Devin is a Nurse Researcher whose work focuses on improving outcomes for people living with complex neurological conditions. Together, they offer a practical and research-informed perspective on identifying, understanding and managing pain in Parkinson's.



EXPERT FACULTY

Dr Robyn Lamont PhD

Research Physiotherapist

Overcoming Barriers to Exercise

Dr Robyn Lamont is a Research Physiotherapist with research expertise in exercise and rehabilitation for people living with Parkinson's. Her work translates exercise research into practical, sustainable strategies. Her presentation explores the evidence base, how to overcome common barriers, and how rehabilitation approaches can be adapted across different stages of the condition.



EXPERT FACULTY

Dr Sarah Davies BOccThy, PhD

Occupational Therapist & Lecturer · University of the Sunshine Coast

Reclaim Your Days: The CO-OP Path to Confidence with Parkinson's

Dr Sarah Davies is an Occupational Therapist and academic at the University of the Sunshine Coast. Her presentation focuses on the CO-OP (Cognitive Orientation to Daily Occupational Performance) approach — a structured, goal-directed framework for helping people with Parkinson's regain confidence and independence in the activities that matter most to them.



EXPERT FACULTY

Karen Malcolm Bachelor of Speech Therapy

Speech Pathologist · Restoring Hope Parkinson's Speech Therapy

Communication & Speech

Karen Malcolm is a Speech Pathologist who works exclusively with people living with Parkinson's disease, through Restoring Hope Parkinson's Speech Therapy. Her presentation covers evidence-based treatment approaches including SPEAK OUT!® and LOUD Crowd®, and practical strategies for people with Parkinson's and their communication partners.



EXPERT FACULTY

Catherine Raff MEd

Relationship Counsellor · Indego Sexology

Relationships & Connection

Catherine Raff is a Relationship Counsellor and Sexologist based on the Sunshine Coast. Parkinson's affects relationships in complex ways — physically, emotionally and socially. Her presentation addresses intimacy and connection, and how people and their partners can communicate openly through the challenges of the condition.



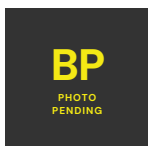
EXPERT FACULTY · RECORDED PRESENTATION

Steve Yellen

Patient Advocate & Author · USA

Lived Experience & Advocacy

Internationally recognised Parkinson's advocate, speaker and author Steve Yellen brings a powerful lived-experience perspective to the Conference. Diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2019, Steve has presented at the World Parkinson Congress and is the author of *Living Parkinson's*. His recorded presentation shares practical insights into taking an informed, active role in living with Parkinson's.



EXPERT FACULTY · LIVE ONLINE

Bhaveena Patel BPharm

Clinical Pharmacist · PKG & Wearable Motor Monitoring

Medication Management & Wearable Technology

Bhaveena Patel is a Clinical Pharmacist with extensive clinical experience in medication management for people living with Parkinson's. Her presentation focuses on the PKG (Parkinson's KinetiGraph) — a wearable device that monitors motor symptoms and helps clinicians optimise medication timing with objective data.

BOOK YOUR PLACE AT THE PARKINSON'S CONFERENCE 2026

Thursday 8 October 2026 · 8.30 am–4.30 pm

Maroochy RSL Events Centre, Maroochydore

Join people living with Parkinson's, families, carers, clinicians, researchers and community leaders for a day of leading research, practical insight and whole-person understanding.

BOOK CONFERENCE TICKETS · WWW.PARKINSONSCONFERENCE.COM.AU

Programme and speakers subject to change. Visit the Conference website for current information, accessibility details and ticket conditions.



Scan to register