

ABC & NCT 2025 Symposium

*A joint collaboration between the
Australasian Brain Club &
Monash Neonatal Cell Therapies*



ABC & NCT 2025 Program Day 1 - Wednesday, October 29

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
09:00-10:00	Registration Open & Morning Tea	
10:00-12:30	Session 1	
10:00-10:30	Mesenchymal Cell Therapy for Preterm Brain Injuries	Won Soon Park
10:30-11:00	Cell Therapies for Fetal Growth Restriction Related Brain Injuries	Suzie Miller
11:00-11:30	Cord Blood Derived Cell Therapies for Preterm Brain Injury & the Allo Trial	Abdul Razak
11:30-12:00	Expanded Cord Blood Cell Therapy for Perinatal Brain Injury	Courtney McDonald
12:00-12:30	Mesenchymal Cell Therapy for Perinatal Asphyxia	Bobbi Fleiss
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-15:30	Session 2	
13:30-14:00	Stem Cell Therapies in Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia	Augusto Zani
14:00-14:30	Amnion Extracellular Vesicles for Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia	Ishmael Inocencio
14:30-15:00	Cell Therapies for Congenital Heart Disease	Salvatore Pepe
15:00-15:30	Mesenchymal Cell Therapies for Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia	Won Soon Park
15:30-16:00	Afternoon Tea	
16:00-17:30	Session 3	
16:00-16:30	Transparency and Accountability of Production of Cellular Therapy Products for Clinical Management	Nancy Messino
16:30-17:00	Establishing the First Preterm Cell Therapies Parent Focus Group	Courtney McDonald & Sophie Sinistaj
17:00-17:30	Co-creation: the Premstem Experience	Pierre Gressens
17:30-17:40	The First Case Of Compassionate Access To Cord Blood Treatment For Cerebral Palsy In Australia: Outcomes and Ethical Conundrums	Megan Finch-Edmondson
17:40	Day 1 Close	
18:00	Networking Drinks	

ABC & NCT 2025 Program

Day 2 - Thursday, October 30

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
08:00-08:30	Registration Open	
08:30-08:35	Welcome to ABC 2025	
08:35-10:10	Session 1 - Neonatal Neurology	
08:35-09:15	Balancing Impacts of Pain and Analgesia on the Developing Brain	Julia Charlton
09:15-09:45	Perinatal Risk Factors and Long-Term Child Health, Development, and Educational Outcomes Following Hypoxic Ischaemic Encephalopathy: A Statewide Data Linkage Study	Kathryn Martinello
09:45-10:10	Waltzing MATILDA – Adaptive Trials for Hypoxic Ischaemic Encephalopathy	Rod Hunt
10:10-10:30	Morning Tea	
10:30-12:00	Session 2 - Closing the Gap	
10:30-11:15	Sharing Culturally Safe Approaches for Priority Setting and Co-designing Research Alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities	Kym Rae
11:15-12:00	Sharing Research Findings to Inform and Raise Awareness of the Rates of CP for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in Australia	Tan Martin & Sarah McIntyre
12:00-13:00	Lunch	
13:00-14:05	Session 3 - Abstracts	
13:00-13:10	Acute Effects of Red Blood Cell Transfusion on the Preterm Brain	Ella Bartlett
13:10-13:20	Concordance of Kidokoro MRI Scores in Very Preterm Infants at 30 and 40 Postmenstrual Weeks	Linda Bonezzi
13:20-13:30	Educational Performance of Extremely Preterm Infants in Primary School	Nele Legge
13:30-13:40	Using Genetically Modified Induced Pluripotent Cell Derived-Neural Stem Cells (iPSC-NSC) Delivered Intra-arterially as Therapy for Ischemic Stroke	Sandra Li
13:40-13:50	Developing A Human Cerebral Organoid Model of Perinatal Neuroinflammation	Ricki Anne Marzan
13:50-13:55	What Can Australia Learn from a Program of Umbilical Cord Blood Access for Cerebral Palsy at Duke? Results from a Barriers/Facilitators Analysis	Remy Blatch-Williams
13:55-14:00	Ventriculomegaly on Foetal MRI – What Does It Mean? A Scoping Review	Anabella Lewis
14:00-14:05	The “Small Baby Bundle”- a Neurodevelopmental Care Approach to Reduce the Risk of Intraventricular Haemorrhage in Extremely Preterm Infants	Kristina Sibbin

Day 2 continues

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
14:05-15:00	Session 4 - Neonatal Seizures	
14:05-14:45	Can You Identify Neonates with Mild to Moderate Seizure Burden Prospectively, to Allow a Safe Stratified Treatment Strategy?	Cynthia Sharpe
14:45-15:05	Understanding the Quality of Life of 17 year olds born very preterm	Nicola Austin
15:05-15:35	Afternoon Tea	
15:35-17:20	Session 5 - Neuroprotection 1	
15:35-16:45	Biomarkers for Neonatal Well Being	Marcel/Claudia Nold
16:45-17:05	Cerebral injury in fetuses with congenital diaphragmatic hernia and the effects of a stem cell vesicle therapy	Augusto Zani
17:05-17:20	Questions and Day 2 Close	
18:00	Conference Dinner @ Zibros	

Day 3 - Friday October 31

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
08:30-10:00	Monitoring / Near Infrared Spectroscopy	
08:30-09:00	How Can We Identify Preterm Babies Who May Benefit from Novel Interventions	Justin Dean
09:00-09:30	Shining Light on the Newborn Brain	Topun Austin
09:30-10:00	Face It, Baby - How Does Preterm Birth Affect Face Perception	Flora Wong
10:00-10:20	Morning Tea	
10:20-12:00	Continued - Monitoring / Near Infrared Spectroscopy	
10:20-10:50	Advanced MR Techniques	Jurgen Fripp
10:50-11:20	The Cellular Basis for Volume Deficits in Low Birthweight Infants	Tegan White
11:20-11:50	Role of Microglia and Macrophages in Sustained Neuroinflammation Following Perinatal Brain Insult	Pierre Gressens
11:50-12:00	Closing Remarks	Rod Hunt
12:00-13:00	Lunch	
13:00	Day 3 Close End of ABC + NCT 2025	

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