

Franklin Women



# CAREER TRANSITIONS

ACROSS THE HEALTH AND  
MEDICAL RESEARCH ECOSYSTEM

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NATIONAL MUSEUM



# Career Transitions

ACROSS THE HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH ECOSYSTEM

## Table Mentors



**Dr Ines Atmosukarto**  
**CEO/CSO Lipotek Pty Ltd**



Ines I Atmosukarto (Ph.D) returned to Indonesia after completing her undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Australia. Over the following decade she established a research group at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (then known as LIPI) and forged a natural product drug discovery program at the Research Institute for Biotechnology which led to the birth of a joint-venture between the institute and Australia-based philanthropic investors. Ines relocated to Australia and led the technical program of Lipotek Pty Ltd, a specialised biotech firm rooted in vaccine development and drug delivery, originating from the Australian National University. Ines believes in opportunities for innovation in Low- and Middle-Income Countries and established an ongoing collaboration between Lipotek and PT Bio Farma an Indonesia-based vaccine manufacturer.

Since the beginning of 2022, Ines has worked closely with the Indonesian Ministry of Health (MOH) to support their health biotechnology transformation agenda as the architect behind the recently launched MOH national genomic initiative known as BGSi. Ines is a member of the ANU Indonesia Institute Advisory Board, a Health Resilience Adviser for the Australia Indonesia Health Security Partnership and currently acts as a Technical Advisor to the Indonesian Minister for Health.

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**Dr Megan Downie**  
**Associate Director Government Affairs**  
**Gilead Sciences, Australia and New Zealand**



Megan has recently made her second career transition, moving from health policy roles within the Australian Public Service to join the biotech company Gilead Sciences in their Government Affairs team.

Megan has previously held a variety of policy and leadership roles implementing significant changes across the health spectrum, including immunisation, cancer screening, and medical research policy. Most recently Megan worked at Australia's national work health and safety policy agency, Safe Work Australia, where she led work to ban the use of engineered stone in Australia. Before her time in government Megan was an academic research scientist focussing on biochemistry of the malaria parasite.

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**Dr Róisín McMahon**

**Director (Acting), COVID-19 Vaccine Claims Assessment Section,  
Pharmacovigilance Branch, Medicines Regulation Division  
Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care**

Roisin moved from a biomedical research to a career in government via an Australian Science Policy Fellowship, an initiative of the Office of the Chief Scientist to place PhD trained scientists in Commonwealth government policy roles. She works in pharmacovigilance at the Therapeutic Goods Administration at the Department of Health. Elsewhere in the Department she has worked in Medicare policy, and with the Medical Research Future Fund. Before this she was a researcher at Griffith University and the University of Queensland. Her research interests were investigating new antimicrobial drug targets and identifying chemicals to block their activity. Roisin was a Superstar of STEM and Deputy Chair of the Australian Academy of Science's Early to Mid-Career Researcher Forum.

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**Miranda Menaspà**  
**Director, National Performance Support**  
**Australian Institute of Sport**



Miranda began her career in elite sport as a Sports Physiotherapist, later attaining fellowship with the Australian College of Physiotherapists as a Specialist Sport and Exercise Physiotherapist. For more than a decade, Miranda worked across numerous Olympic and Paralympic sports, holding both physio and SSSM Manager roles, experiences which have given her a deep understanding of the importance of collaborative, integrated interdisciplinary teams.

In her role as AIS National Performance Support Director, Miranda leads the team of National SSSM Network Leads, who's purpose it is to create a united, collaborative network of world-class Performance Support practitioners and teams across the High Performance system, and to oversee the AIS Female Performance & Health Initiative, which was established in 2019 to improve female-specific knowledge and systems of support. Miranda is passionate about creating a shared vision for a world-leading Performance Support system and supporting our High Performance sport system in working towards that vision.

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**Charlie Morscheck**

**Policy Officer, Newborn Bloodspot Screening Section,  
Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care**



Charlie Morscheck (they/them) is a policy officer in the Department of Health and Aged Care in the Newborn Bloodspot Screening section. In this role, Charlie uses their health sciences background to support public policy development and evaluation of interventions for rare disease. Charlie is passionate about the social and cultural dimensions of health and is also pursuing a Master's degree in medical anthropology. Charlie also has experience working in private sector consulting with a healthcare focus.

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**Dr Amy Vassallo**  
**Principal Consultant, Health ERA**



Dr Amy Vassallo is PhD trained public health researcher and evaluation consultant. She has made several career transitions across the health and medical research ecosystem - from policy to academia to consulting. In 2024 Amy established her own evaluation and research consultancy - Health ERA. She has technical expertise designing, collecting, synthesising and assessing evidence to understand health needs and evaluate effective programs and services. Her passion lies in evidence translation, and provides evidence-based advice to Commonwealth and State governments, PHNs, peak bodies and clinicians to underpin policy and practice decisions.

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