



ADVANCING PAIN CARE

Challenges and opportunities

2-3 October 2026
RACV City Club, Melbourne
#PAINSM26

PROGRAM

Friday 2 October

8.30am	Workshop registration	
9am–12pm	Supervisors of training (SOT) workshop: Entrustable professional activities	Facilitators: Dr Tipu Aamir, Dr Carl Jones and Ms Janet McConville
9am–12pm	FPM examiner foundations MCQ workshop	Facilitators: Associate Professor Rob Park and Dr Don Johnson
12–1pm	Lunch	
12.30–2pm	W01: Advanced cardiovascular life support (ACLS) workshop	Facilitators: Dr Tom Grosser-Kennedy and Dr Harry Sivakumar
2–3pm	Afternoon tea	
2.30–4pm	W02: Advanced cardiovascular life support (ACLS) workshop	Facilitators: Dr Tom Grosser-Kennedy and Dr Harry Sivakumar
3–5pm	W03: Opioid-induced ventilatory impairment (OIVI) workshop	Facilitators: Dr Bronwen Evans and Dr Kushlin Higgle
5–7pm	Welcome Reception	

Saturday 3 October

8am	Registration	
8.30–8.45	Welcome	
	Welcome from the FPM Dean	Professor Michael Veltman
	Welcome to Country	
	Convenors' Welcome	Dr Harry Sivakumar
8.45–10.30am	Session 1: Pelvic pain as a model for integrated care	
	The gynaecologist's approach to pelvic pain	TBC
	From pain mechanisms to management: The pain specialist's role in complex pelvic pain	Dr Karin Jones
	Restoring function: The role of pelvic physiotherapy in multidisciplinary care	TBC
	Nutrition, gut health and pelvic pain: Practical opportunities for better outcomes	Ms Shannon McDonough
	Panel discussion: What does good integrated pelvic pain care look like?	All speakers
10.30–11am	Morning tea	

11am–12.30pm	Session 2: Bridging specialties in complex pain care	
	Making sense of the rheumatology screen: When to investigate, refer and reassure	Dr Rushab Shah
	Headache: A neurologist's approach and shared care opportunities	Dr Trudy Cheng
	Personality and pain: Psychiatrist's approach to complex personalities, and update on antidepressant use in current psychiatric practice	TBC
12.30–1.30pm	Lunch	
1.30–2.50pm	Session 3: Interventional pain medicine, evidence, innovation and patient selection	
	Pulsed radiofrequency: Mechanisms and optimisation techniques	Associate Professor Marc Russo
	Neuromodulation now and next: Evidence, evolving indications, and access	Dr Richard Sullivan
	Panel discussion: Matching the right intervention to the right patient	All speakers
2.50–3.20pm	Afternoon tea	
3.20–5pm	Session 4: Research, translation and the future of pain care	
	ViaDisc: Emerging biologic treatment for discogenic low back pain	Dr Harrison Mihailidis
	Optogenetics and the future of pain science: What might be possible?	Dr Mary Ardren
	Perioperative opioid stewardship: Stakeholder perspectives on changing practice	Dr Megan Allen
5pm	Meeting concludes	