

# The Hopkins Centre

Research for Rehabilitation and Resilience

**Bold ideas.  
Better solutions.**

# HabITec

## Designing technology that redefines disability



**HabITec**

A joint initiative of



Metro South Health



Queensland Government

**HabiTec** is a flagship initiative of The Hopkins Centre – researching **bold ideas and better solutions** for people who have a lifelong disability.

It is a partnership between Menzies Health Institute Queensland at Griffith University and the Occupational Therapy Department and Division of Rehabilitation at Metro South Health.



## INTRODUCTION

At **HabiTec** we understand that everyone's experience is different, and what each person needs to live well in the community is unique. Our team is committed to creating better access to well-designed technology to improve rehabilitation, quality of life and independence for people with disability.

**HabiTec** brings together experts in clinical rehabilitation, engineering, sensors and environmental monitoring, virtual and augmented reality, spatial modelling, architectural design, urban planning, policy research, community disability service provision, consumer engagement and translation.

What makes us different, is our commitment to co-designing technology with end-users in ways that will deliver sustainable solutions. We also focus on building credible evidence that can change the rules of the game for people with disabilities.



**HabiTec** is based on team work, both in hospital and in the community. This collaborative model is a catalyst for technology adoption.

**HabiTec Labs** are located at Princess Alexandra Hospital and Nathan Campus, Griffith University in Brisbane, with networks across South-East Queensland and regional Queensland.

The Lab at Princess Alexandra Hospital operates a clinic for hospital patients who are seeking supportive technology as part of their rehabilitation. Here patients work with a range of professionals, developers and supporters to discover, adapt or co-create solutions to meet their needs.

Clinical researchers are building evidence about technology needs, and how to address the barriers to technology uptake in clinical settings. Together with clinical, industry and consumer stakeholders, the clinic is creating awareness and pathways for bespoke development of supportive technology.



At Nathan Campus, Griffith University, the **HabiTec Lab** builds on knowledge generated at the hospital and engages citizens, health and disability professionals and developers in research and demonstration projects that solve key challenges.

Advance Queensland Fellow, **Dr Camila Shiota** is driving a state-wide project to uncover technology solutions that will help deliver rehabilitation care at a distance.



Griffith University  
Nathan Campus, Queensland

## SOME OF OUR PROJECTS



Technology use in specialist rehabilitation services



Technology needs and readiness framework for rehabilitation at-a-distance



Virtual reality as a novel therapeutic tool in persistent pain management



Impact of the HabITec clinical services on patient outcomes



## OUR TEAM



Dr Camila Shiota



Soo Oh



Sally Stewart



Jo Kek-Pamenter



Paul Robinson



Justin Hua

### Dr Camila Shiota | Research Lead and Advance Queensland Fellow

Camila brings first-hand experience in technology adoption in rehabilitation services in the United States, Switzerland and Australia. Dr Shiota has led streamlining and integration of advanced research lab-based techniques as value-added clinical activities for stroke survivors, amputees and people with neuromuscular disorders. Dr Shiota is passionate about reducing waste in R&D through early engagement of technology users in design and development of rehabilitation technologies.

### Soo Oh | Clinic Lead and Hopkins Centre Clinical Fellow

Soo Oh has been working as an Senior Occupational Therapist in spinal cord injury for 17 years. Her general research and work expertise are in providing technological solutions of existing technologies and innovative technologies to people with various challenges to enhance their daily living. She is currently working as the manager of the HabITec Lab, based at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

### Sally Stewart | Project Engagement

Sally brings stakeholder engagement and service development experience to HabITec, facilitating opportunities for disability and rehabilitation service providers to benefit from the innovation and user centred research and service development. Sally is an advocate for systems that support the human rights of all Queenslanders.

### Jo Kek-Pamenter | Project Officer

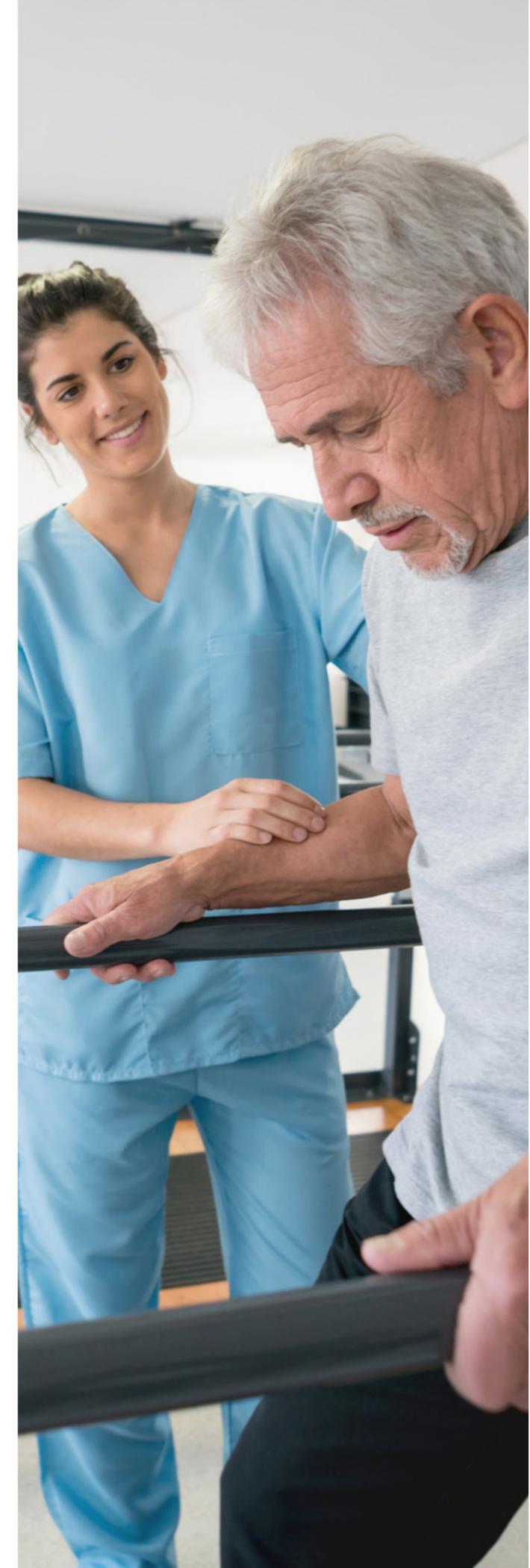
Joe-Anne is an experienced content creator and editor with a background in education, design, marketing, research and project management. Through her lived experience, Jo has developed a keen interest in working towards improving the lives of those with disabilities through education, inclusiveness, accessibility and advocating for equal opportunities. Jo brings a wealth of design, research and project management experience to HabITec, and will be supporting the team with marketing collateral, staging events and other special initiatives.

### Paul Robinson | Citizen Engagement Lead

Paul is currently studying for his Bachelor of Engineering at Griffith University. As a Citizen Ambassador and HabITec co-researcher, Paul brings a wealth of expertise in 3D design and printing to the team, enabling us to use modern technology to solve everyday problems.

### Justin Hua | Ambassador

Justin is a Citizen Ambassador and co-researcher at the HabITec Lab. As a volunteer to this initiative, and with a keen interest in assistive technology and problem solving, Justin is focused on developing technologies that enable people with disabilities to live more freely and independently.



## OUR LEADERSHIP ADVISORY GROUP



Prof. Elizabeth Kendall



Prof. Timothy Geraghty



Dr Dinesh Palipana

### THE HOPKINS CENTRE

#### Professor Elizabeth Kendall | Executive Director

Elizabeth is a rehabilitation psychologist whose PhD was in the area of coping and adjustment following traumatic brain injury. During her research, particularly in rural areas, she learned about innovative ways in which people with disabilities solve complex challenges created by their circumstances. Professor Kendall advocates for solutions that are driven by people who will use them. Through family experience of disability, she knows that many devices and technical solutions are unhelpful and unusable. This drives HabITec's focus on developing methods of citizen engagement in research and design.

#### Professor Timothy Geraghty | Deputy Director

Tim Geraghty is a Rehabilitation Medicine Physician and Medical Chair, Division of Rehabilitation, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Metro South Health. He has been a Staff Specialist in the Queensland Spinal Cord Injuries Service (QSCIS) for almost 20 years. He is also the Deputy-Director of The Hopkins Centre: Research for Rehabilitation and Resilience. He is the immediate Past President, Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, Royal Australasian College of Physicians and was previously Chair of the Faculty Policy and Advocacy and Education Committees. He has recently completed a 5-year stint as inaugural Co-Chair of the Queensland Statewide Rehabilitation Clinical Network and has a keen interest in strategic planning and service development in rehabilitation medicine and other rehabilitation services with the ultimate aim of improving provision of services for people with a disability.

#### Dr Dinesh Palipana OAM | Ambassador

Dinesh was the first quadriplegic medical intern in Queensland, and the second person to graduate medical school with quadriplegia in Australia. Dinesh is currently a resident medical officer at the Gold Coast University Hospital. He is a lecturer at the Griffith University and adjunct research fellow at the Menzies Health Institute of Queensland. He has research interests in spinal cord injury, particularly with novel rehabilitation techniques.

### METRO SOUTH HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SERVICE

**Mary Whitehead**, Occupational Therapy Department Director; **Anne Coccetti**, Allied Health Executive Director; **Phuong Le**, Digital Services & Innovation Manager; **Shaun McKay**, Prosthetics/Orthotics and Podiatry Services Department Director; **Jacqui Mitchell** and **Khanh Nguyen**, Physiotherapy Department; and **Anne Farrell**, Speech Pathology Department, **Dr Leslie Gan**, Rehabilitation Physician.

### GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY, MENZIES HEALTH INSTITUTE QUEENSLAND

**Dr Daniel Harvie**, NHMRC Fellow; **Dr Kara Burns**, Adjunct Fellow; and **Professor Leigh-Ellen Potter**, Griffith IDEA Lab Director.





## OUR COLLABORATORS

HabITec collaborates with a range of partner organisations who are leaders in their field and work with HabITec to adapt and design technologies.

### Foundation Partners

HabITec is a partnership between Menzies Health Institute Queensland at Griffith University and the Occupational Therapy Department and Division of Rehabilitation at Metro South Health.



### Collaborators



Incorporating the Bionics Queensland Award-winning **Brain and Environment Enrichment (BEEHive) program**

## DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF HabITec?

We welcome collaboration to create awareness and knowledge about technology that people with disabilities want and need.

The **HabITec Citizen Challenges** involve users of technology, researchers, developers and other interested people who want to improve access to technologies that meet individual needs. Challenges focus on pivoting existing technology, developing bespoke solutions or sharing first-hand information about what is needed and what works.

To be part of our Citizen Challenges or support to HabITec, please contact:

**Sally Stewart**  
Project Engagement  
The Hopkins Centre

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Connect with the **power of creativity** as people from different skill sets and minds come together to **create solutions.**





## Contact us

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