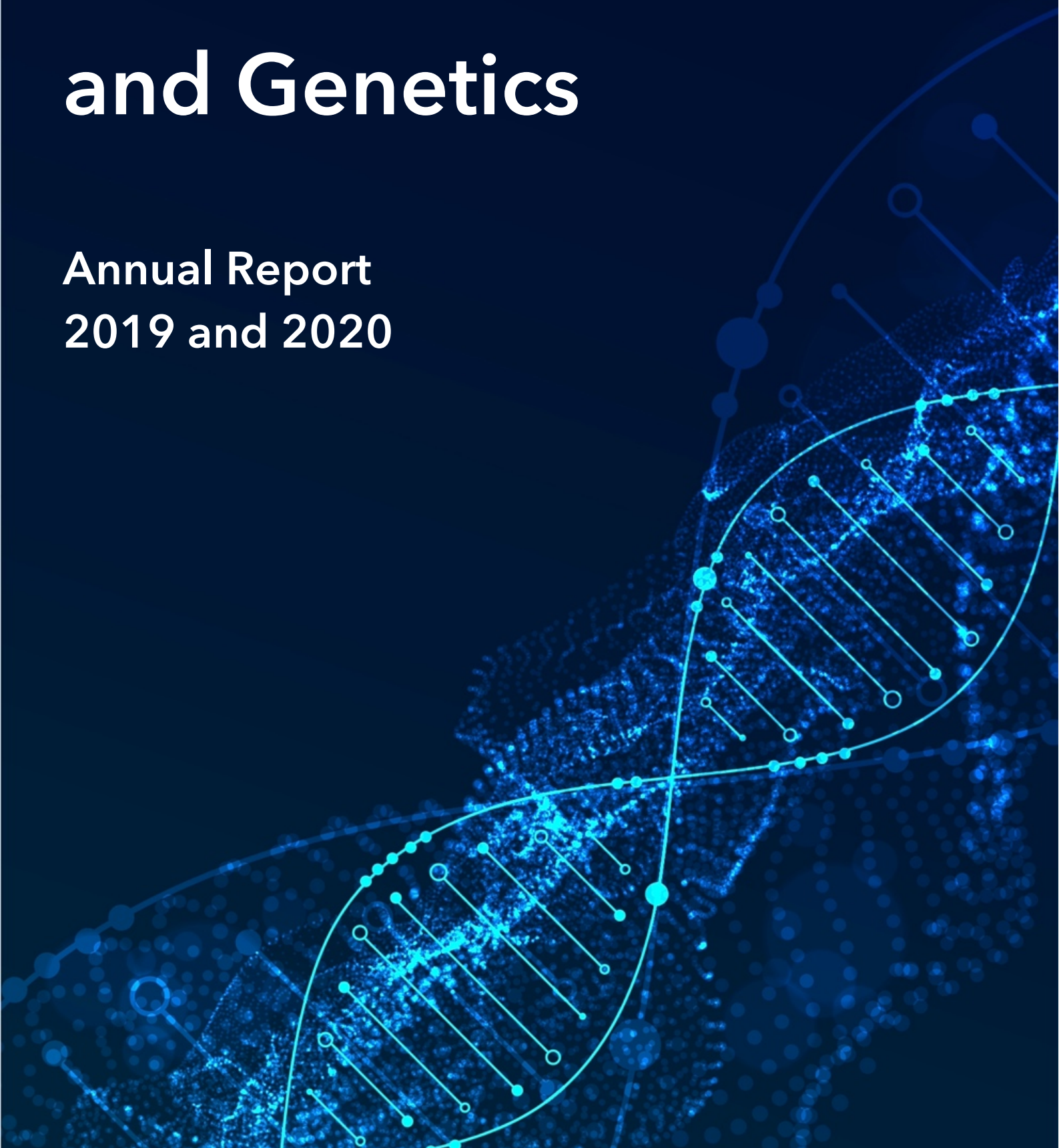
UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

Centre for Law and Genetics

Annual Report 2019 and 2020



From the Director

The Centre for Law and Genetics (CLG) had a productive 2019 and 2020. In this period, we successfully pursued external funding opportunities and continued to publish high-impact research. We also welcomed new personnel, took on external appointments, mentored HDR students and expanded our international network of collaborators. During this time, we also celebrated 25 years of research at the CLG into the ethical, legal and social implications of genetics, genomics and related technologies.

We did this in the shadow of the COVID pandemic. Members of the team who are based in Hobart consider ourselves to be the luckiest people in the world when it comes to the pandemic (and for many other reasons as well). We grieve for each of the 13 people in our state who died and feel for the other 221 people who had the disease but have recovered. We have been infection-free for many months now. Our research plans have inevitably suffered, but not in a significant way. We feel for our less fortunate colleagues.

I am especially pleased to report the award of four grants from the Medical Research Future Fund in 2020. Each project builds on our existing research themes and will be led by a different member of the CLG. In addition to these grants, we collaborated with the University of Melbourne's HeLEX group to carry out an assessment of the regulatory environment for health-related genomic information on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Health.

Throughout 2019–2020, we continued to progress our current ARC Discovery projects, *The Regulatory Environment for Innovative Health Technologies* and *Genomic Data Sharing*. Members of the CLG presented at workshops and conferences hosted in Australia, the United States, Sri Lanka, Italy and the United Kingdom. Three of our PhD students gradated: James Scheibner, Simone Bingham and Jan Charbonneau. We wish them well in their future pursuits. Stephanie Green and Pratap Devarapalli were enrolled as PhD students, and Olugbenga Olatunji and Olumayowa Adesanya submitted their PhDs for evaluation.

The CLG's success over the past two years has been punctuated by difficult farewells. My warmest congratulations to Distinguished Professor Don Chalmers – a luminary of health law and inaugural Director of the CLG – who commenced his retirement in 2020. I am devastated to report the unexpected passing of our dear friend and colleague Professor Christine Critchley, who will be greatly missed. Finally, I would like to give my best wishes to Rebekah McWhirter and Jenny Kaldor, who are moving on to exciting new opportunities in academia and the government.

Highlights

- 2 continuing grants
- 5 new grants
- 2 submissions
- 1 workshop
- 13 presentations
- 15 appointments
- 7 teaching roles
- 7 HDR Candidates
- 3 HDR Completions
- Continued publication in high-ranking journals

Vale Professor Christine Critchley

As 2020 comes to a close, we mourn the passing of our dear and much loved CLG member, friend and colleague, Professor Christine Critchley. Christine passed away suddenly and completely unexpectedly some time during the night between 21 and 22 October this year. I feel her loss particularly keenly. Christine has been a huge influence on me and my work for the past 15 years. All that time ago, back in 2005, she happened to phone me out of the blue to talk about an article I had written with Don Chalmers on public trust and commercialisation of biomedicine. Christine and I have since shared a passion for this topic and have worked tirelessly on it together for each of these last 15 years. Why was it that this single phone call triggered this long lasting and deeply valued collaboration? For some reason I knew from that very first conversation that we were kindred spirits, academic soul mates.

Since 2005, Christine and I have authored 26 journal articles and book chapters together. We have been chief investigators on three Australian Research Council funded projects, and one National Health and Medical Research Council Project. We have jointly supervised two PhD candidates. We were thrilled this year to hear that we had both received funding from the Genomics Health Futures Mission to work on new projects. Christine was to lead one, *Towards a Trusted Genomic Repository: Tackling Commercialisation Fears,* and I the other, *Genome Editing: Formulating an Australian Community Response*, with each of us on the other's team. It deeply saddens me that we won't be able to do this research together. As noted above, our work has focused on the relationship between public trust and commercialisation of biomedical research, particularly genomics, biobanking and stem cell technology. The foundations of our work are perhaps best summed up in our book chapter (largely written by Christine), 'Commercialisation of Genomic Research: the Issue of Public Trust' in Ian Freckleton and Kerry Petersen (eds), *Tensions and Traumas in Health Law* (Sydney: The Federation Press; 2017) Chapter 19.

Christine was everything you would want in a colleague: clever, committed, inspiring, enthusiastic, caring, honest, decent, supportive and, of course, completely and absolutely trustworthy. Christine and I never had a single disagreement. Her work was always brilliant, meticulous, insightful and unique. She was passionate and enthusiastic about her work and love of data. I picture her now, sitting in front of the TV playing around with her stats. More than anything, Christine loved and cared about people, and loved understanding who they are, what they think, and what motivates them to think the way they do. This underpinned so much of her research work, but also so much of the way she worked. She was so caring and supportive of me and my research team, our PhD students and research assistants, everyone.

It has been one of the greatest privileges of my academic life to have been able to work with Christine over the past fifteen years. I am forever grateful that she made that chance phone call. I love her deeply and will miss her terribly.

Distinguished Professor Dianne Nicol, Hobart, December 2020

Congratulations Distinguished Professor Don Chalmers

The following is extracted from Dianne Nicol, Yann Joly, Jane Kaye, Bartha Knoppers, Eric M Meslin, Jane Nielsen, Margaret Otlowski and Kate Warner, "Don Chalmers: His Contributions to Legal Research and Education, Health Law, and Research Ethics, Locally and Globally" (2020) 28 *Journal of Law and Medicine* 289.

Don Chalmers joined the University of Tasmania in 1978 after a period working as a law academic with esteemed colleagues, including David Weisbrot (who, like Don, went on to occupy numerous illustrious positions including Dean of Law at Sydney University and President of the Australian Law Reform Commission), in Papua New Guinea. He held the role of Dean in the Faculty of Law at the University of Tasmania from 1985 to 2010, only interrupted by a short period when the Faculty was merged with the Faculty of Commerce. During that time, he held the position of Associate Executive Dean and then Executive Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Law.

His career has been marked by extraordinary institutional, local, national and international dedication and commitment to the law. His outstanding research in his field of health law and research ethics has been recognised nationally through the award of the Australian Red Cross Distinguished Service Medal in 2010 and the 2015 National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Ethics Award. In recognition of his exemplary service to the University of Tasmania, in 2009 Don was appointed to the role of Distinguished Professor, and in 2010 he received the University of Tasmania Distinguished Service Medal, only the second of such awards since their inception in 2004. Of further note, he has been on the editorial board of the *Journal of Law and Medicine* for more than 20 years. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Research and a Foundation Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law. In 2019 Don was made an officer of the Order of Australia.

In this article, we review some of Don's more memorable contributions, starting from the establishment of the Centre for Law and Genetics (CLG) within the University of Tasmania, expanding out to his broader contributions to the University of Tasmania, the State of Tasmania, the nation of Australia and globally.

Celebrating 25 Years of Research at the CLG

In 2019, the CLG celebrated 25 years of research into the ethical, legal and social implications of genetics, genomics and related technologies. To celebrate this milestone, the CLG hosted a public forum, 'Just Genes: Ethical, Legal and Social Questions for Genetics', where Nicol, Otlowski and Nielsen, with collaborators Associate Professor Yann Joly and Professor Loane Skene, presented. A special report was also written to celebrate the CLG's work over the last 25 years. In the report, Nicol reflected that:

> In 1994, Don Chalmers, Margaret Otlowski and I, together with our collaborator Loane Skene, began to discuss the need to investigate the ethical, legal and social implications (ELSI) of health and genetic technologies, from a distinctly Australian perspective… At the time we were starting our research program, the global Human Genome Project (HGP) was already underway and major funders in the US and Europe committed 3-5% of all HGP funding to ELSI research… Although Australia made no matching ELSI funding commitment, in 1995 the CLG successfully obtained research project funding from the Australian Research Council (ARC) to examine Australian perspectives on the legal and ethical implications of human genetic research. By 1997, we were formally recognised by the University of Tasmania as the CLG.
>
> Advances in genetic technologies have continued apace. As we moved into the genomics era, the post-genomics era and now the precision medicine era, concerns about core ELSI have followed… The overriding aim of our research is to promote effective governance of genetic and other new technologies in healthcare delivery and biomedical research, and to facilitate equitable distribution of benefits, all with a distinctive Australian focus, informed by international developments. The mission of the CLG is to promote safe, ethical, prudent and socially acceptable governance of genetic, genomic and related technologies to support healthcare delivery and biomedical research…
>
> Over the past 25 years, the CLG members have developed and maintained our mission of high quality, evidence-based ELSI research locally, nationally and internationally… The CLG has had a major commitment to national policy debates, including well-cited submissions to public inquiries… Internationally, in addition to research collaborations with leading scholars in the field, we have made contributions to policy development with international agencies such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Health Organisation and UNESCO.
>
> Our CLG team has produced around 250 peer-reviewed articles, books and book chapters… Our CLG work has been published in high impact science journals, including Nature Biotechnology, Science and Nature and in highly ranked Australian law journals including New South Wales Law Journal, Federal Law Review, Melbourne University Law Review, Monash Law Review and Sydney Law Review.

You can read more about the CLG's research themes, key publications, grants, workshops, appointments and collaborators over the last 25 years in the Report, which can be found on the CLG website.

Research Themes

Genomic Data Sharing

Rapid innovation in genomic technology, combined with the dramatic decline in the cost of sequencing data, has resulted in the generation of massive amounts of genomic data. Genomic data sharing (GDS) is becoming an essential component of clinical and research practice. Internationally, legal and quasi-legal requirements may constrain free and open GDS. However, these requirements might also provide the assurances necessary to protect donors, encourage research and innovation, and promote ongoing public trust in GDS activities.

Innovative Health Technologies

Innovative, personalised health technologies are being heralded as solutions to intractable health conditions. Procedures such as genome editing, medicines such as biologics targeted to individual patients, and devices such as 3D-printed biological structures, to name a few, are enhancing our capacity to identify and correct individual bodily defects. The law should play a key role in ensuring that the clinical translation of these technologies is regulated in ways that are responsive to societal values and needs, ensuring safety, effectiveness, access, affordability, allocative efficiency and fairness. While insufficient oversight can impede patient safety, resulting in unnecessary morbidity and mortality, an undue regulatory burden can impede the development of innovative health products and associated heath and economic benefits.

Genome Editing

In recent years there has been a vast improvement in the ability to directly alter the genetic sequence of mammalian cells, particularly through the adaptation of Clustered Regularly Interspersed Short Tandem Repeat (CRISPR) and CRISPR-associated (Cas) systems. This technology is positioned to become as transformative in the laboratory as the polymerase chain reaction, which facilitated rapid multiplication of DNA strands in the 1980s. Although still very much a research tool, CRISPR-Cas has been touted as having potential clinical application in the treatment of cancer and a range of other diseases. These technological advances in genome editing have reignited debates about the potential for therapeutic germline gene therapy, which is currently prohibited in many jurisdictions, and deeper philosophical discussions around the manipulation of human embryos.

Clinical Trials

Inefficiencies in the approval process for new health products can impede patients' access to potentially beneficial treatments. While regulation should promote the translation of new therapies, it must also ensure that novel health products undergo a thorough assessment of their safety, quality and efficacy before reaching the market. Attempts to streamline the scientific evaluation of therapeutic goods raise the question of whether Australia's clinical trials system adequately balances these competing interests.

Project Updates

Genomic Data Sharing

The CLG has continued its research into the legal, ethical and social implications of genomic data sharing as part of its Australian Research Council Discovery Grant. CLG members have been working on issues associated with privacy, research ethics, consent, intellectual property rights and formalised transfers of data and materials in the context of genomic data flows between laboratories, regions, countries and sectors. This analysis is guided by a set of representative data sharing scenarios, and their associated issues, which are based on interviews with a number of practitioners involved in genomic data sharing across a range of areas.

Innovative Health Technologies

The CLG has continued to investigate the regulation of innovative health technologies. In order to supplement its analysis of the regulatory landscape, the CLG has conducted interviews with researchers, clinicians and industry personnel. These data will contribute to an overarching analysis of the regulatory landscape that will form the basis for an interactive online map, designed to assist product manufacturers and suppliers, researchers, patients and government personnel in understanding this complex area. During 2021, the CLG will continue to publish its findings, carry out interviews and refine the interactive map.

New Projects

Assessment of Legislation and Regulations Applying to the Collection and Use of Health-Related Genomic Information

In 2020, Nicol, Chalmers, Otlowski, Nielsen, Eckstein, McWhirter and Kaldor, along with collaborators Professor Jane Kaye, Associate Professor Mark Taylor and Dr Megan Prictor, were awarded a contract with the Federal Department of Health, Government of Australia. Under this contract, the team assessed the legislation and regulations applying to the collection and use of health-related genomic information in Australia.

Genome Editing: Formulating an Australian Community Response

Nicol, along with collaborators Associate Professor Simon Niemeyer, Professor John Dryzek, Associate Professor Nicole Curato, and Sonya Pemberton, and our late and dearly loved colleague Professor

Christine Critchley, was awarded a grant of $460,631 from the Medical Research Futures Fund, Genomic Health Futures Mission – Ethical, Legal and Social Implications for 2020-2022. This grant, which will enable the team to show how effective Australian community engagement can be practised, involves the establishment of a citizens' jury composed of 24 individuals selected for diversity in social characteristics and orientations relevant to the issue of genome editing. This assessment should then feed into and help create a broader citizen-centric public debate that informs future government policy.

Towards a Trusted Genomic Repository: Tackling Commercialisation Fears

Nicol, and collaborators Dr Brad Elphinstone and Associate Professor Mark Taylor, were awarded $484,000 from the Medical Research Futures Fund, Genomic Health Futures Mission – Ethical, Legal and Social Implications for 2020-2022. This project was to be led by Professor Christine Critchley. Her tragic passing has meant that we have had to make some adjustments, but we hope to continue the project in the way that Christine intended. Brad has taken over the role of lead chief investigator. This grant will see the team to provide the Australian Genomics Health Futures Mission with the empirical and doctrinal evidence needed to reduce tension between public trust and industry involvement.

Moratorium on Genetic Testing and Life Insurance: Monitoring the Impact

Otlowski and collaborators Paul Lacaze, Jane Tiller, Associate Professor Kristine Barlow-Stewart, Aideen McInerney-Leo, Professor Louise Keogh, Professor Ingrid Winship, and Martin Delatycki were awarded a Genomics Health Future Mission Project Grant (Ethical, Legal and Social Issues) of $500,000 to monitor the impact of the moratorium on the use of genetic test information by life insurers. The project will evaluate how the moratorium interacts with the uptake of genetic testing for research and clinical purposes among members of the Australian community.

Returning Raw Genomic Data; Patient Autonomy or Legal Minefield?

Nielsen, Otlowski, McWhirter and collaborators Amber Johns, Vanessa Tyrrell, Associate Professor Mark Cowley, Associate Professor Tracy O'Brien and Associate Professor Claire Wakefield were awarded a Genomics Health Future Mission Project Grant (Ethical, Legal and Social Issues) of $388,026 to evaluate whether the Australian legal framework provides sufficient clarity to concerned parties when patients and research participants request the return of raw genomic sequence data. The project, which comprises interview and doctrinal analysis components, will produce a set of recommendations and best practice protocols.

Submissions

- James Scheibner and Nicol prepared a written submission to the Attorney General's Department on the Privacy Act Review (2020)
- Nicol, Eckstein, Kaldor, Nielsen, Cameron Stewart, Narcyz Ghinea, Ian Kerridge, Wendy Lipworth, Jessica Pace and Miriam Wiersma prepared a written submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport Inquiry on the *Approval Processes for New Drugs and Novel Medical Technologies in Australia, with a Particular Focus on those for the Treatment of Rare Diseases and Conditions where there Is High and Unmet Clinical Need* (2020)

Workshops

Genomic Data Sharing Expert Workshop

The CLG held a workshop in April 2019, with the aim of discussing the key issues in genomic data sharing with international collaborators. These collaborators included Associate Professor Yann Joly, Professor Kazuto Kato, Associate Professor Mark Taylor, Dr Megan Prictor, Dr Jessica Bell, Tess Whitton Professor Joanne Dickinson and Tess Whitton. Issues which emerged from the representative data sharing scenarios were discussed, including the impacts of genomic data sharing on public trust, genomic data sharing under the EU General Data Protection Regulation, consent and waivers of consent, return of results and incidental findings and data sharing paradigms.

Presentations

- Nicol presented on the 'Patentability of Bioprinting Technology' to the *2nd Virtual Australian Bioprinting Workshop* (2020)
- Nicol presented on 'The Law on Genetically Modified Organisms Moratoria', *Beyond Politics: Past, Current and Potential Futures for GM Regulation and Oversight in Australia* to the Stretton Institute at the University of Adelaide via webinar (2020)
- Nicol, Kaldor, Nielsen and Cameron Stewart presented on 'Regulating Innovative Medical Technologies' to the *ACES Symposium* at the Australian National University, Canberra (2020)
- Nicol presented on 'Just Genes: Ethical, Legal and Social Questions for Biotechnology', *Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science Seminar on Biotechnology for a Sustainable Future*, Colombo, Sri Lanka (by videoconference) (9 December 2019)
- Nicol presented on the 'The International Patent Landscape for NIPT: a Tale of Three Countries' at the *Wellcome Trust Patents and Emerging Technologies Workshop* in London, UK (20 November 2019)

- Nicol presented on the 'Ethical, Legal and Social Perspectives on Human Genome Editing' at the *15th Australia-China Symposium on Precision Medicine* in Werribee, Australia (6-7 November 2019).
- Nicol presented on 'Reflections on Human Germline Genome Edition Governance' at the *Public Participation in Human Germline Editing Governance*, Innovative Genomics Institute, UC (26-27 October 2019)
- Nicol presented on 'The Power of Sharing to Promote Public Trust: Implications for the Case of Genome Editing Technologies' at *Control and Access: Intellectual Property and CRISPR-Cas Gene Editing for Innovation in Crop Agriculture*, Colorado University (23-25 October 2019)
- Nicol presented on 'Getting Innovative Health Technologies into the Clinic: Ethical, Legal and Social Perspectives' at the *EMBL Australia PhD Course*, Hobart (4 July 2019)
- Nicol presented on 'Regulating Genome Editing' at the *Workshop on the Revolution of Personalized Medicine: Are We Going to Cure All Diseases and at What Price?* The Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Vatican City, Italy (8-9 April 2019)
- Nicol, Otlowski and Nielsen presented at the 'Just Genes: Ethical, Legal and Social Questions for Genetics,' Centre for Law and Genetics' 25th Anniversary Event (2019)
- Otlowski presented on 'Genetic Discrimination and Life Insurance Briefing' for the UTAS Social Sciences HREC (2019)
- Otlowski presented on 'Addressing the Broader Challenges and Issues of Precision Medicine,' on a panel discussing the regulatory, societal, ethical and legal considerations associated with realizing the promise to precision health at the 2020 Academy of Health and Medicine Annual Meeting (2020)

Appointments

- Nicol was appointed as a member of the Independent Advisory Committee for International Cancer Genome Consortium Accelerating Research in Genomic Oncology (ICGC-ARGO) (2020)
- Nicol was inducted as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (2020)
- Otlowski was appointed as a member of the NHMRC Electronic Cigarettes Working Committee 2020 to update the NHMRC's CEO 2017 Statement on Electronic Cigarettes (2020)
- Otlowski was appointed as a member of the Expert Group of the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute investigation into on 'Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Conversion Practices' (2020)
- Otlowski was appointed as a member of the Independent Expert Panel to review Voluntary Assisted Dying Laws (2020)
- Chalmers was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (2019)
- Chalmers was appointed as an Executive Board member of the International Breast Cancer Network (2019)
- Otlowski was appointed as a member of the RANZCO Committee, Future of Ophthalmology Taskforce examining impact of artificial intelligence (2019)

- Otlowski was appointed as a member of the International Expert Panel for the Genetic Discrimination Observatory (2019)
- Eckstein was appointed as Chair of the University of Tasmania Human Research Ethics Committee (2020)
- Nicol was appointed as a member of the Australian Advisory Council on Medicinal Use of Cannabis (2019 –)
- Nicol was appointed as a member of the National Health and Medical Research Mitochondrial Donation Expert Working Committee (2019 – 2020)
- Nicol was appointed as a member of the Expert Advisory Committee for the Federal Government's Genomics Health Futures Mission (2019 –)
- Nicol was appointed as a member of Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnosis Working Group for the Department of Health (2019)
- Nicol was appointed as the Chair of the National Health and Medical Research Council Embryo Research Licensing Committee (2018 –)
- Nicol was appointed as a Herbert Smith Freehills Visiting Scholar at the Law Faculty of Cambridge University (2019)

Teaching

- Eckstein the unit coordinator for LAW252 – Foundations of Private Law (2020)
- Kaldor part of the teaching team for LAW305 – Corporations Law (2020)
- McWhirter unit coordinator for LAW 695 – Law and Ethics of Health Care (2019)
- Nicol and Chalmers unit coordinators for LAW619 – Biotechnology Law (2019)
- Nielsen unit coordinator for LAW256 – Torts (2019–2020)
- Otlowski unit coordinator for the Summer intensive delivery of LAW122 – Legal Systems (2020). Nicol was also part of the teaching team for this unit
- Otlowski was the unit coordinator for LAW181 – Ethics, Social Responsibility and the Law (2020)

HDR Updates

Vannessa Warren

Vanessa's thesis, *Translating public trust to law reform in genomic data sharing*, examines the intersection of public trust in genomic data sharing and the regulatory context governing data sharing practices in Australia. Her research is interdisciplinary, involving both empirical social methodologies, and normative and doctrinal legal analyses. Her supervisors are Nicol, Eckstein and Dr Emily Hansen (Sociology). Her fourth supervisor, Professor Christine Critchley (Swinburne), sadly passed away recently and will be much missed. Vanessa commenced her PhD with the CLG at the end of 2018 and is looking forward to returning after being on leave throughout 2020.

Stephanie Green

Stephanie started her thesis in February 2019, under the supervision of Eckstein, Nicol and Nielsen. Her thesis, entitled *"Waiving, not drowning": using solidarity to address consent issues in genomic data sharing*, aims to examine the ethical issues raised by HRECs and DACs in their assessment of research proposals for genomic data sharing to determine whether consent concerns are one of the primary reasons why these committees delay or reject these proposals. She will argue that an increased focus on including solidarity as one of the criteria against which these proposals are assessed may assist in addressing the concerns these committees have in relation to consent, specifically in terms of their willingness to use "waiver of consent".

Pratap Devarapalli

Pratap Devarapalli commenced his PhD with the CLG in February 2019, under the supervision of Nicol and Nielsen. His research project examines the capacity of the traditional patent system to adapt to such challenges by assessing whether specific subject matter related to 3D bioprinted tissues and bioinks falls within the scope of patentable subject matter and can be considered patentable. The first phase of his research will analyse patentable subject matter requirements and relevant patent jurisprudence in Australia, US and Europe in light of 3D bioprinted tissues and bioinks. In the second phase, his research project will evaluate the patent prosecution history of granted and rejected patent applications to identify the present practice of patent offices on how patent examiners are assessing subject matter requirements to claims directed towards bioprinted tissues and bioinks.

Olumayowa Adesanya

Olumayowa Adesanya commenced her PhD candidature with the CLG in November 2016 and has now submitted her thesis. Her research was conducted under the supervision of Nicol and Nielsen. In her thesis titled 'Patenting Bioprinting: An Ethical Dilemma in the Provision of Accessible Health Technologies', Mayowa examined the patentability of bioprinted constructs and related bioprinting processes across three jurisdictions with divergent approaches to the matter of patentability, namely: Australia, the *European Patent Convention* system, and the United States of America (USA). Noting that the differences in legislative provisions appear to have limited impact on patentability, and in light of evidence that patents have been granted for bioprinted constructs across all three jurisdictions, Mayowa recommends the use of a number of tools in ensuring access to bioprinting. These are *TRIPS* flexibilities, limitation of the scope of patents and industry-driven initiatives. Overall, Mayowa recommends a cautious approach to patenting bioprinting given the absence of evidence to suggest that existing patents are being exploited in a manner that is detrimental to the growth of the bioprinting industry. Mayowa holds an LLB (Hons) from Babcock University and an LLM (Intellectual Property Law) from Queen Mary University of London.

Robin Banks

Robin started her PhD in February 2018, under the supervision of Otlowski and Professor Winnifred Louis (from the University of Queensland). Her thesis, entitled *Prejudice, Stigma and Discrimination Law* aims to reform to discrimination law to encompass understanding of prejudice and discrimination from social psychology.

Olugbenga Olatunji

Olugbenga Olatunji commenced his PhD candidature with the CLG in December 2016 and has recently submitted his thesis for examination. His research examines how the six partner states of the East African Community (EAC) can deploy the WTO TRIPS flexibilities to solve the patent access conundrum within the Community. Beyond relying on compulsory licensing and parallel importation, both of which are currently threatened by free trade agreements, he advocates particularly for the use of TRIPS flexibilities to build a viable local pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity within the EAC. He conducts this research under the supervision of Nicol and Associate Professor Forrest.

Asma Bint Shafiq

Asma started her PhD in November 2017, under the supervision of Otlowski, Dr Susan Bartie, Lecturer and Anja Hilkemeijer. Her thesis is entitled *Human Rights Protections in Bangladesh: The Life of Salma Sobhan* and is a life history of Salma Sobhan, a lawyer, academic, and human rights activist who played a pioneering role in human rights protection in Bangladesh between the late 1970s and 1990s. Asma's thesis examines Sobhan's work and surroundings to provide a stronger understanding of her contributions and to gain a greater appreciation of who she was. Her life history provides a deeper and richer analysis of human rights protection at a national level comprehending law, culture, and politics of Bangladesh. It thesis will argue that the lesson offered by Sobhan's life and work might provoke new ways of thinking about meeting the current challenges of human rights protections in a poor society.

Arpita Verma

Arpita began her PhD in September 2020, under the supervision of Nielsen and Professor Gino Dal Pont. Her thesis is entitled "The Intersection between Privacy and Trade Secret Rights In Video Game Industry" and will address the issue in the video game industry of opposing rights and control exercised by the video game companies and individual gamers over the same personal data of the gamer. She hopes to explore conflict and develop a way to balance it in a just, fair, and equitable manner.

Jürgen Gnoinski

Jürgen Gnoinski joined the CLG in the early July 2016 to undertake a PhD under the supervision of Nicol and Nielsen. The title of this thesis is Australian Designs Law and Virtual Designs. His research is an in-depth analysis of the designs law and copyright, patent and trademark approaches to virtual designs such as Graphical User Interfaces (GUIs) in Europe and the U.S. and their relevance to the Australian approach. Jürgen has BCom (law), LLB, MBA, MSc degrees and recently completed a Masters' degree in Intellectual Property Law at the University of Technology Sydney.

Publications from CLG Members

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