


AHTA 2025 Program

Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, Gold Coast


29th – 31st August 2025

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS: THURSDAY 28 th AUGUST			
12.15 - 1.00 pm		Registration and lunch	
AI in action: Practical skills for hand therapists, Jessica Francis, Occupational Therapist and Director of The Training Club		Room 2	Humanised healthcare – health practitioners’ toolkit for trauma-Informed care, emotion handling skills and workplace wellbeing, Dr Martha Druery, Lumos Trauma Institute
Curious about AI but not sure where to start? This beginner-friendly practical, hands-on workshop is designed specifically for busy hand therapists who want to explore how artificial intelligence can enhance everyday clinical practice. We’ll cover the foundations of AI, ethical considerations, and how to craft effective prompts to get the most out of AI tools. Through live demonstrations, real-world use cases, and guided activities, you’ll build confidence using AI for documentation, clinical education, and professional tasks. You’ll also get a glimpse into where AI is headed in allied health, and walk away with a simple, personalised action plan to start using AI immediately and safely in your own practice.		Research shows that health care professionals experience less burnout and stress in their work when they feel more confident in responding to their patients’ distress. Evidence also suggests that patients experience better outcomes when they receive empathy and ‘emotional resonance’ from their health care providers. Developing your confidence and competence in responding to patient distress and in emotion-handling skills can increase your job satisfaction and well-being as well as promote optimal patient recovery. This half-day workshop offers you a practical, evidence-based toolkit necessary to build that confidence and competence.	
1.00 pm – 3.00 pm	Workshop commences		1.00 pm – 3.00 pm
3.00 pm – 3.30 pm	Afternoon tea		3.00 pm – 3.30 pm
3.30 pm – 5.00 pm	Workshop continues		3.30 pm – 5.00 pm
6.00 pm - 7.00 pm	President’s drinks, Foyer G, Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre (invite only) An acknowledgement and celebration of our course presenter team and volunteers		

CONFERENCE DAY 1: FRIDAY 29 th AUGUST				
7.15 am - 8.00 am	Registration and arrival tea & coffee			Meeting Room Foyer
8.00 am - 10.40am	SESSION 1 Session Chairs: Karina Lewis and Jade Wong			Meeting Room 5-8 <i>Session sponsored by</i> 
8.00 am - 8.10 am	Welcome to Country			
8.10 am – 8.40 am	AHTA President's welcome, Jade Wong <i>Including member recognition – 10 years, 20 years, 30 years and 40 years membership</i>			
8.40 am – 9.10 am	Critical work in Government to support and advance the allied health professions, Anita Hobson-Powell , Chief Allied Health Officer			
9.10 am - 10.10 am	Keynote Address: Advanced practice in the UK – past, present and future, Sarah Mee			
10.10 am - 10.30 am	The human being: the purpose of our work, Dr Dinesh Palipana			
10.30 am - 10.40 am	Panel questions			
10.40 am - 11.10 am	Morning tea & trade exhibition <i>First timers catch-up, meet at the AHTA stand – Katie Stanko and Carla Bingham</i>			Meeting Room Foyer
11.10 am - 12.30 pm	SESSION 2			
11.10 am - 12.30 pm	Concurrent session 2A Room 5 <i>Attendance: In-person</i> Chair: Lauren Miller Negative pressure massage, Angela Thynne Limited to 20 participants Repeated in Session 4 FASCIQ Massage cups <i>sponsored by Thysol</i>	Concurrent session 2B Room 6 <i>Attendance: In-person and virtual</i> Chair: David Coles The role of laser photobiomodulation therapy (PBMT) in the rehabilitation of hands, wrists and upper limbs, Tina Czech	Concurrent session 2C Room 7 <i>Attendance: In-person and virtual</i> Chair: Public health stream Exploring advanced scope hand therapy roles in public health - Shaping the future: Pathways, possibilities, and practical implementation, Barb Hall, Lauren Irvine, Jo Sobb	Concurrent session 2D Room 8 <i>Attendance: In-person</i> Chair: Joy Hanna Poster lightning session *Please refer to the list of presenters at the end of the program
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm	Lunch & trade exhibition			Meeting Room Foyer
12.40 pm - 1.10 pm	Performance Health lunchtime workshop: <i>Emma Ellison</i>			Meeting Room 5

1.30 pm - 3.30 pm	SESSION 3 Session Chair: Luke McCarron and Jo O’Sullivan			Meeting Room 5-8
1.30 pm - 1.50 pm	From curiosity to impact: AI for the busy hand therapist, Jessica Francis			
1.50 pm - 2.10 pm	Healthcare by design: Empathy, innovation, and the future, Professor Evonne Miller			
2.10 pm - 2.30 pm	Value based health care in public health systems, Kath Dalton			
2.30 pm - 2.40 pm	Panel questions			
2.40 pm - 3.00 pm	Diagnostic accuracy of point-of-care ultrasound versus radiographic imaging for paediatric distal forearm fractures, Professor Randy Bindra			
3.00 pm - 3.30 pm	<i>Panel:</i> Art vs. Science: An interactive discussion of hand therapy topics, Assistant Professor Luke McCarron, Professor Randy Bindra, Sarah Mee, Joy Hanna			
3.30 pm - 4.00 pm	Afternoon tea & trade exhibition			Meeting Room Foyer
4.00 pm - 5.20 pm	SESSION 4			
4.00 pm - 5.20 pm	Concurrent session 4A Room 5 <i>Attendance: In-person</i> Chair: Trancy Fong Negative pressure massage, Angela Thynne Limited to 20 participants Repeat of Session 2 FASCIQ Massage cups sponsored by Thysol	Concurrent session 4B Room 6 <i>Attendance: In-person and virtual</i> Chair: Paediatric workshop - practical focus covering assessment for congenital and paediatric fractures, Kath Dalton and Sian Williamson	Concurrent session 4C Room 7 <i>Attendance: In-person and virtual</i> Chair: Lauren Miller Sports and exercise Upper limb injuries in tennis players, Dr Timothy Wood Rehabilitation of the wrist for return to tennis, Anna Wishink	Concurrent session 4D Room 8 <i>Attendance: In-person</i> Chair: Bridging practice and evidence: An introduction to research for hand therapists, Dr Thuy Tran
5.30 pm - 6.30 pm	Welcome reception			Meeting Room Foyer
6.30 pm	Early career members – social event			Loose Moose

CONFERENCE DAY 2: SATURDAY 30th AUGUST

6.15am	Run club – 5km walk or run all welcome – meet at Kurrawa Surf Club, Old Burleigh Road, Braodbeach (North side of building)	
8.00 am - 9.00 am	Registration and arrival tea & coffee	Meeting Room Foyer
8.15 am - 8.45 am	AHTA AGM	Meeting Room 5-8
9.00 am - 10.40am	SESSION 5 Session Chairs: Vicky Allbrook and Carla Bingham	Meeting Room 5-8 Session sponsored by 
9.00 am - 9.50 am	Founders Lecture – Dr Lauren Miller	
9.50 am - 10.10 am	Proximal phalangeal fractures, Associate Professor David Graham	
10.10 am - 10.30 am	Patient-focused care for elbow tendinopathy, Dr Brooke Coombes	
10.30 am - 10.40 am	Panel questions	
10.40 am - 11.10 am	Morning tea & trade exhibition	Meeting Room Foyer
11.10 am - 12.30 pm	SESSION 6 Session Chairs:	Meeting Room 5-8
11.10 am - 11.30 am	Recognising and responding to domestic and family violence in hand therapy practice: Hands-on referral pathways, Jelena Senic	
11.30 am - 11.40 am	Free papers <i>Clinical paper:</i> Optimising processes to improve the patient journey and deliver more efficient clinical services, Jo-Anne Sobb	
11.40 am - 11.50 am	<i>Scientific paper:</i> Range of motion and strength measures in de Quervain's syndrome: a cross-sectional study, Brodwen McBain	
11.50 am - 12.00 pm	<i>Scientific paper:</i> Functional outcomes following conservative management of extra-articular proximal phalanx fractures, Tanya Cole	
12.00 pm - 12.10 pm	<i>Scientific paper:</i> Beyond Physical Recovery: Understanding the Lived Experience of Distal Radius Fracture Recovery within the Australian Healthcare System, Terra Bredy	
12.10 pm - 12.20 pm	<i>Scientific paper:</i> Hand therapy scope of practice and competencies: a scoping review, Tracey Clark	
12.20 pm - 12.30 pm	Panel Questions	
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm	Lunch & trade exhibition	Meeting Room Foyer
12.50 pm - 1.20 pm	OPC Health lunchtime workshop: LymphaTouch Masterclass , <i>Helen Cameron & clinicians</i> Enhance your skills in using the LymphaTouch device with our interactive hands-on training session. The session will provide tips and tricks on how to integrate LymphaTouch into your clinic by working in smaller groups with experienced clinicians	Meeting Room 5
1.30 pm - 2.50 pm	SESSION 7 Session Chair: Cassandra Chiesa	Meeting Room 5-8

1.30 pm - 1.50 pm	The buddy study: Reach, adoption and implementation of a randomised controlled trial on the management of 5th metacarpal fractures, Dr Richard Pellatt			
1.50 pm - 2.10 pm	From a health service drought to a technology tsunami: Providing relevant and accessible care for our rural and remote hand therapy patients, Dr Gail Kingston			
2.10 pm - 2.20 pm	Free papers			
2.20 pm - 2.30 pm	<i>Scientific paper:</i> The use of relative motion orthoses in the management of hand conditions: A 10-year updated scoping review, Melissa Hirth			
2.30 pm - 2.40 pm	<i>Scientific paper:</i> The rural hand therapy service: a novel model of care for rural hand therapy service delivery, Sue Williams			
2.40 pm - 2.50 pm	<i>Clinical paper:</i> In hand: Bridging the gap in psychosocial care for patients with hand injuries related to the use of violence, Karina Lewis			
2.40 pm - 2.50 pm	Panel questions			
2.50 pm - 3.20 pm	Afternoon tea & trade exhibition			Meeting Room Foyer
3.20 pm - 4.50 pm	SESSION 8			
3.20 pm - 4.50 pm	Concurrent session 8A Room 5 <i>Attendance: In-person</i> Chair: Stacey Cross Public health stream Requesting imaging – What is the state of play in hospitals around the country? Jade Wong, Margo Coffey & Ashleigh Andrews	Concurrent session 8B Room 6 <i>Attendance: In-person and virtual</i> Chair: Abbie Waddick Diagnostic ultrasound of the hand and wrist: A Sonographers guide to imaging common pathology, Holly Dalton Ultrasound machine sponsored by Canon Medical	Concurrent session 8C Room 7 <i>Attendance: In-person and virtual</i> Chair: Sally Colwell Wrist practical – assessment, treatment, Sarah Mee	Concurrent session 8D Room 8 <i>Attendance: In-person</i> Chair: Patient privacy and confidentiality, Andrew McKenzie , Maurice Blackburn Lawyers AI in practice, Azmeena Hussain , Maurice Blackburn Lawyers
7.00pm	Conference dinner			Foyer E and F

CONFERENCE DAY 3: SUNDAY 31 ST AUGUST		
8.00 am - 8.30 am	Arrival tea & coffee	Meeting Room Foyer
8.30 am - 10.30 am	SESSION 9 Session Chairs: Lauren Miller	Meeting Room 5-8
8.30 am - 9.20 am	Keynote address: Radiology for therapists, Sarah Mee	
9.20 am - 9.30 am	Q&A Sarah Mee	
9.30 am - 9.40 am	Free papers <i>Scientific paper:</i> Evaluating the effectiveness of a hand therapy-led clinic in managing acute hand fractures: Impact on patient outcomes and healthcare resource utilization, Stephanie Tawse	
9.40 am - 9.50 am	<i>Scientific paper:</i> Understanding occupation-centred practice in hand therapy: A Delphi study of occupational therapists, Jessica Holding	
9.50 am - 10.00 am	<i>Clinical paper:</i> The role of hand therapists in promoting bone health following low-trauma distal radius fractures, Emilie Myers	
10.00 am - 10.10 am	<i>Clinical paper:</i> The impact of custom orthoses on healing timeframes for radial forearm flap donor sites: a mixed-methods, consumer co-designed service evaluation, Frances Thomsen	
10.10 am - 10.20 am	<i>Scientific paper:</i> Rehabilitation following distal triceps repair: a scoping review, Catherine Chong	
10.20 am - 10.30 am	Panel questions	
10.30 am - 11.00 am	Morning tea & trade exhibition	Meeting Room Foyer
11.00 am - 12.30 pm	SESSION 10 Session Chairs: Christina Harwood and Jade Wong	Meeting Room 5-8
11.00 am - 11.20 am	Tips and tricks session	
11.20 am - 11.40 am	Sustainability in healthcare, Emma Kite	
11.40 am - 11.50 pm	Panel questions	
11.50 am - 12.30 pm	2026 Conference announcement	
	Awards & prizes	
	Close of conference	
12.30 pm - 1.00 pm	Lunch	Meeting Room Foyer

Program correct at time of publishing and subject to change.

***Session 2B: Poster Lightning Session – Friday 29th August, 11.10am – 12.30pm**

Poster Title	Presenting Author	Presentation Time	Poster Board
Retrospective evaluation of Allied Health-led management of acute upper limb trauma	Corinne Allsopp	11.10am - 11.15am	13
Teaching Hand Therapy in Ukraine	Anita Clerke	11.15am - 11.20am	14
Identifying Barriers and Enablers to Direct Referral for Hand Therapy at Peninsula Health: Right Care, to the Right Patient, at the Right Time	Rosie House	11.20am - 11.25am	15
Influence of Thumb Splints on Muscle Activity During Functional Tasks	Chi Yan Lam	11.25am - 11.30am	16
Move and Not Move: Benefits of Integrated Approaches in Rehabilitation for Patient Living with Rheumatoid Arthritis After Combined Wrist and Tendon Reconstruction	Chi Yan Lam	11.30am - 11.35am	12
Standardising Hand Therapy Terminology: Enhancing Digital Health Interoperability and Patient-Centred Care	Chen Li	11.35am - 11.40am	17
'Speak easy & work hand in hand': Collaborating with our CALD patients strategies and resources to improve our communication with patients from CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) backgrounds	Magdalene Low	11.40am - 11.45am	01
Patient-rated perceived self-efficacy (SE) and its correlation with functional outcomes post tendon repair in the hand and wrist in flexor zones 1-5 and extensor zones 5-7	Maeve Platt	11.45am - 11.50am	06
Use of Mesalt to promote secondary intention healing in a large hypergranulating wound: A case report	Dion Sandoz	11.50am - 11.55am	18
A simplified-Chinese version of the Patient Rated Elbow Evaluation (PREE): Cross-cultural translation and exploration of the psychometric properties	Germaine Sim	11.55am - 12.00pm	10
The Clinical Course of Ulnar-Sided Wrist Pain following Acute Distal Radius Fractures: An Inception Cohort Study	Nina Thompson	12.00pm - 12.05pm	03
Relative motion flexion orthosis for zone 1-2 flexor tendon repair active range of motion outcomes – a review of 5 participants enrolled in the REFLEX Trial	Meryn Weenink	12.05pm - 12.10pm	08
It's all in the grip: Can a golf specific wrist proprioceptive program prevent injury and improve swing outcomes in the amateur golfer?	Sophie White	12.10pm - 12.15pm	04
Translating Evidence into Practice: Development of a Hand Therapy Protocol Book (2nd Ed) to guide practice at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital	Cherie Aceto	12.15pm – 12.20pm	11
Returning to sport after a Volar Plate injury - a cross-sectional study	Anna Begbie	12.20pm – 12.25pm	05
Diagnosing the data: Understanding our patient population by diagnosis (<i>Virtual presentation</i>)	Lauren Hedge	12.25pm - 12.30pm	19