

The AVATAR Group

Teaching and research to end vascular access complications

Throughout the world, medical treatment for billions of people requires the insertion of an intravascular (IV) catheter into central or peripheral veins.

However, this procedure can be difficult and painful, with 25% to 50% of catheters failing before treatment (eg antibiotics) is completed due to infection, blockage, dislodgement or vessel damage.

Since 2007, the Alliance for Vascular Access Teaching and Research, better known as AVATAR, has been on a mission to put an end to vascular access complications.

Established at Griffith University by world-renowned nurse researcher Professor (Dr) Claire Rickard, today AVATAR is the world's largest research group in this field.

Working through research partnerships with more than 100 hospitals and universities in Australia and internationally, AVATAR is seeking and implementing innovative solutions to reduce common healthcare complications.

With benefits including vastly improved patient comfort and treatment in addition to huge reductions in healthcare costs, this work is vital, global and ongoing. But support is essential.

AVATAR relies on competitive research funding from government and charitable organisations, as well as donations from individuals and industry. We receive no recurrent funding from any source.

Your generosity ensures the AVATAR mission can continue. Thank you.

AVATAR is a respected, independent research group specialising in highly credible scientific vascular access device research. It has six key focus areas:

1 Experimental Laboratory

Science (XLabS): Why do devices fail? AVATAR XLabS seeks to understand the vein, device and therapy interaction to establish which new approaches should be tested in clinical trials.

2 Paediatrics and Neonates: Sick children rely on IV catheters for life-saving medical treatment. With our partners, AVATAR tests products in careful, randomised controlled trials, all part of our dedication to implementing new knowledge into the paediatric and neonatal clinical environment.

3 Dressing and Securement: Ineffective dressings and securements are a major reason for IV catheter failure. AVATAR tests products across many patient groups and device types, our vision being to end suffering and waste from IV failure.

4 Patency, Flushing and Blood Sampling:

AVATAR research increases understanding of the mechanisms of flushing, drawing blood tests and preventing catheter blockage. Our findings provide essential evidence to guide professional practice and improve patient outcomes.

5 Devices and Therapy: New technologies and therapies related to vascular access are continually being developed. AVATAR research aims to improve ease and accuracy of insertion, improve device functionality, and reduce the risk of injury to patients and health professionals.

6 Education and Evidence-based

Practice: Robust research evidence only exists for a small number of vascular access interventions, but even this is not consistently or quickly applied in practice. AVATAR collaborates with clinicians and consumers to transform existing and new knowledge into practice.

Your support

By donating to AVATAR, your support helps us to continue finding ways to reduce the pain, suffering and waste associated with IV catheter failure in all areas of health care.

For more information on supporting AVATAR research, contact:

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'Each week we have hospitals worldwide telling us they have changed their standard of practice, and their policies, based on AVATAR's research'

– Professor (Dr) Claire Rickard

