



# From big things other things grow!

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## NCREN was Australia's first Centre of Research Excellence in Nursing funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

The centre was funded for six years (2010-16) and charged with providing evidence to improve the care of hospitalised patients who experience pain and anxiety, or those who have compromised skin integrity from surgical wounds, pressure injury or vascular access devices.

As the centre comes to the end of its time, it can count many successful outcomes, including knowledge generation and synthesis through trials and systematic reviews, publications and presentations, and the development of research themes and researchers.

## Vascular access use in Australia

Modern medicine is unimaginable without vascular access devices.

They are used across disciplines, specialities, and age groups to deliver essential fluids and drugs and facilitate vital monitoring and sampling.

It is estimated that just under 30 million vascular access devices are used annually in Australia. The vast majority are peripheral intravascular catheters (AIHW 2014).

However, despite their widespread use they are not without risks or complications.

Infections can vary from 0.01%-26% and failure ranges from 15-66% (Maki et al. 2006, Baskin et al. 2009, Bausone-Gazda et al. 2010, Rickard et al. 2012).

These complications are all associated with significant morbidity, costs and mortality (Maki et al. 2006).

However, many are preventable with the right practice and products.

NCREN researchers have strived to eliminate ineffective practices and replace them with innovative solutions, thereby

providing a better healthcare experience, and saving hundreds of millions of dollars.

The group is currently seeking funding for a dedicated Centre of Research in Vascular Access.

For more information visit

 [www.avatargroup.org.au](http://www.avatargroup.org.au)

## Australian Vascular Access Society

NCREN's outcomes have contributed to the establishment of Australia's first dedicated Vascular Access Society (AVAS).

AVAS was officially founded in August 2010 to promote the emerging vascular access specialty.

It is a multidisciplinary membership that seeks to shape practice and enhance patient outcomes, and partner with the device manufacturing community to bring about evidence-based innovations in vascular access.

For more information visit

 [www.avas.org.au](http://www.avas.org.au)

## Coming in April: first ever Vascular Access Scientific Meeting

Later this year, Brisbane will host Australia's first dedicated Scientific

Meeting for vascular access, to be held at the Brisbane Convention Centre, 29-30 April 2016.

This meeting will provide a thought-provoking and challenging program, delivered by local and international speakers.

The program will include presentations by experts and leaders, as well as pre-meeting workshops and poster sessions.

This is an opportunity no health care professional working in the field should miss!

For further information visit

 [www.avatargroup.org.au](http://www.avatargroup.org.au) ■

## References

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**AVAS ASM 2016**  
Intravascular Line Savers are Life Savers

Hosted by  
the Australian Vascular Access Society,  
you are invited to attend their  
**1st Vascular Access Scientific Meeting**

29 - 30 April 2016  
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre  
Queensland, Australia

Join the conference mail list:  
<http://goo.gl/forms/vEnwFwq7Ro>

 #AVASociety  #AVAS16