

Curriculum Vitae

Dr Magdalena Simonis
MBBS FRACGP DRANZCOG MHHS

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Personal Statement

I'm a dedicated full-time GP of 30 years with a deep and diverse involvement across many sectors of the RACGP and an array of community organisations. My strength and efficacy stem from my passion for health and my pride in being a general practitioner.

For the past 20 years, I have taken the role of the GP outside of the consultation room, advocating for the role of the GP whilst building relationships with stakeholders, government and policy makers and have co-designed their health initiatives. These have forged mutually beneficial relationships.

I have promoted the RACGP to national and international audiences and have steered and authored RACGP guidelines whilst conducting research, producing education modules, completing a fulltime online Masters in Health and Human Services and working fulltime in general practice, doing the work I love.

The time has come to focus the full strength of my leadership skills towards serving the RACGP and its members. Together we can get to the heart of issues within the health system and work with others to develop workable and lasting solutions.

Board Positions and Directorships

- President, Victorian Medical Women's Society
- Founding Member, Victorian Primary Care Practice-based Research Network (VicReN), University of Melbourne
- Board Member, Women's Health Victoria
- Board Member, National Hearing Health Advisory Panel
- Chair, RACGP Women in General Practice (WIGP)
- Co-Chair, Scientific and Research Subcommittee, Medical Women's International Association
- National Coordinator, Australian Federation of Medical Women
- Strategy and Policy Advisory Board, Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA)
- Advisory Board, Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority (VARTA)

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- Steering Committee, RANZCOG Endometriosis Online Learning Resources (EOLRSC)
- Victorian General Practice Network, Australian Medical Association (AMA)

Qualifications

- Masters of Health and Human Services, University of Melbourne, 2020
- Advanced Certificate of Implementation Science, University of Melbourne, 2019
- Advanced Certificate in Service Navigation, University of Melbourne, 2018
- Fellow Royal Australian College General Practitioners, 1993
- Diploma of Obstetrics Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 1991
- Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) University of Melbourne, Faculty of Medicine, 1986

Employment

- General Practitioner
- RACGP Examiner
- RACGP GP Trainer & Facilitator
- GP Facilitator, Sustainable Primary Care Family Violence Model Project, University of Melbourne and Primary Health Networks

Service to the RACGP and GP Profession

- Founding Member, RACGPHealth Informatics Special Interest Group
- RACGP *White Book (Domestic and Family Violence)* Expert Advisory Group, clinical expert
- Primary Health Care 10-Year Plan Roundtable LGBTI
- RACGP Endorsed representative expert working group which convenes to provide advice to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) on matters relating to breast implant devices (TRIM)
- RANZCOG Endometriosis Online Learning Resources Steering Committee (EOLRSC), in line with the Government's National Action Plan on Endometriosis
- RACGP endorsed representative on The Sustainable Primary Care Family Violence Model Advisory Committee, which includes with The University of Melbourne and Victorian Primary Health Networks
- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare, National Health Reform reference group member, providing expert advice from primary care perspective to the Transvaginal Mesh reference group
<https://meshinjuredaustralia.org.au/racgp-royal-australian-college-of-gps/>

- RACGP endorsed representative to the National Framework for Gynaecological Cancer Control
- RACGP endorsed representative to liaise with Department of Health and Human Services Victoria on improving access to reproductive health services
- RACGP endorsed representative to Australian Senate enquiry on the National Cancer Screening Register Bill 2016 and National Cancer Screening Register
- RACGP Red Book reviewer, Women's Health chapter
- Authored the RACGP Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery resource for general practitioners and other health professionals. A world first and received worldwide media attention for its relevance to primary care and women's health
- Expert Committee RACGP Quality Care
- Expert Committee RACGP e-Health
- Electronic Medication Profile Working Group, collaborating with Australian Digital Health Agency (*formerly National Electronic Health Transition Authority*)
- Australian Digital Health Agency (*formerly National Electronic Health Transition Authority*) GP liaison

Appointments

Academic

- Senior Honorary Clinical Research Fellow, Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne
- Medical Student Teaching, University of Melbourne, Melbourne Medical School

Clinical

- Shared Antenatal Care, Royal Women's Hospital, Monash Medical Centre, Mercy & Werribee Hospitals, 1991 – current
- RACGP *White Book* Expert Advisory Group. The guide for GPs on Domestic and Family Violence, 2020
- RANZCOG - Endometriosis Online Learning Resources Steering Committee (EOLRSC), 2018-2020
- The Sustainable Primary Care Family Violence Model Advisory Committee, 2018
- GP Facilitator on the Sustainable Primary Care Family Violence Model Project, 2018
- Northern Hospital (formerly Preston and Northcote Community Hospital) and Western Hospital, 1987-1995

Other

- Frontiers Editorial Board

- SPHERE NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence, COVID-19 coalition, advocating for sexual and reproductive health services
- Signpost Steering Committee, involved in the development of a tailored integrated supportive intervention for women with metastatic breast cancer, joint project between Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute and University of Melbourne
- Cabrini Asylum Seeker and Refugee Health Hub
- Drinkwise National Ambassador
- Editorial Committee, Leading Issues Journal, Australian Centre for Leadership for Women
- The Greek Conference Group Organising Committee: collaborations and challenges faced in the fields of medicine, law and science. Funds raised donated to Murdoch Research Institute for Thalassaemia

Awards

- General Practice and Primary Health Care Academic Centre Award, for Excellent Contribution to Student Research by a Primary Care Practitioner, 2013
- Women's Health Victoria, named 'Take a Stand champion', for the successful promotion of the *Take A Stand* programme, for the primary prevention of violence against women, 2013

Media

A regular contributor to RACGP *NewsGP*, *Medical Republic*, *Medical Observer*, Bauer media publications – *Yours*, *New Idea*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Women's Weekly*; *Prevention* magazine; ABC Radio National.

- BMJ Open third most read article, October 2016
<http://blogs.bmj.com/bmjopen/2016/11/08/top-10-most-read-the-male-female-gap-in-alcohol-use-requests-for-genital-cosmetic-surgery-and-opposition-to-standardised-tobacco-packaging-in-the-uk/>

Books/Chapters

- 2019 Cambridge University Press, *Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery: Solution to What Problem?* edited by Professor Sarah Creighton & Dr Lih-Mei Liao
- Chapter 12, *Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery and the role of the General Practitioner*, by Dr Magdalena Simonis
- 2019 RACGP *Silver Book* edited chapters on Mental health and Dermatology
- 2016 RACGP *Red Book* editing of Women's Health chapter
- Conducted review of National Cancer Council PAP smear guidelines, jointly with Professor Danielle Mazza

- 2016 Edited ‘*My Journey*’ Breast cancer book which is delivered annually to around 15,000 newly diagnosed women with breast cancer and ‘*Hope and Hurdles*’ guide-book for women with metastatic breast cancer
- 2015, Authored the RACGP Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery resource for general practitioners and other health professionals.
<https://www.racgp.org.au/clinical-resources/clinical-guidelines/key-racgp-guidelines/view-all-racgp-guidelines/female-genital-cosmetic-surger>
- 2013 October 15th, published article: ‘*History of the Victorian Medical Women’s Society*’ by Dr M Simonis, in ‘Strength of Mind – 125 years of University of Melbourne Medical Women Alumni’- University of Melbourne Press publication
- 2017, *Drip’s Big Journey*, a children’s book outlining the water cycle. Illustrated by Artemis Siourthas <https://www.amazon.com/Drips-Big-Journey-Magdalena-Simonis/dp/0646970135>

Research Publications/Citations

- 2016 September, Publication: Simonis M, Manocha R, Ong JJ. Female genital cosmetic surgery: a cross sectional survey exploring knowledge, attitude and practice of general practitioner. *BMJOpen*; DOI: doi:10.5061/dryad.b16n8
- Journal manuscript number: bmjopen-2016-013010.R1
- 2016 June, Publication: Howarth C, Temple-Smith M, Simonis M, Hayes J. What are young women’s views on ‘normal’ and ‘desirable’ vulval anatomy? Available from:
https://www.eiseverywhere.com/file_uploads/ed79ecbebf9c6e149a40a8b9f0263226_PosterNumber_75.pdf. *Journal of Culture, Health and Sexuality*
- 2015 November Publication: Harding T, Hayes J, Simonis M, Temple-Smith M. Female genital cosmetic surgery: Investigating the role of the general practitioner. *Aust Fam Physician*. 2015;44(11):822-5.
- 2013 December –publication: ‘Take a Stand’ presentation - Leading Issues Journal, Australian Centre for Leadership for Women
- 2013 April - PapScreen Victoria Speculum eNewsletter - Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery, cited from paper ‘Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery, Brazilian Waxes and the GP’, by Dr Magdalena Simonis.

Journal reviewing

- Frontiers, Review Editor on the Editorial Board of Women's Mental Health (specialty section of Frontiers in Global Women's Health)
- International Journal of Marriage and Sexual Relationships
- European Medical Journal Reproductive Health Peer Review Panel
- Nature Journal

Presentations

- 2020, 17 June: GP speaker/advisor *Everything you want to know about male fertility* | Healthy Male Men's Health Week 2020. Andrology Australia Initiative promoting men's health <https://www.healthymale.org.au/mens-health-week>
- 2020, 12 June WHISM (Women's Health Interest Students Monash) Careers Speaker night
- 2020, Coordinated and hosted an interactive Leadership Workshop for Medical Women, for Victorian Medical Women's Society, Women's Health Victoria 5th March 2020
- 2020, 27th February, 3RRR interview <https://www.rrr.org.au/explore/programs/max-headroom/episodes/10893-max-headroom-27-february-2020>
- 2019, Female genital cosmetic surgery: how to address genital anxiety and requests for surgery from teenagers in general practice: key-note speaker and poster presentation. 19th FIGIJ World Congress on Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology Congress Melbourne, 30 November – 3 December 2019
- 2019, July 25-28th, poster presentation: *Introduction of a Hospital Doctor Strengths-based Mentoring Programme (SBMP)*, Medical Women's International Association Centennial conference, Marriott Hotel, Brooklyn New York
- 2019, March 28th, St Vincent's Hospital speaker at Hospital *How We Do What We Do*, hosted by VMWS
- 2019, March 23rd, RACGP House, *Planning for the Unplanned, addressing issues of abortion laws and access for women in Australia. A guide for GPs* on how to navigate 1800 MyOptions and support patients seeking help
- 2019, March 13th, Andrology Australia webinar *Incorporating fertility and preconception health education into your practice*, VARTA and Andrology Australia http://storage.rdbk.com.au/webinar/20190318_ANDROLOGY_1900rb2.mp4
- 2018, October 11-13, GP18: oral presentation: *Labiaplasty: factors leading to increased requests amongst women from a survey of GP experience*
- 2018, June 27th, Webinar, Mental Health Professionals Network (MHPN), *Identifying Body Dysmorphic Disorder and Psychological Assessments for People Seeking Cosmetic Surgery*
- 2017 November 7, Australasian Sexual Health Conference oral presentation; *Labiaplasty: factors leading to increased requests amongst women from a survey of GP experience* Canberra Convention Centre
- 2017 August, *AMA Women in Practice*, AMA Building Your Practice conference. Melbourne Exhibition Centre
- 2016 July 31st Medical Women's International Association triennial symposium oral presentation; *Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery and the issues for the General Practitioner in its management*
- 2016 March 5th: oral presentation *Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery: What GPs should know*, HealthEd Women's Health Update, Melbourne Convention Centre.

- 2015 23rd September GP15 conference Melbourne. Presentation: *'RACGP Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery resource, a guide for GPs and other health professionals'*
- 2015 September 13th -15th, World STI and HIV Congress, Brisbane, Poster P013 Presentation: *Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery toolkit*
- 2015 August 8th HealthEd Perth, oral presentation: *Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery – what the GP should know*
- 2015 April 24 - 26 Western Pacific Regional Conference of the Medical Women's International Association Taipei, Taiwan. Presentation: *Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery - the General Practitioner and Health Professional's toolkit*
- 2015 April 15, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists World Congress, joint RCOG/RANZCOG event Brisbane Convention Centre presentation: *Labiaplasty, The Primary Care Perspective*
- 2015 April 15, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists World Congress joint RCOG/ RANZCOG event Brisbane Convention Centre, presentation: *Neat and Pink and Tucked Away – Young Women's Views on Vulval Anatomy* C.Howarth, M.Simonis, M.Temple-Smith, J.Hayes
- 2015 April 15, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists World Congress joint RCOG/RANZCOG event Brisbane Convention Centre, presentation: *Management of Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery by Health Practitioners* T.Harding, M.Simonis, C.Howarth, M.Temple-Smith, J.Hayes
- 2014 October GP14 Conference, Adelaide, poster presentation: *Mentoring Women GPs*, K Price, M Simonis, L Moran
- 2014 September 25, presentation: The Greek Conference, Costa Navarino *Addressing young women's desire for genital beauty*
- 2014 September 4, live webinar: *Your Fertility*, a government funded national Fertility Week program, co-host Prof K Stern
- 2014, RACGP Women in General Practice annual conference at Como, South Yarra.: *'Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery, Brazilian Waxing and the GP: how to address young women's desire for genital beauty.'* Dr M.Simonis
- 2014 United Nations 58th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) New York presentation: *'Toward the MDGs- Australia's contribution to women's health and caring'* Dr M.Simonis
- 2013, 57th Commission on the Status of Women United Nations New York, oral presentation, *"Take a Stand: primary prevention of violence against women"*
- 2013, Australasian Sexual Health Conference, Darwin - *'Addressing young women's desire for genital beauty.'* Novel pilot study of beauty therapists, exploring their role in educating women around genital diversity, Dr M.Simonis
- 2013 GP education video: collaborated with production of and featured in video *Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions*, <http://www.racgp.org.au/your-practice/e-health/electronic-medication-management/etp/>
- 2012 November 17th – presentation Cabrini Hospital Melbourne: *'E- Health - the Next Generation'*, discussing the need to explore M- Health (mobile health applications) with a view to addressing the climb in non-communicable diseases

- 2011 September - The 8th Greek Conference Rhodes, presentation: '*E-Health in Australia: how ready are we? A General Practice perspective*' Dr M.Simonis

Research

- 2019, Service navigation as an adjunct to chronic disease management in Australian general practice, M Simonis. Health and Human Services Research Project In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Master of Health and Human Services
- 2017-2018, University of Notre Dame Australia: Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Australian Medical Students' Knowledge & Awareness
- Human Research Ethics Committee reference number: 017091S. N Chaudhry, Dr M Simonis, A/Prof Charlotte Hespe
- 2015 *Female genital cosmetic surgery and the role of the General Practitioner in its management* Host Department: Alfred Hospital, Project number: 348/15 Dr M. Simonis, Dr J. Ong, Dr R. Manocha
- 2014, *Mentoring Medical Women*, Host Department: RACGP, Dr M Simonis, Dr K Price, Dr L Moran

Memberships

- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- Australian Menopause Society
- Australian Medical Association
- Health Informatics Society Australasia
- Australasian HIV and Sexual Health Association
- Sexual Health Society of Victoria

Volunteering

- Cabrini Asylum Seeker and Refugee Health Hub
- Australian Greek Welfare Society
- Victorian Medical Women's Society
- Melbourne Baroque Orchestra (*Founding Patron*)
- Women's Health Victoria
- Australian Federation of Medical Women

Languages spoken

- English
- Greek
- German