



# Embracing diversity in healthcare

## Princess Alexandra Hospital Online Health Symposium

24–27 August 2021

This year the symposium is a fully online, virtual experience on **zoom**

Kurt Aaron Oration:

# Merit is a myth

FRIDAY 27 AUGUST | 8.30AM–10AM | VIA ZOOM VIDEO WEBINAR



**Merit is a myth: Are they really the right person for the job or do they just look like you?**

Australian culture has perpetuated a **she'll be right, mate** ethos that frequently enables sexism, ableism, racism and homophobia. Systems that prioritise elite performance – particularly medical speciality training, professional sport, and creative industries – also frequently disadvantage people who look, sound or think 'differently' and preclude

**Dr Bridie O'Donnell**

Executive Director, Public Events Team, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, VictoriaCenter Mercy Hospital

advancement of all women to positions of leadership in these industries. By acknowledging our unconscious biases and being more comfortable to be challenged, we will see greater performance from all our teams.

View the full program and register online at [www.pahsymposium.com.au](http://www.pahsymposium.com.au)



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## 2021 Keynote speaker

Kurt Aaron Orator

### Dr Bridie O’Donnell

*Executive Director, Public Events Team  
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, Victoria*

Dr Bridie O’Donnell graduated from the University of Queensland Medical School in 1999. Between 2000 and 2006 she was a rower and competed in Ironman triathlon, finishing the Ironman Hawaii World Championships in 2006.

In 2007, she began road cycling and in 2008 after winning the National Time Trial title, she raced in the Australian National Team and Professional teams in Europe and the United States, representing Australia at three World Championships between 2008-2012.

Dr O’Donnell returned to full time work in 2013, starting at Epworth HealthCheck and teaching doctor-patient communication at Deakin University Medical School. In 2014, Bridie took on an inaugural role as a breast physician at the Epworth Breast Service.

From 2013-2017, Bridie managed and raced for Rush Women’s Team in the Cycling Australia National Road Series. In 2016, she broke the UCI Hour World Record at the Adelaide SuperDrome, riding 46.882km.

In November, 2017, Bridie was appointed the inaugural Head of the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation by the Victorian Government and in 2018, “Life and Death – a cycling memoir” was published, detailing her experiences as a professional cyclist in Europe.

From May 2020, she has been on secondment as Executive Director of Public Events for Victoria, overseeing the return of COVIDSafe Events across the state.

In 2021 Bridie graduated with an Executive Master of Public Administration from ANZSOG and the University of Melbourne.