

Welcome

2020 Annual Report

Publication date: 26 February 2021

The eGFR Study is a longitudinal study of kidney health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Since the baseline study (2007-2011), we have been working with communities and clinicians across 5 regions of Australia.



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In this edition of eGFR Study News, we highlight key activities during 2020.

The eGFR3 Study was funded for five years (2020 to 2024). All research at Menzies and the Top-End was delayed during 2020 due to coronavirus pandemic in Australia and the world. The study funder, the NHMRC allowed eGFR Study to suspend the study funding, as we were not allowed to visit communities for study discussions.

Our research team members and governance groups met in small groups and we used online meetings.

We thank Tracy Turnbull, the eGFR Study Project Manager, who joined our team in May 2020, for her excellent leadership in developing the eGFR3 Study protocol, and the study governance process and ethics application. Tracy has now moved interstate, and we are looking to appoint another person to the role of eGFR Study Project Manager.

Research Ethics

The eGFR Study has maintained ethics approval in all the study regions since the study began in the Top-End Northern Territory in 2007.

As we have worked before, the eGFR Study team plan to meet up with eGFR3 Study participants in Top-End NT in 2021, and then visit Central Australia, Thursday Island and North Queensland, and Western Australia.

In February 2021, we received advice the eGFR3 Study research plan, ethics application and study protocol had been endorsed with full approval from the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of the Northern Territory (NT) Department of Health and Menzies School of Health Research.

Information about the eGFR Study is found at www.menzies.edu.au/eGFR or using the QR code



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The eGFR3 Study is recognised by the NHMRC for research excellence

In March 2020, the National Health and Medical Research Council invited Dr Hughes to Canberra. She was going to be presented with a Clinical Trial and Cohort Grant Scheme Research Excellence Award for the eGFR3 Study.

To celebrate this event, Dr Hughes spoke with Larrakia Radio (Darwin), ABC Pacific News (radio), and was interviewed by ABC News (Darwin TV).



Prof Bruce Robinson, Chair NHMRC Council congratulates Dr Hughes on the Research Excellence Award

eGFR3 Study- 4 key research questions

- What is the long-term change in kidney function since the first kidney health assessment in 2007-2011?
- Was there any major change in kidney function for people who were healthy, or had diabetes, or had mild-moderate kidney damage since the first kidney health assessment?
- What are common reasons people with kidney disease access hospital care?
- What are the impacts of an Indigenous-led eGFR3 Study governance model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kidney health?

Developing kidney health knowledge

- Dr Majoni published a [journal article](#) in December 2020. This article showed the blood test for liver function could show some people lost kidney function during the 3 years between eGFR Study baseline and follow-up.
- Dr Barr is writing a journal article about how a blood test for inflammation (called KIM-1) is related to change in kidney function; Dr Hughes is writing about the relationship of socio-economic status and change in kidney function.
- We will share this kidney health knowledge at the eGFR Study Symposium in Darwin.

Planned activities for 2021

- We are growing our research team. This will include the project manager, and a clinician research officer.
- We will invite expressions of interest for additional members to join the eGFR3 Study community governance group.
- We will train our staff in the research protocol, and confirm with local clinics in the Top End, that we are ready to start contacting eGFR Study participants.
- We will plan and prepare to host the eGFR Study Symposium. This is scheduled for August 2021, in Darwin.