

**THE  
ORIGINS  
PROJECT**



**TELETHON  
KIDS  
INSTITUTE**  
Discover. Prevent. Cure.



**Joondalup  
Health Campus**  
Part of Ramsay Health Care

# The ORIGINS Project Research Interest Groups TERMS OF REFERENCE

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## Version history:

|            |     |                |                                     |
|------------|-----|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2016-03-21 | 1.0 | Initial Draft  | Lyn Colvin                          |
| 2016-05-18 | 1.1 | Addition of IP | Erika Hagemann                      |
| 2021-02-03 | 2.0 | Revised Draft  | Erika Hagemann and Alexia Bivoltsis |

## Table of Contents

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. The ORIGINS Project .....                    | 3 |
| 2. Purpose of the Research Interest Groups..... | 3 |
| 3. Membership.....                              | 4 |
| 4. Responsibilities and Expectations.....       | 4 |
| 5. Meetings .....                               | 5 |
| 6. Operating Procedures .....                   | 5 |
| 7. Member Details .....                         | 6 |

## 1. The ORIGINS Project

The ORIGINS Project (ORIGINS) is a birth cohort study, designed to collect detailed information about how the early environment influences the risk of a broad range of early and later onset diseases including asthma, allergies, diabetes, obesity and its many complications. We will recruit women and their partners early in pregnancy and collect data on their health, diet, physical activity patterns and a range of factors in their environment. We will then assess how these early life exposures influence their child's growth, development, and health (including neurodevelopment, evidence of allergies, infections, and other medical history).

VISION: Happy people building healthy communities across the planet that empower us to realise our potential.

### STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES:

- Build a dynamic research platform to enable global health transformation (capacity).
- Provide responsive feedback to families and the community to facilitate change now (action).
- Collaborate globally and locally to extend our impact and reach (connectivity).
- Apply new technologies to accelerate and amplify change (creativity and ingenuity).
- Nurture and share a legacy that inspires global change, growth, sustainability and scalability (love, joy and awe).

### AIMS:

1. Improve the health of the next generation through optimising the early environment (on all levels), early identification and timely intervention.
2. Develop an extensive Biobank and Databank (research platform).
3. Make change: harmonised nested interventions clinical trials community-based programs.
4. Incorporate real time feedback: to participants and health systems.
5. Utilise new technology platforms for personalised medicine: examine complex biological interactions (P4 'omics) in relation to bio-psycho-social determinants.
6. Integrate medical education, research and clinical care at the hospital.
7. Collaborate closely with other national and international cohort studies.

ORIGINS is a shared community asset from which everyone can benefit. The success of ORIGINS is built on mutual respect, communication and cooperation. Territorialism and internal competition limit individuals and the whole project. All aspects operate synergistically, and no aspect can operate in isolation. Refer to The ORIGINS Project Collaboration Policy (<https://originsproject.telethonkids.org.au/for-collaborators/>) for further information about collaboration and engagement with ORIGINS, including the conditions, behaviours, expectations and processes for all activities undertaken and requests for access to the cohort, project resources, and/or data

## 2. Purpose of the Research Interest Groups

The ORIGINS Project has facilitated the establishment of numerous Research Interest Groups (RIGs). The purpose of the ORIGINS RIGs is to facilitate new evidence, information and research opportunities in connection with The ORIGINS Project; enable and support collaboration between researchers and The ORIGINS Project; and provide a medium for research dissemination associated with The ORIGINS Project. Researchers wishing to access, utilise or collect data from the ORIGINS Cohort and Database must be an ORIGINS Research Interest Group member and collaborate with other Research Interest Group members to promote cross collaboration and harmonisation with ORIGINS, other current sub-projects, researchers, clinicians, and community members.

Our goal is to facilitate the development of rigorous, competitive, and inclusive applications, including research proposal and funding applications. It is recommended that potential project applications are presented at a relevant Research Interest Group meeting. Researchers undertaking a nested sub-project within ORIGINS are expected to continue to be involved with the RIGs and provide some ongoing feedback of their sub-project and contribution to their relevant RIG research domain/s.

Various RIGs have been established and continue to evolve according to the research domains, needs, and directions of the ORIGINS Project. In 2020 a Collaborative RIG was formed that invites participation from all domain specific RIGs to encourage cross collaboration. At RIG meetings, guest speakers and presentations from students, international researchers and community members are encouraged. Potential future sub-project ideas do not need to be fully formed prior to presentation at a RIG meeting, and it is preferable to discuss sub-project ideas early to encourage collaboration and harmonisation during the planning stages. Refer to the ORIGINS Project Collaboration Policy and website (<https://originsproject.telethonkids.org.au/>) for details on sub-project initiation and RIG structure.

### **3. Membership**

RIG members may be representatives of community and/or industry groups, researchers, clinical staff, students, or ORIGINS Project team members. RIG membership is open to all persons who have an interest and expertise relevant to The ORIGINS Project and are willing to contribute this to the benefit of the Project and its collaborators. In agreeing to serve as a RIG member there is a commitment to respect the intellectual property and confidentiality of ideas under discussion when reviewing and generating proposals and applications within the group.

To become a member, you need to have read and understood The ORIGINS Project Collaboration Policy and completed, signed and returned this ToR to [ORIGINSResearch@telethonkids.org.au](mailto:ORIGINSResearch@telethonkids.org.au). By signing this ToR you will receive invitations to join upcoming RIG meetings or events and other ORIGINS research related correspondence.

### **4. Responsibilities and Expectations**

#### **Individual RIG Member**

- Contribute to requests from the Scientific Committee and the Project Management Group in relation to new study and grant proposals.
- Contribute to the development of proposals for new sub-projects for submission to the Scientific Committee/Project Management Group.
- Contribute to the review of proposals for new sub-projects for submission to the Scientific Committee/Project Management Group.
- Provision of advisory support to other research sub-project developments.
- Identify funding opportunities for grant applications to support sub-projects.
- Support scholarly activity and provide opportunities for students and other RIG members.
- Actively engage in research collaborations (locally, nationally and internationally).
- Actively engage with the community, to identify new avenues of research, and to share research findings.
- Respect the intellectual property and in some instances confidentiality of the ideas when reviewing and generating proposals and sub-projects.
- Assist with review and refinement of data collected as part of ORIGINS relevant to the RIG research domains.
- Collaborate with other RIG research domains to support new research sub-projects.

- Where appropriate, build capacity of early career researchers and students through supervision and mentorship.
- Support community involvement in the consultation, development and implementation of research sub-projects.
- Contribute towards supporting the translation of research into policy and/or practice change/s.
- Subject Matter Experts agree to be called upon to assist with Scientific Committee/Project Management reviews and attendance at Collaborative RIG meetings as requested when input from their specific area of expertise is required.

#### **Chair of a RIG**

- Chair the RIG meetings, at a frequency agreed by the Group.
- Report back to the ORIGINS Project team.
- Provide representation at ORIGINS key stakeholder events.
- Identify relevant presenters and potential new members and collaborators.
- Identify relevant scholarly opportunities.

#### **ORIGINS Team Member Representative**

- Provide an update and/or overview of The ORIGINS Project at each RIG meeting.
- Provide input, feedback, and expertise based on their role on The ORIGINS Project (e.g. as a Biobank or Engagement team member).
- Provide administrative support (e.g. booking of room, meeting invites, minutes, developing and distributing agenda, organising presenters and presentation slides).

## **5. Meetings**

It is expected that RIGs will convene independently but with the support (i.e., room booking, IT set up) of the ORIGINS team, as required. Each RIG will convene if the Chair considers it necessary or if requested by the ORIGINS Research and Translation Team.

## **6. Operating Procedures**

- A chair and possibly a co-chair will be appointed for each RIG domain, by the ORIGINS Project team in consultation with the RIG. This position will be held for a period of 24 months, after which time, the RIG/ORIGINS may appoint a new chair/co-chair if requested by the chair/co-chair of the RIG.
- All RIG members must abide by the confidentiality policy in place at the Telethon Kids Institute.
- All members are required to declare any conflict of interest regarding any issue to be resolved, discussed or tabled. When required, the member will absent him or herself from discussions and not take part in the decision-making process.
- A record of the meetings must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting including key decisions, progress on outstanding items, actions and new business.
- The agenda shall be circulated to RIG members prior to each meeting.
- Draft minutes and updated actions will be circulated to RIG members by email within two weeks after the close of each meeting and confirmed at the following meeting.

## 7. Member Details

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Name                                 |  |
| Position                             |  |
| University/Institute or organisation |  |
| Department                           |  |
| Contact details                      |  |
| RIG research domains                 | <input type="checkbox"/> P4 Omics<br><input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition and Metabolism<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health & Wellbeing<br><input type="checkbox"/> Allergy, Immunology & Immunity<br><input type="checkbox"/> Brain & Behaviour<br><input type="checkbox"/> Health Economics<br><input type="checkbox"/> Environment, Lifestyle & Nature Relatedness<br><input type="checkbox"/> Fathering<br><input type="checkbox"/> Growth & Development<br><input type="checkbox"/> Epidemiology, Equity & Social Justice<br><input type="checkbox"/> Oral Health<br><input type="checkbox"/> Reproduction<br><input type="checkbox"/> Infections & Vaccines |
| RIG membership                       | Are you a current <input type="checkbox"/> or new <input type="checkbox"/> RIG member  |
| Research interests                   |  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Skills (e.g. statistical expertise, genetic expertise, clinical, student supervision, policy development, etc.) |   |
| Any other information you wish to share with the ORIGINS Project  |   |
| Subject matter expert   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I am happy to be nominated as a Subject Matter Expert.<br>Areas of expertise:   |
| Confidentiality Policy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I have read and understood the Telethon Kids Institute confidentiality policy.  |
| ORIGINS correspondence  | <input type="checkbox"/> No, I don't want to receive emails about other ORIGINS research related activities/notifications.  |
| Meeting format preference   | In person: TKI <input type="checkbox"/> / JHC <input type="checkbox"/> / either <input type="checkbox"/><br>Via teleconference e.g. MS Teams <input type="checkbox"/> |

I have read and agree to these Terms of Reference:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_