**MEDIA RELEASE**
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**Announcing the Winners of the Inaugural ACDHS Allied Health Awards**

The Australian Council of Deans of Health Sciences (ACDHS) is proud to announce the winners of the inaugural Allied Health Awards, recognising excellence and leadership in the allied health education sector. These prestigious awards celebrate outstanding achievements across three key categories: First Nations Leadership/Engagement, Research Impact, and Education Innovation.

**ACDHS Allied Health First Nations Leadership/Engagement Award**
*Winner*: Ellie White, University of Melbourne
*Runner-Up*: Raymond Edney, University of Western Australia

Ellie White has been recognised for her exceptional leadership and engagement with First Nations communities, demonstrating a strong commitment to advancing health outcomes through culturally informed practice and collaboration. Her work at the University of Melbourne highlights the importance of bridging academic knowledge with meaningful community partnerships. Raymond Edney, from the University of Western Australia, received the runner-up award for his impactful engagement and leadership, contributing significantly to the empowerment of Indigenous communities.

**ACDHS Allied Health Research Impact Award**
*Winner*: Professor Kay Crossley, La Trobe University
*Runner-Up*: Professor Saravana Kumar, University of South Australia

Professor Kay Crossley has been honoured for her remarkable contributions to allied health research. Her work at La Trobe University has had a profound impact on clinical practice, advancing the understanding and treatment of musculoskeletal conditions. Professor Saravana Kumar, from the University of South Australia, was recognised as the runner-up for his extensive research in promoting evidence-based practice within the allied health field.

**ACDHS Allied Health Education Innovation Award**
*Joint Winners*:

1. Associate Professor Dan Malone, Professor Kirstie Galbraith, Dr Betty Exintaris, Dr Thao Vu, Professor Carl Kirkpatrick, Professor Paul White, Professor Joseph Nicolazzo, Doctor Suzanne Caliph, Associate Professor Steven Walker, Mr Simon Furletti, Dr Ian Larson, Dr Harjit Khera, Dr Nilushi Karunaratne, Monash University
2. Associate Professor Melanie Hayman, Dr. Davina Taylor, Dr Thomas Doering, Minka Elliot, Trudy Jones and Deb Friel, Central Queensland University

This year’s Education Innovation Award was shared between two outstanding submissions. Associate Professor Daniel Malone and team have been recognised for their innovative approach to allied health education at Monash University, particularly in enhancing student learning through technology integration and curriculum reform. Associate Professor Melanie Hayman and team from Central Queensland University received the joint award for their collaborative efforts in developing novel educational initiatives that have transformed the student experience and improved health outcomes in rural and regional communities.

These award recipients have set new benchmarks in the allied health sector, and their contributions reflect the values of excellence, innovation, and leadership that ACDHS upholds. The winners were announced at the 2024 ACDHS Symposium held in Melbourne, where they were honoured in front of distinguished guests and industry leaders.

For more information on the ACDHS Allied Health Awards and winners visit <https://acdhs.edu.au/inaugural-acdhs-awards-2024/> or contact secretariat@acdhs.edu.au.