

A/Prof Silas Taylor

Nexus Fellow

Faculty: Medicine and Health

School: Clinical Medicine

Nexus Projects: SimConverse 2024-2026

Nexus Priorities: Assessment & Feedback, Learning Technologies and Digital Literacy, WIL & IRL

Nexus Project or Role Purpose & Overview (per project or role)

Purpose:

To address the gap in communication skills development during mid-program (Medicine Phase 2) by providing scalable, authentic, practice, clinical interactions, using AI-enabled simulations.

Project/role overview:

Led the design and implementation of AI-generated virtual communication partners within the Medicine program, in collaboration with Nexus, the School of Clinical Medicine, and administration and technical teams. The project integrated multiple structured activities across courses to support communication skills development at scale, with evaluation embedded throughout.

Skills Developed:

Leadership of large-scale educational innovation; implementation of AI-enabled learning technologies; cross-disciplinary collaboration; curriculum design and integration; evaluation of educational interventions; and dissemination of outcomes through national and international presentations.

Activities, Outputs and Outcomes (per project or role)

- 2 full academic years of use of the platform, 300 students in each year, 18 activities for each student
- Demonstrated positive impact on SX and student learning in summative assessment.
- 250 attendees at 1 presentation in the AMEE conference Barcelona, 2025. 50 attendees at 1 presentation in the ANZAHPE conference Perth 2025. 2 Nexus and Faculty presentations.
- Multiple small meetings with Nexus and UNSW colleagues across both years

Evidence of Impact (Implementation)

School/Faculty involvement: FMH	Courses/Programs Involved: Medicine Phase 1 Clinical Skills, P2 all terms, P3 Critical Care	Workshops delivered (n= 2)	Collaborations: Nexus Oral Assessment project; UNSW Immersive Technologies team; FMH Blakcademy; FMH SOVS; Student Experience, PVCE
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Evidence of Impact (SoTL)

Presentations (n= 4)	Publications (n= 1 in pr)	Blogs (n=)	Ethics applications (n= 1)
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Relevant Links/Education (Research/SoTL/Resources) Output List



UNSW
SYDNEY

Nexus Projects: Oral Assessment 2024-2026

Nexus Priorities: Assessment & Feedback, Learning Technologies and Digital Literacy, WIL & IRL

Nexus Project or Role Purpose & Overview (per project or role)

Purpose:

To develop scalable oral assessment (OA) approaches that maintain assessment integrity in AI-saturated environments while enhancing authentic evaluation of communication, reasoning, and disciplinary oracy.

Project/role overview:

Led integration of communication skills pedagogy into OA design, adapting clinical assessment frameworks and rubrics for broader use. Trialled platforms such as OSPIA (VETME) for delivery and assessment, and used SimConverse and other AI virtual patient tools to prepare students formatively for summative OA.

Skills Developed:

Translation of communication assessment frameworks across disciplines; rubric design for oral performance; implementation of scalable OA systems; evaluation of AI-enabled learning tools; aligning formative AI practice with summative assessment requirements.

Activities, Outputs and Outcomes (per project or role)

- Wide consultation on needs and challenges associated with OA
- Adaptation of processes and technologies used in Medicine communication skills teaching and assessment to OA
- Large scale pilot of AI-enabled Virtual patient platform to illustrate capability and acceptability as venue for formative practice of selected OA approaches

Evidence of Impact (Implementation)

School/Faculty involvement: FMH SPH and SoCM; Eng; ADA	Courses/Programs Involved: FMH: Medicine and Optometry programs initially	Workshops delivered (n= 2)	Collaborations: Nexus GOAT project team; PVCE Education Solutions; FMH Education Academy; Medicine program redesign team; Medicine Assessment Committee
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Evidence of Impact (SoTL)

Presentations (n=)	Publications (n=)	Blogs (n=)	Ethics applications (n=)
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Nexus Projects: risr ePortfolio 2024-2026

Nexus Priorities: Assessment & Feedback, Learning Technologies and Digital Literacy, WIL & IRL

Nexus Project or Role Purpose & Overview (per project or role)

Purpose:

To identify, evaluate and implement an ePortfolio solution that supports authentic programmatic assessment (including Workplace-Based Assessments), reflective practice and longitudinal learner development – as well as support high-stakes clinical examinations – across multiple health professions programs in Faculty of Medicine and Health.

Project/role overview:

Led academic input into UNSW level procurement including vendor evaluation, stakeholder consultation and alignment with educational needs before intervening to help FMH to lead the institution and procure the risr platform owing to its particular suitability to our health professions educational (HPE) programs. Now in early implementation planning, including defining and planning for initial use cases.

Skills Developed:

Strategic procurement, cross-functional leadership, educational design alignment, stakeholder engagement, vendor evaluation, and implementation planning in complex institutional contexts.

Activities, Outputs and Outcomes (per project or role)

- Full market scan of ePortfolios in association with PVCE
- Wide consultation with international, national, UNSW and Faculty colleagues to determine suitability of 3 platforms under consideration by UNSW PVCE
- Clear and consistent input regarding specific needs of HPE programs and leading FMH vanguard procurement of risr (multimillion dollar investment at Faculty level)

Evidence of Impact (Implementation)

School/Faculty involvement: FMH procurement of risr (Assess and Advance)	Courses/Programs Involved: FMH Medicine and Optometry programs initially	Workshops delivered (n=)	Collaborations: PVCE Education Solutions; FMH Deputy Dean Education; Medicine program redesign team; FMH SOVS; FMH SOHS
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Evidence of Impact (SoTL)

Presentations (n=)	Publications (n=)	Blogs (n=)	Ethics applications (n=)
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