

One HIV scientist
One fashion designer
One lab coat

HIV UNWRAPPED

A re-imagination of the lab coat



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OVERVIEW

HIV Unwrapped 2024: a re-imagination of the lab coat

This project is based upon the exceptional work done in the CLOAK project by the University of Technology Sydney and University of Sydney last year as part of World Pride 2023.

This project extends an invitation to consider what would a HIV scientist/researcher wear which amplifies themselves and their work in HIV?

The science of HIV is hugely diverse and working with a lab coat as the premise, we have invited HIV researchers/scientists from across Victoria to submit an abstract on their work in order to partner with fashion design students at the RMIT School of Fashion and Textiles.

Over the course of 6 weeks, these partnerships will produce a unique set of 10 garments which reflect not only the exceptional work being done in HIV science in Victoria, but the scientists behind this work.

The final garments will go on display at the upcoming Australasian HIV&AIDS Conference at the International Convention Centre in Sydney from 16-20 September 2024, during Melbourne Fashion Week 21-27 October and again at World AIDS Day 2024 at the RMIT campus.

AIMS

1. To encourage HIV scientists to seek out accessible and creative ways to represent their scientific work in their commitment to knowledge translation.
2. To engage emerging fashion designers (students) through interdisciplinary collaboration and partnership across scientific discovery and design.
3. To create ten wearable pieces that represent an HIV scientist and their scientific work using a laboratory coat/smock as a canvas to create an original work of wearable art for public presentation.

OBJECTIVES

- To work with RMIT 2nd Year Fashion Design students and partner them with a scientist connected with The Melbourne HIV Exchange (mHIVE)¹.
- To provide support to both fashion design students and HIV scientists to experience a unique knowledge translation and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- To host a participatory collaborative co-design workshop for the scientist and designer(s) pairs to attend.
- To video document the process of co-design, collaborative celebration and presentation/promotion.
- To identify public event(s) to display the final lab coat creations.

¹ The Melbourne HIV Exchange (mHIVE) is a Victorian state-wide consortium of over 200 HIV researchers from over a dozen institutes and universities including the Doherty Institute, Burnet Institute, RMIT University, Monash University, University of Melbourne, Alfred hospital, and more. The aim is to bring together all interested parties, once a month, for exchange of topical and relevant information on the broad range of basic, clinical and translational research currently being undertaken across the state.



BACKGROUND

In February 2023, as part of the World Pride celebrations in Sydney, CLOAK² brought together LGBTQI+ folk working in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine with emerging fashion designers to reinvent the lab coat as a symbol of queer pride. See Appendix 1 of images from the project.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGsf1km2PCc>

Recent research reveals many professionals in these fields remain closeted, and the project asked a dozen LGBTQI+ scientists to share their stories with [University of Technology Sydney](#) fashion designers. The designers then transformed discarded lab coats into new garments capturing the scientists' queer histories.

In July 2023, a project entitled [HIV Science as Art](#) was exhibited in Brisbane, Australia as part of the [12th International Conference on HIV Science](#) hosted by the International AIDS Society. The public exhibition brought together 12 HIV scientists from around the world who were presenting their scientific findings at the conference with 12 artists living with HIV. The aim of the project was to demonstrate the synergies between science and art through the prism of the lived experience of HIV.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCsJo3q0LTI>

Both CLOAK and HIV Science as Art have demonstrated that innovative investments in knowledge translation have wide appeal and that contributing scientists and artists have recognised greater value, insight and appreciation of the respective science and art as a result.

This project aims to incorporate the findings of the CLOAK project processes into the world of HIV science and build upon the momentum established by the HIV Science as Art project in the HIV sector in Australia.

RATIONALE

It is envisioned that HIV scientists working at any of the members of the mHIVE exchange be invited to submit a plain language³ abstract describing their science for consideration in the project. The abstracts will be judged by the mHIVE co-chairs, project coordinator and RMIT leadership. See appendix 2 for an example of the abstract process.

The scientists would be partnered with a design student(s) selected by the project coordinators through a partnership with RMIT University School of Fashion and Textiles on a wearable piece using a laboratory coat as the basis for the artwork.

The selected science/design partners would participate in a series of briefings and a codesign workshops through the course of their collaboration with the project advisors and coordinators and with other participants in the project.

The designers would be provided with lab coats (from the scientists participating research centres) as the basis of their artistic pursuit. They would also be provided with a fee of \$500 (to cover additional material expenses) paid in two instalments (as a retainer and upon completion/delivery) from the research institution, centre or academic establishment.

The final original pieces of art would be launched at The Hanger at the RMIT Brunswick campus <https://www.paulmorganarchitects.com/education-architecture/rmit-university-the-hanger> and then go on public display at the [Australasian HIV and AIDS Conference](#) in September 2024 in Sydney. As well as on World AIDS Day (1 December) in 2024 at RMIT.

The collection would be held by RMIT for the mHIVE partners for their further display at World AIDS Day 2024 and used for further promotion and collaboration.

2 CLOAK was originally exhibited as a coproduction between UTS and the University of Sydney in conjunction with World Pride 2023. For more information: <https://www.uts.edu.au/uts-gallery-art-collection/exhibitions/cloak>

3 <https://www.plainlanguage.gov/about/definitions/>

PARTNERS

Concept Partners – original creators of CLOAK: Queer Science, Fashion & Photography, who play a role in providing project advice and linkages between previous, current and future iterations of the CLOAK protocol.

- The CLOAK Collective: Cherine Fahd, Todd Robinson (University of Technology Sydney) & Alice Motion, Victoria Rawlings, Lee Wallace (University of Sydney)

Project Partners – are involved in the leadership of the project.

- mHIVE exchange co-chairs (Doherty and RMIT)
- RMIT University School of Fashion and Textiles
- ASHM Health

Funders – provide the funding or in-kind resources necessary to ensure the project happens.

- *Principle Sponsors* - Gilead Sciences and ViiV Healthcare
- *Project Sponsors* – Alfred Health, RMIT – School, Peter Doherty Institute of Infection and Immunity, Burnet, Thorne Harbour Health, Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society, National Association of People Living with HIV Australia
- *Project Partners* – Living Positive Victoria, Positive Women Victoria, SAMESH (South Australia)

OUTPUTS

- Ten bespoke garments which add value to the promotion of a discrete piece of HIV scientific work.
- A unique design exercise for an artist/designer to add their portfolio of work.
- An opportunity to showcase the innovation and diversity of scientific work in a discrete institute of research/study.
- A practical example of innovation in knowledge translation and codesign across disciplines.
- A video documentary of the process.
- A private collection of co-designed garments to be held by RMIT for their further promotion and display.

OUTCOMES

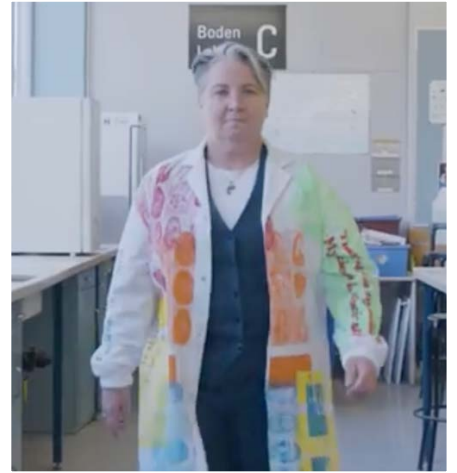
- To stretch the creative bond between scientific and artistic collaboration.
- To reinforce the value and experience of cross-discipline collaboration and knowledge translation.
- To encourage further CLOAK related projects at other research centres, in other disciplines and further afield.

TIMELINE

Week 2024	Action
beginning 3rd June	Call out to all mHIVE partners to solicit abstracts for participation.
beginning 24th June	Abstracts due 28 June.
beginning 8th July	All successful scientists notified and accepted.
beginning 29th July	Session with researchers & student @ RMIT Thursday 1/08/24
beginning 12th August	Design sketches and ideas finalized shared between partners.
beginning 9th September	Garments complete for a 'launch show' on Friday 13th with immediate dispatch to Sydney no later than 15th.
beginning 16 th September	Display at ASHM and INUSTI conferences 16 – 20 September.
beginning 23 rd September	Garments returned to Melbourne.

APPENDIX 1

CLOAK 2023 project garments



CLOAK: Queer Science, Fashion & Photography (Details of video still) Image credit: Cherine Fahd

APPENDIX 2

HIV Unwrapped 2024 Abstract Submission Process

To be eligible for this collaborative project you will need to:

1. Be currently working on a research project on HIV in Victoria.
2. Ensure that your sponsoring agency is aware and supports your abstract submission which includes:
 - a. An ability to provide \$500 AUD towards the project to cover any material costs (i.e. extraneous fabrics, dyes, etc.) needed to create your bespoke lab coat. NOTE: this fee is waived from mHIVE agencies that are sponsors of the project.
 - b. An ability to provide the laboratory coat(s)/smock(s) as the canvas for the final creations.
3. Be available to attend a project background briefing and initial partnership workshop on Thursday 1 August 2024 at the RMIT Hanger campus in East Brunswick. This workshop session is MANDATORY.
4. You will also need to provide:
 - a. A 200-word biography
 - b. A 400-word abstract which describes your science using one of the two abstract formats below
 - c. Up to 4 images or graphs which describe and add value to the better understanding of your work.

Option 1	Option 2
RESEARCH ABSTRACT HEADINGS Title: <Insert title here> Authors: <Insert authors here> Background: <Insert text here> Methods: <Insert text here> Results: <Insert text here> Conclusion: <Insert text here>	PRACTICE-BASED ABSTRACT HEADINGS Title: <Insert title here> Authors: <Insert authors here> Background/Purpose: <Insert text here> Approach: <Insert text here> Outcomes/Impact: <Insert text here> Innovation and Significance: <Insert text here>

FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS

- Submissions must not exceed 400 words (excluding title & authors).
- Submissions must include the title and authors (as per the instructions as below) and then followed by one of the two options of abstract headings above.
- Use Arial 12-point type only.
- Submissions must be written in plain English (avoid using any complex sentence structures, jargon or language that would be unfamiliar to the average year 12 student).
- As principal author your name must appear first with your first name followed by your surname.
- All other authors must be listed by their first name followed by their surname with no punctuation using only a comma after the superscript indication.
- Omit degrees and titles.
- Include affiliations/organisation for each author. Use superscript numbering after the author's name to indicate affiliations.

Example: Benetta Smith¹, Wade Taylor^{1,2}, Sian Tran³

¹Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis & Sexual Health Medicine, ²IUSTI, ³The Kirby Institute

Please note that your biography, abstract etc. must be written in plain English. If selected, you will need to be able to explain your research/science without jargon or industry/profession specific terminology.

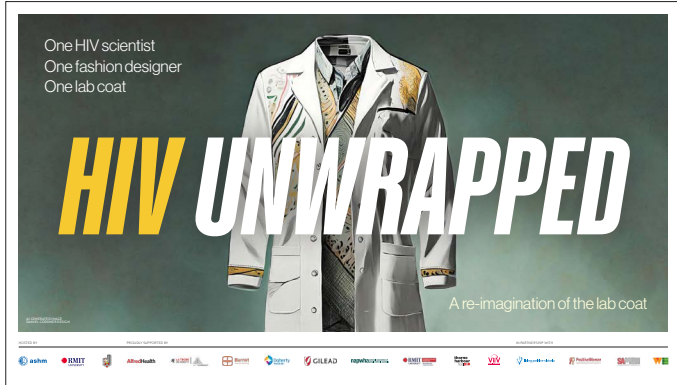
All submissions must be received by no later than 23:59 Friday 28 June 2024 to brent@qthinkconsulting.com

No late submissions will be considered. If you have any questions, please contact the Project Coordinator, Brent Allan at brent@qthinkconsulting.com

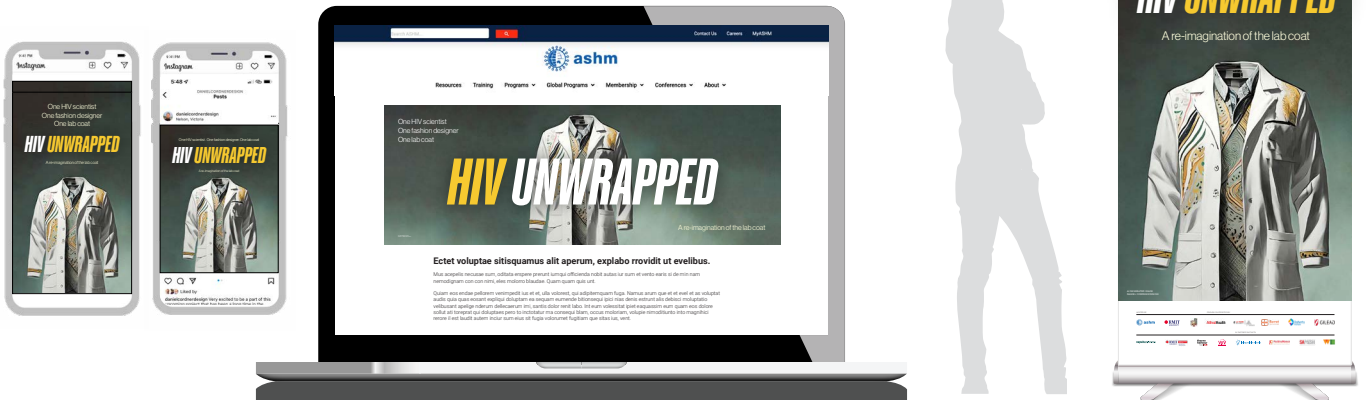
Appendix 3

Design and Display Images

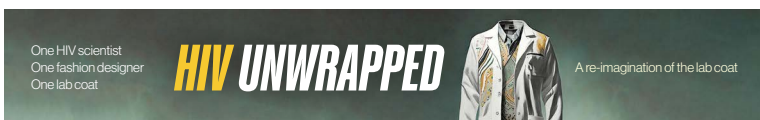
Project Lead Images



Promotion and Collateral Images



Masthead and Banner Images



Didactics for Displays (A4)



Appendix 4

Melbourne Fashion Week at the Doherty Institute



Proposal

HIV Unwrapped at the Peter Doherty Institute of Infection and Immunity
Melbourne Fashion week 2024

Background

This project extends an invitation to HIV scientists to consider what they would wear which amplifies themselves and their work in HIV?

The science of HIV is hugely diverse and working with a lab coat as the premise, this project invited HIV scientists to partner with fashion design students at the [RMIT School of Fashion and Textiles](#). Over the course of 6 weeks, these partnerships will produce a unique set of 10 garments which reflect not only the exceptional work being done in HIV science in Victoria, but the scientists behind this work and the creative interpretations of RMIT fashion design students.

Located in the heart of [Melbourne's Biomedical Precinct](#), the Doherty Institute is named in honour of Patron, Laureate Professor Peter Doherty, winner of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering how the immune system recognises virus-infected cells. Under the expert guidance of Director, University of Melbourne Professor Sharon Lewin, a leader in research and clinical management of HIV and infectious diseases, the Doherty Institute has more than 700 staff who work on infection and immunity through a broad spectrum of activities. This includes discovery research; diagnosis, surveillance and investigation of infectious disease outbreaks; and the development of ways to prevent, treat and eliminate infectious diseases.



Our Proposal

The HIV Unwrapped project is a collaboration between academic institutions, community services and industry partners who have all come together to showcase the exceptional HIV research being done in Victoria through the creative talent and vision of emerging fashion designers from RMIT.

During Melbourne Fashion Week 2024, we propose to tell the **story of interdisciplinary co-design** across science and fashion design at of the leading centres of excellence where leading scientists and clinicians collaborate to improve human health globally.

Our aim is to **showcase the documentary** made about the project (~10 mins) alongside speakers who will speak to the nature co-collaboration, living with HIV, innovative fashion design and the latest in HIV science.

We propose up to **three lectures** (one in the afternoon and two early evening sessions) during the period of Melbourne Fashion week of approximately 90 minutes to be held in the auditorium at the Doherty Institute. This site is positioned near the main entrance of the Doherty Institute and can cater for up to 200 guests seated and features its own internal foyer, kitchenette, registration table and bathroom facilities.



We are also investigating offering an **exclusive laboratory tour** (for a limited number of guests) of the variety of labs housed within the Doherty institute before the public lectures.

