Much of the clinical communication skills literature conceptualises communication between clinicians and patients as occurring in largely monolingual healthcare settings, where in migration destination countries and multicultural and multilingual societies, cultural and linguistic diversity amongst the health workforce and patient population may instead be the norm. There are challenges facing educators who must prepare future doctors for the dynamic and complex linguistic healthcare settings in which they will be learning and practising. Interdisciplinary research that makes visible to educators the complexity of workplace communicative practices in multilingual settings is needed. This presentation outlines some research domains and conceptual approaches that can inform an intercultural communication curriculum for future doctors.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Prof Woodward-Kron is a healthcare communication researcher in the Department of Medical Education, the Melbourne Medical School, at the University of Melbourne, Australia. She has a PhD in educational linguistics and has been researching and teaching in the areas of junior doctor-patient communication, intercultural healthcare communication, and new communication technologies in healthcare since 2005. Her interdisciplinary work environment (educational linguistics and medical education) and collaborative research provide opportunities to translate healthcare communication research into practice, particularly the development and implementation of multimedia resources for teaching and learning in undergraduate and postgraduate health professional training.