

Curriculum Vitae

Dr Thomas David Riisfeldt
Neurologist, Epileptologist &
Neurophysiologist/Neuromuscular Specialist
Physician & Philosopher/Bioethicist
BMed (Dist.) MD (Dist.) BA (Dist.) BASS Hons I (Uni. Medal)
(all UNSW)
FRACP (Neurology), ANZAN NCS/EMG Level 2 & on track
for ANZAN/ESA EEG Level 3

01/11/2025

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1 CAREER OBJECTIVES

I'm Tom, a neurologist, epileptologist and neurophysiologist/neuromuscular specialist, and a physician and philosopher/bioethicist, with a passion for regional and rural medicine. I'm currently finishing up my epilepsy fellowship at Prince of Wales Hospital NSW, and I'm currently actively in the process of organising work as a consultant neurologist and physician commencing in Port Macquarie NSW in February 2026, including working at the local public hospital, private work at my founded business Port Macquarie Neurology (<https://pmqneurology.com.au>), teaching at the local university (UNSW), and additionally continuing my passion for neurology education through my not-for-profit, free open access project Riisfeldt Neurology Education (<https://rneurologyeducation.org>). I'm also a qualified and published bioethicist, and my main non-clinical philosophical area of interest is in Effective Altruism/philanthropy.

2 TERTIARY QUALIFICATIONS

Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP, Neurology) (2024)

& ANZAN NCS/EMG Level 2 (2025)

& Currently on track for ANZAN/ESA EEG Level 3 (forthcoming)

Arts/medicine combined degree at UNSW (2010-16):

Bachelor of Arts (with Distinction, UNSW 2012)

Bachelor of Arts and Social Sciences Honours (Honours Class I and University Medal in
Philosophy/Medical Ethics, UNSW 2014)

Bachelor of Medical Studies (with Distinction, UNSW 2016)

Doctor of Medicine (with Distinction, UNSW 2016)

Previous secondary and primary education: St Aloysius' College (2001-09); St Cecilia's Primary School (1997-2000)

3 AWARDS

Tertiary	University of New South Wales (2010-16)
	University Medal in Philosophy/Medical Ethics (2016)
	Fred Katz Award for Philosophy Honours (2014)
	Arts and Social Sciences Dean's List (2013)

Secondary	St Aloysius' College (2001-09) ATAR 99.60 (2009) Fr Marc Playoust Prize for First in Chemistry (2009) Wilkinson Prize for First in Physics (2009) Academic Colours (placing first in two subjects) (2009) Vincent John Flynn Award for Academic Excellence (2009) First in Aggregate (2003) Dux (2002)
Other	NSW Health Reflective Essay Creating Writing in Medicine Award 2025: Winner of a specially created award category for my poem on a family member's dying phase (which didn't at all meet the contest's submission criteria!)

4 RESEARCH

Published (first author)

- Riisfeldt, T. D. (2023). Overcoming Conflicting Definitions of "Euthanasia," and of "Assisted Suicide," Through a Value-Neutral Taxonomy of "End-Of-Life Practices". *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, 20: 51-70. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11673-023-10230-1>
- Riisfeldt, T. D. (2023). Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Are Compatible with Palliative Care and Are Not Rendered Redundant by It. Cambridge University Press's *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*, 32(2): 254-262. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0963180122000706>
- Associated blog post: Riisfeldt, T. D. (2023). The relationship between voluntary assisted dying and mainstream palliative care. *Palliative Perspectives*. <https://www.caresearch.com.au/TabId/6568/ArtMID/17907/ArticleID/4308/The-relationship-between-voluntary-assisted-dying-and-mainstream-palliative-care.aspx>
- Riisfeldt, T. D. (2023). Expanded terminal sedation: dangerous waters. British Medical Journal's subsidiary *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 49: 261-262. <https://doi.org/10.1136/jme-2023-109021>
- Riisfeldt, T. D. (2020). A response to critics: weakening the ethical distinction between euthanasia, palliative opioid use and palliative sedation. British Medical Journal's subsidiary *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 46(1): 59-62. <https://doi.org/10.1136/medethics-2019-105906>
- Altmetric score 15 (impact in the top 10% of all articles ever tracked)
 - Associated blog post: Riisfeldt, T. D. (2019). Euthanasia, palliative opioid use and palliative sedation: A rejoinder. *Journal of Medical Ethics Blog*. <https://blogs.bmj.com/medical-ethics/2019/11/15/euthanasia-palliative-opioid-use-and-palliative-sedation-a-rejoinder/>
- Riisfeldt, T. D. (2019). Weakening the Ethical Distinction between Euthanasia, Palliative Opioid Use and Palliative Sedation. British Medical Journal's subsidiary *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 45(2): 125-130. <https://doi.org/10.1136/medethics-2018-105074>
- Altmetric score 25 (impact in the top 6% of all articles ever tracked), cited 17 times
 - Associated blog post: Riisfeldt, T. D. (2018). From Cochrane to Aquinas: Euthanasia, palliative opioid use and palliative sedation. *Journal of Medical Ethics Blog*. <https://blogs.bmj.com/medical-ethics/2018/12/23/from-cochrane-to-aquinas-euthanasia-palliative-opioid-use-and-palliative-sedation/>

Riisfeldt, T. D. (2012). States and Social Complexity: The Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilisation. *History in the Making*, 1(2): 9-15. <https://journal.historyitm.org/back-issues/volume-one-issue-two/>

Published (second or subsequent author)

Sidhu, A. S., Walker, C. E. L., Riisfeldt, T. D., Tweedie, P. J., Gerbis, N., Sutherland, E. J., Simon, N. G., Somerville, L. K., Bradbury, R., Cook, R., Parkinson, J., Goetti, R., Francis, I. J. (2024). Successful Management of Acute Streptococcal Meningoencephalitis Complicated by Bilateral Third-Nerve Palsies, Wall-Eyed Bilateral Internuclear Ophthalmoplegia, Blindness, and Deafness: Case Report. *Case Reports in Ophthalmology*, 15(1), 423-429. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC11078538/>

Current projects

Standard and advanced magnetic resonance imaging techniques for ulnar neuropathy at the elbow: Systematic review and development of a local protocol (RACP neurology research project, currently being written up for submission for publication)

Euthanasia, assisted suicide, thought experiments and ethical costs (original research, submitted for consideration for publication in *Canadian Journal of Bioethics*, awaiting decision)

Case report on an atypical presentation of Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (case written, awaiting autopsy result to distinguish variant from sporadic CJD and complete the discussion section)

Case report on ethicolegal issues in valproate prescribing for epilepsy in women of reproductive age (case being written)

In the media

Gray, R. (2020). Pain relief and euthanasia – the fine line between life and death. *UNSW Newsroom*. <https://newsroom.unsw.edu.au/news/health/pain-relief-and-euthanasia-%E2%80%93-fine-line-between-life-and-death>

· This was a media interview with me about my work in the field of euthanasia and assisted suicide

Peer review

I have been a peer reviewer for multiple prestigious neurology and bioethics journals, including BMJ Neurology Open (1 manuscript, 2025), PLOS Mental Health (1 manuscript, 2025), the BMJ's Journal of Medical Ethics (2 manuscripts, 2025), and Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics (1 manuscript, 2023)

Involvement in clinical trials

During my employment as the epilepsy fellow at Prince of Wales Hospital in 2025, I was a subinvestigator (SI) for 7 different phase 2 (open label) and phase 3 (placebo controlled) clinical trials running intercurrently evaluating experimental treatments for both focal and generalised epilepsy syndromes. This included completion of my International Collaboration for the Harmonisation of Good Clinical Practice (ICHGCP) training, completion of my Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS) training, attendance at site initiation visits (SIVs), screening visits and randomisation visits, and examining patients, reviewing and interpreting investigation results, and collecting efficacy and safety outcomes data

5 CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

2025 PGY 9	Epilepsy fellowship at Prince of Wales Hospital
2024 PGY 8	Neurophysiology/neuromuscular fellowship (and 3 rd Advanced Training year) at The Canberra Hospital
2023 PGY 7	2 nd core year neurology Advanced Trainee at Northern Beaches Hospital
2022 PGY 6	1 st core year neurology Advanced Trainee at Gosford District Hospital
2019-21 PGY 3-5	Basic Physician Trainee at: Prince of Wales Hospital – neurology, respiratory/acute spinal medicine, gastroenterology and relief terms (incl. running the COVID-19 clinic, and medical oncology and palliative care terms) Port Macquarie Base Hospital – general medicine (stroke, renal, geriatrics, medical oncology, haematology, infectious diseases), cardiology and relief terms (incl. respiratory, gastroenterology, endocrinology and rheumatology)
2018 PGY 2	St George Hospital – paediatrics, emergency and relief terms The Sutherland Hospital – psychiatry term Calvary Health Care Sydney – palliative care term
2017 PGY 1	St George Hospital – neurology, haematology, emergency and relief terms Griffith Base Hospital – general surgery term
2015-16 Medical student	Queen Square, London – National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery Moshi, Tanzania – Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre Wagga Wagga Rural Referral Hospital (primary site) Gundagai District Hospital (general practice term)
2010-11, 2013 Medical student	The Prince of Wales Hospital Sydney Children's Hospital Royal Hospital for Women HIV Outreach Team in Darlinghurst

6 CLINICAL GOVERNANCE

2025	7 x 1 hour epilepsy/EEG case presentations at the NSW/ACT Statewide Clinical Epilepsy Network (SCEN) weekly meeting, presenting detailed clinical, EEG and MRI/PET/SPECT findings for potential epilepsy surgical candidates, to determine surgical or stereo EEG candidacy. Topics have included patients with mesial temporal lobe epilepsy, patients with sleep-related hypermotor epilepsy (SHE) from frontal lobe lesions including focal cortical dysplasias (FCDs), and patients with drug-, surgery- and vagal nerve stimulatory (VNS)-refractory epilepsy being proposed for palliative subtotal corpus callosotomy
2024	Topic presentation on 'Electrodiagnostic evaluation of carpal tunnel syndrome', The Canberra Hospital
2024	Topic presentation on 'Myopathies: clinical and electrophysiological approach', The Canberra Hospital

2024	Topic presentation on 'Polyneuropathy Review: Clinical and Electrophysiological Approach', The Canberra Hospital
2024	Journal club presentation on 'Paraproteinemic neuropathies', The Canberra Hospital
2024	Journal club presentation on 'Evaluation and management of dyspnoea in neuromuscular conditions', The Canberra Hospital
2024	5 Morbidity and Mortality meeting presentations (cases from July 2023, January 2024, March & April 2024, June 2024, September 2024), The Canberra Hospital
2024	Topic presentation on 'Alzheimer's disease: pathology and anti-amyloid disease-modifying treatments', The Canberra Hospital
2024	Journal club presentation on 'SGLT2 inhibitors and reduced risk of dementia and Parkinson's disease', The Canberra Hospital
2024	Journal club presentation on 'Epidural blood patch for suspected spontaneous intracranial hypotension', The Canberra Hospital
2024	Journal club presentation on 'Tenecteplase for ischaemic stroke 4.5 to 24 hours without thrombectomy', The Canberra Hospital
2024	Journal club presentation on 'Third-Generation Anti-Seizure Medications', The Canberra Hospital
2024	Journal club presentation on 'Diagnostic accuracy of DAT SPECT in primary extrapyramidal disorders', The Canberra Hospital
2023	Case presentation on 'Hereditary Brachial Plexopathy', Northern Beaches Hospital
2023	Case presentation on 'GFAP Encephalitis', Northern Beaches Hospital
2023	Multiple Morbidity and Mortality meeting presentations, Northern Beaches Hospital
2022	Case presentation on 'Hyperkinetic Movement Disorders and CASPR2 Encephalitis' at neurology departmental meeting, Gosford District Hospital
2022	Case presentation on 'Cerebral Amyloid Angiopathy Spectrum' at neurology departmental meeting, Gosford District Hospital
2022	Case presentation on 'Recurrent Aseptic Meningitis' at neurology departmental meeting, Gosford District Hospital
2022	Case and literature presentation on 'Thrombolysis + ECR vs. ECR alone in hyperacute stroke management' at neurology departmental meeting, Gosford District Hospital
2022	Case presentation on 'Autoimmune/paraneoplastic encephalitis' at neurology departmental meeting, Gosford District Hospital
2022	Case presentation on 'Catatonia' at neurology departmental meeting, Gosford District Hospital
2022	Case presentation on 'Reversible Cerebral Vasoconstriction Syndrome' at general medicine grand rounds, Gosford District Hospital

2022	Case presentation on 'Childhood generalised epilepsy syndromes' at neurology departmental meeting, Gosford District Hospital
2022	Topic presentation on 'Low Pressure Headaches' at neurology departmental meeting, Gosford District Hospital
2021	Case presentation on 'Aortic dissection' at cardiology grand rounds, Port Macquarie Base Hospital
2020	Presentation on 'Apixaban for the prophylaxis and treatment of venous thromboembolism in cancer patients' at journal club, Port Macquarie Base Hospital
2019	Case presentation on 'Intercurrent Takotsubo cardiomyopathy and transient global amnesia' at cardiology grand rounds, Port Macquarie Base Hospital
2019	Case presentation on 'Hyperacute and acute stroke management' at geriatrics grand rounds/journal club, Port Macquarie Base Hospital
2018	Innovation Week: Care in Our Community symposium at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, attended
2018	St George Hospital Staff Forum, attended
2017	Case presentation on 'Transformation of myelodysplastic syndrome into acute myeloid leukaemia' at haematology grand rounds, St George Hospital
2017	Presentation on 'Inguinal canal anatomy and pathology' at general surgical grand rounds, Griffith Base Hospital
2017	Mental Wellbeing for Doctors forum at St George Hospital, attended
2015, 2016	Bulldogging for the adult and paediatrics Royal Australasian College of Physicians clinical examinations, respectively
2010-14	Neurological Society member and Bioethics Society member (special interest groups within UNSW's Medical Society)
2013	Audit on medical record keeping

7 CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2022-25	ANZAN Annual Scientific Meetings
2025	Weekly extended neurology departmental clinical and teaching meeting, weekly neuroradiology meeting, weekly epilepsy SCEN pre-surgical clinical meeting, monthly epilepsy SCEN EEG teaching meeting, weekly paediatric EEG teaching, weekly medical grand rounds, weekly epilepsy departmental meeting, monthly epilepsy-neuropsychiatry clinical meeting
2024	Weekly neurology/neurosurgical clinical scientific meeting, weekly journal club, weekly neuroradiology meeting, fortnightly stroke meeting and monthly neurovascular meeting at The Canberra Hospital (attendance and presentations); weekly epilepsy teaching remotely from Westmead Hospital; periodic epilepsy webinar series; periodic RACP neurology subspecialty webinar series

2023	Weekly neuroradiology meeting at fortnightly clinical neurology meeting at Northern Beaches Hospital
2023	ANZAN Neurophysiology workshop
2023	ANZAN annual registrar training weekend
2023, 2022	ANZAN/Epilepsy Society of Australia (ESA) Electroencephalography courses
2022	Weekly journal club, weekly clinical neurology meeting, weekly neuroradiology meeting and weekly stroke meeting at Gosford District Hospital
2021	ANZAN Neuroradiology and Neuropathology workshop
2017-21	Various general medicine grand rounds, subspecialty grand rounds/departmental meetings (neurology, cardiology, respiratory, medical oncology, haematology, palliative care, geriatrics, paediatrics, psychiatry, general surgery), journal clubs, registrar teaching sessions and JMO teaching sessions, at Prince of Wales Hospital, Port Macquarie Base Hospital, St George Hospital, The Sutherland Hospital and Griffith Base Hospital
2019	DeltaMed study course in Melbourne
2018	Brain and Mind Centre: Diseases of the Ageing Brain Masterclass · 2 day course addressing neurodegenerative and other neurological diseases in geriatric patients
2018	Australasian Stroke Academy: Acute Stroke Treatment Seminar
2018	Advanced Life Support 2 course
2018	Effective Altruism Australia conference in Melbourne · 3 day course exploring multiple global health issues
2018	Ultrasound in Shock course
2017	Advanced Life Support 1 course
2017	Basic Airway Resuscitation Strategy (BARS) course
2017	Thoracostomy workshop
2017	NPS MedicineWise session on statins at Griffith Base Hospital
2011-15	Australian Medical Students' Association's Annual National Conventions

8 TEACHING

2025	Founded Riisfeldt Neurology Education (https://rneurologyeducation.org), a not-for-profit, free open access project with 15 episodes published at the time of writing (and with many more on the way!)
2024	Regular formal bedside tutorials for Basic Physician Trainees preparing for their short cases, The Canberra Hospital
2024	Presentation on 'Vertigo and Ward Management of Parkinson's Disease' to SRMOs/RMOs

2017-current	Formal medical student bedside tutorials, and informal medical student/junior doctor teaching during and after ward rounds, in neurology and a variety of other adult internal medicine subspeciality areas
2023	Honorary Clinical Academic at Macquarie University
2022	‘Neurology Hot Topics’ teaching session to SRMOs/RMOs
2022	Presentation on ‘Acute Stroke Diagnosis and Management’ to nursing staff
2021	Formal presentation on ‘Chronic liver disease’ to medical students
2019	Formal presentation on ‘Brain neoplasia’ to medical students
2017, 2018	Marking multiple medical student case assignments
2010, 2016	Organised multiple mock clinical examinations for medical students

9 BUSINESSES

Riisfeldt Neurology Education (founder & owner, 2025): <https://rneurologyeducation.org> | <https://youtube.com/@rneurologyeducation> | Spotify, Apple Podcasts & other audio podcast platforms @rneurologyeducation | Instagram, Facebook, TikTok & LinkedIn @rneurologyeducation | X (Twitter) @rneuroeducation

Port Macquarie Neurology (founder & owner, 2025): <https://pmqneurology.com.au>

10 EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

2017-current	Actively involved with Effective Altruism (the Sydney and Australian branches) · Including in 2021 – formal 3 hour presentation evening to high school students on the philosophy of John Rawls and Peter Singer in the area of the ethics of helping others, and an introduction to Effective Altruism
2004-current	Visual artist (paintings, primarily surrealist and landscapes)
2004-current	Enjoy strategic board games
2015	Climbed Mount Kilimanjaro
2003-14	Member of North Steyne Surf Life Saving Club. Previously a voluntary patrolling member. Completed my Bronze Medallion, Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Certificate, Surf Rescue Certificate, and taught the Surf Rescue Certificate to junior club members
1998-2009	Various team sports including football (soccer), cricket, tennis, swimming, track athletics, cross country running, Australian football, debating and chess, along with surfing and skiing
2005-09	Played the drums
2005	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award