University of Adelaide Research Internship Proposal

- **Partner Organisation:** Akuru Pty Ltd (i-triage / i-scribe / i-consult)
- **Discipline:** School of Medicine & Health Sciences
- **Supervisors:** A/Prof Paul Paddle (Primary), Dr Emily Powell (Secondary)
- **Akuru Research Coordinator:** Aayushi Khillan
- **Duration:** ~60 FTE business days (≈12 weeks)
- **Timing:** Q1–Q2 2026
- **Mode:** Hybrid

Overview

Akuru develops clinical AI tools designed to enhance safety, efficiency, and quality in healthcare decision-making and documentation. This internship focuses on a **retrospective validation study of Akuru's i-triage system**, an AI-assisted tool that supports early clinical categorisation by analysing presenting complaints and risk factors to suggest urgency, disposition, and next-step pathways.

The project will evaluate how i-triage categorisation compares to **real-world clinical decisions** made in **public hospital emergency departments (EDs)** or **outpatient settings**. The study aims to determine whether i-triage provides **safe, reliable, and clinically-aligned triage recommendations**, and to inform future accreditation and deployment.

Objectives

- Assess concordance between i-triage AI-generated categories and historical clinician-assigned categories from ED or outpatient records.
- Use **validated quantitative tools** (e.g., safety scoring instruments, clinical decision agreement scales) to evaluate appropriateness and safety of i-triage outputs.
- Identify patterns in over-triage/under-triage, risk flags, and clinical domains where AI alignment is strongest or weakest.
- Produce transferable recommendations for clinical implementation, workflow integration, and risk management.

Key Deliverables

- **Peer-reviewed manuscript** submitted before internship completion.
- **Internal and/or external presentation** of results to academic, clinical, and industry audiences.

- Reproducible outputs including:
    - Analysis protocol
    - Validated questionnaire scoring framework
    - Aggregated datasets (de-identified/synthetic)
    - Statistical analysis code
- Acknowledgement of Akuru collaboration in all outputs.

Governance & Ethics

Projects involving patient or staff data will require **ethics approval** and must comply with University of Adelaide, SA Health, and partner-site governance requirements. Only de-identified or synthetic datasets will be used unless explicit approval is granted. All confidentiality, IP arrangements, and publication review processes follow the Research Internship Agreement.

Candidate Profile

This internship is suited to HDR candidates in medicine, psychology, allied health, or clinical informatics with strong quantitative skills and an interest in **clinical AI safety, triage research, and real-world implementation science**.