AusBiotech Australia's life sciences conference '23

Advancing Biotech
It's in our DNA

1-3 November 2023 ● Brisbane Australia

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DRAFT CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Wednesday 1 November 2023	
PLENARY	
9:00am– 9:30am	**Welcome to AusBiotech 2023** **Welcome to Country -** Turrbal Dippil Tribe **Welcome from the Queensland Government** **Lorraine Chiroiu**, Chief Executive Officer, AusBiotech Queensland Government
9:30am-10:00am	**KEYNOTE** Plenary Room

	Global IP Trends **Chair: Dr James Campbell**, CEO, Patrys Ltd, Board Member, AusBiotech **Dr Francis Gurry,** Strategic Director, IPH Group & Ex-Director General, World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) *Business models in biotechnology depend on strong IP protection. There are a number of challenges that arise from IP protection for biotechnology of a legal, regulatory, social and environmental nature. These challenges are not unlike those generally affecting IP protection internationally, but there are also some notable differences. While biotechnology is rapidly becoming a horizontal or platform technology, applicable across an increasing number of sectors of the economy, in Australia healthcare dominates other fields for the volume of standard patent applications received each year, with pharma patents and overall filings on a growth trajectory since 2016.* *Hear from a global IP expert and understand the trends that are shaping IP strategy internationally and how these may have significant impact on your organisation's ability to protect inventions, attract investment, and grow the business locally and abroad.*
10:00am- 10.30am	**KEYNOTE** Plenary room
	15-year journey to building an mRNA platform: how Sanofi is harnessing mRNA as a therapeutic modality **Chair: Dr Dean Moss,** CEO, UniQuest Pty Ltd, Board Member, AusBiotech **Dr Frank DeRosa,** Chief Technical Officer & Site Head, mRNA Centre of Excellence, Sanofi *mRNA has become a globally recognised modality for vaccine development with potential applications across a broad spectrum of therapeutics. This presentation will provide a personal perspective of Dr. DeRosa's journey of building an mRNA platform over the last 15 years as it progressed from Shire to Translate Bio to Sanofi and what is "in his DNA" that has driven his motivation and inspiration throughout. An overview of mRNA technology including current and future applications as well as current challenges across the field will be discussed. The presentation will conclude with how Sanofi is embracing this technology and employing it for the development of future medicines.*
10.30am-11:00am	**Morning tea and networking break** Bioindustry exhibition
11:00am- 12:30pm	**PLENARY SESSION** Plenary room

	Partnering across Australia and beyond with global pharma **Chair: Lorraine Chiroiu,** Chief Executive Officer, AusBiotech *A partnering strategy is essential for any biotech looking to take an innovation to market, with big pharma able to provide the resources, experience, and infrastructure necessary to support R&D, clinical development, manufacturing, and distribution.* *This plenary session provides an invaluable opportunity to hear from heads of pharma search, evaluation and venture investment leads on challenges and trends facing both global and medium-sized pharmaceutical companies on the global stage.* **Panel:** • **Dr Jessica Droge,** VP External R&D, Amgen • **Dr Michelle Booden,** Director Business Development & Licensing, MSD • **Dr Frank DeRosa,** Chief Technology Officer & Global Head of Research, mRNA Centre of Excellence, Sanofi • **Dr Donmienne Leung,** Director, AbbVie Ventures • **Dr Richard Woodfield,** Country Medical Director, Roche		
12.30pm – 1.00pm	**KEYNOTE** Plenary room		
	Personalised medicine: changing the model of care for children with cancer **Chair: Erica Kniepp**, Research Director for the Human Health program, CSIRO, Board Member, AusBiotech **Professor Michelle Haber,** Executive Director, Children's Cancer Institute *Precision medicine is revolutionizing the way that cancers are detected, characterised, and treated, through identifying targetable vulnerabilities by matching genomic profiling with molecularly targeted agents. Paediatric cancers display distinct molecular profiles by comparison with adult cancers, necessitating a bespoke approach.* *Our earliest personalised medicine approach involved development of a highly sensitive technique to detect minimal residual disease and predict relapse in children with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL), now part of "standard of care" for Australian children with ALL. This laid the foundation for our establishment of ZERO, Australia's first national child cancer precision medicine program, available since 2017 to every child with high-risk cancer. Over 1000 children have been enrolled on ZERO to date, with the program currently being expanded to become available to all Australian children and young people diagnosed with cancer by the end of 2023, irrespective of cancer type, stage or risk. ZERO has transformed the model of care for Australian children with high-risk cancer, and its vision is to provide more effective treatment options and improve long-term outcomes for all children with cancer.*		
1.00pm – 2.00pm	**Lunch and networking break** Bioindustry exhibition		
2.00pm – 3.30pm	**CONCURRENT SESSION 1A** Plenary Room	**CONCURRENT SESSION 1B** Breakout Room 1	**CONCURRENT SESSION 1C** Breakout Room 2
	Finding the right investment partner – doing your own due diligence	PART 1: 2:00pm - 2:45pm **Working with defence - engagement and collaboration**	**Australia leading the way: next-generation mental health treatments**

	When biotech companies partner with an investor, it is a long-term relationship often spanning more than a decade through the company's commercialisation journey. *It is common for an investor to do due diligence on a potential investment, however it's just as paramount that a biotech does its own due diligence on a potential investor.* *This session will see selected sophisticated investors and pharma partners discuss what they offer alongside investment, how they factor 'environment, social and governance' (ESG) into investments, and reverse-pitch to companies, explaining why they should be a partner of choice and how to assess which partner is right for you.* **Chair: Dr Chris Nave,** Founding Partner & Managing Director, Brandon Capital **Panel:** • **Kanishka Pothula**, Partner, Nextech • **Dr Donmienne Leung,** Director**,** AbbVie Ventures • **Dr Gurkeerat Singh**, M. Pharma, PhD, CA-AM, Vice President, Lilly Ventures – Venture Investing – Asia • **Ben Constable,** Managing Director Australia, Lumira Ventures • **Ravi Visweswara**, Executive Vice President, EVERSANA Sponsored by:	*The face of Defence is changing, as are the pathways and opportunities to work on Defence-related problems. Recently announced missions, including those under the Defence Strategic Review (DSR) and Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator (ASCA), as well as other government and university initiatives have highlighted the need for greater engagement across the industry. This panel session will explore collaborative avenues for biotechnology and biosecurity, as Defence seeks to leverage the immense potential of existing and developing capabilities to ensure national protection. Gain insights into the realm of opportunities for academia and medtech firms, as senior authorities and experts shed light on potential markets, hurdles, and prospects within this sector.* **Chair: Jo Close,** Director, Adelaide Intermediary Program,MTP Connect **Panel:** • **Dr Melissa Laws**, Program Leader Australian Defence Science and University Network Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG) • **Dr Felicia Pradera**, General Manager, Health Security Systems, Defence Materials Technology Centre (DMTC) • **Paul Naveau**, A/Director General Operational Health Branch, Joint Health Command • **Professor Trent Munro,** Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, University of QLD PART 2: 2:45pm - 3:30pm **The innovation pipeline - building sovereign capability**	*With eight Australians lost to suicide every day, one in 20 suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and one in five experiencing a mental health condition of 12-months duration, the current mental health landscape is extremely challenging. Providing a new level of hope to those with difficult-to-treat mental health conditions has been a long time coming.* *In a world first, from 1 July 2023, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) permitted the prescribing of MDMA for the treatment of PTSD and psilocybin for treatment-resistant depression, and now, all eyes are on Australia to get it right.* *With this opportunity, and the enormity of the problem within our community, this panel will discuss why Australia is poised ready and well-positioned to break a 50-year drought in the development of new medicinal treatments for a range of hard-to-treat mental health conditions.* *In this session, the panel will discuss and consider:* • *The research horizon and next generation treatments;* • *Clinical trials;* • *Ethics, risks, and best practice protocols* • *Lessons learnt so far;* • *Why Australia is best placed to take the lead globally;* • *Why there must be the proper funding for new medical solutions to treat mental health;* • *conditions - or face the subsequent economic and health consequences;* • *Pricing and accessibility;* • *Importance of the lived experience voice in shaping policy and improvements*. **Chair: Sharon McGowan,** Chief Executive Officer, RANZCP

	EVERSANA™	*Critical to ensuring national resilience in safeguarding Australia is a focus on innovation and sector growth. Building sovereign capabilities requires a dynamic interplay between Defence, academia, and industry, not exclusively through the prism of one sector alone. This panel session aims to discuss the strategies behind fostering innovation within these sectors and learn how collaboration can lead to a robust sovereign capability. Hear valuable insights into the innovation pipeline's role in advancing Defence technologies while strengthening national autonomy. Join experts as they unravel the approach of partnerships driving progress in partnership with Defence, unveiling the keys to successful outcomes.* **Chair: Dr Roger Stuckey**, Associate Director, QLD Defence Science Alliance (QDSA) **Panel:** • **Professor Paul Burn**, Laureate Fellow, School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences, University of Queensland • **Professor Flavia Huygens**, Executive Director, Microbio • **Professor Jia-Yee Lee**, Enterprise Professor, University of Melbourne • **Michael Joffe,** VP Group Strategy and Corporate Development, Planet Innovation • **Dr Kate Shields**, Group Leader Genomics and Biotechnology Biological Defence, Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG)	**Panel:** • **Professor Robyn Langham,** Chief Medical Adviser, Health Products Regulation Group, Australian Government Department of Health • **Professor Chris Langmead,** Director, Neuromedicines Discovery Centre, Monash University • **Dr Bianca Sebben**, Clinical Psychologist, Brisbane Harmony Centre • **Sharon Charles,** Vice President, Clinical Operations, ProPharma Group • **Holly Paterson**, Heroic Hearts Project Australia
3.30pm – 4.00pm	**Afternoon tea and networking break** Bioindustry exhibition		
4.00pm – 4.45pm	**CONCURRENT SESSION 2A** Plenary Room	**CONCURRENT SESSION 2B** Breakout Room 1	**CONCURRENT SESSION 2C** Breakout Room 2

	The why and how of ESG: embedding reporting and action within business strategy *The expectations of stakeholders, investors, employees, and communities on organisations to report their Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) impact has never been greater.* *As the world increasingly feels the impacts of the triple planetary crisis and questions of equality and equity deepen, executives and boards across all industries are being called upon to act. For Australia's life sciences sector, the time is now to begin reporting and move toward tangible action.* *This discussion will bring together the views of life sciences leadership, investor considerations and those of government, with practical insights on how life science companies can begin their ESG journey.* **Chair: Linda Peterson**, Board member, AusBiotech **Panel:** • **Natalie Simmons**, Managing Director – ESG, Purpose and Sustainability, Prime Financial Group • **Matthew Hoskin**, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Nirtek Pty Ltd • **Simon Morriss,** Chief Executive Officer, Genetic Technologies Limited • **Dr Melissa McBurnie**, Partner & Head of Impact – Adelaide, Brandon Capital	**The future of the health technology sector is digital** *Patient-centred digital healthcare, brought to life through remote health monitoring, wearable devices and other connected health initiatives, has the potential to fundamentally re-shape the way Australian healthcare as we know it, is delivered by clinicians and health professionals.* *Off the back of the record global growth of digital health in recent years, the long-term prognosis remains positive for the Australian digital health and technology companies that will help shape this transformation, with digital health SMEs continuing to mature and grow, despite a brewing global economic storm that threatens to dampen the economy.* *As SMEs take a more conservative approach to decision-making in the short-term, showing increased caution, and they seek out fresh revenue sources and partnerships, on the horizon sits an opportunity for Australian companies to expand and take advantage of the lucrative global digital health market, which is predicted to reach US$1004 billion by 2031, up from US$216.7 billion in 2022.* *In this session, the panel will discuss and consider:* • *What role will the health technology sector play in global healthcare as the rise of digital health continues at pace?* • *What barriers exist to Australian health technology companies taking the next step?* • *And how do we influence policymakers and incentivise healthcare professionals to move beyond medical records and telehealth, toward a deeper understanding and utilisation of modern health technologies and solutions?* *Find out how preventative and personalised medicine, connected point-of-care diagnostics, medication management and adherence, patient engagement, remote rehabilitation and remote patient monitoring is the future of the health technology sector.* **Chair: Kim Smyth,** General Manager, Investment, ANDHealth **Panel:**	**GMP manufacturing in Australia: status and outlook** *In the life sciences industry, a strong GMP system is fundamental to ensuring the safety and quality of manufactured medicines, vaccines, and medical devices.* *Join this high-profile panel in a dynamic exploration of GMP manufacturing in Australia, both its current status as well as where it is headed.* • *What are the advantages of manufacturing in Australia?* • *What is possible in Australia?* • *What are the manufacturing gaps in Australia, and what should be done about it?* **Chair**: **Dr Anne Collins,** Chief Operating Officer, Sementis **Panel:** • **Mark William Womack**, Chief Executive Officer, BioCina • **Professor Susie Nilsson**, Research Director, Biomedical Manufacturing, CSIRO • **Professor Jon Iredell,** Director, Centre for Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, Westmead Institute for Medical Research

		• **Adjunct Professor Elizabeth Koff**, Managing Director, Telstra Health • **Sue MacLeman,** Advisor and Non-Executive Director MTP Sector • **Tara Diversi**, CEO Sophus	
4.45pm – 5.30pm	**CONCURRENT SESSION 3A** Plenary Room	**CONCURRENT SESSION 3B** Breakout Room 1	**CONCURRENT SESSION 3C** Breakout Room 2

	SynBio to the rescue – harnessing the power of microorganisms to solve big problems ranging from human disease to carbon pollution *The viability of our planet depends on us transitioning quickly to a post-petroleum, non-extractive, decarbonized future. Synthetic biology (SynBio) is an emerging field with seemingly limitless applications from therapeutics to textiles to jet fuel.* *In this session, hear from Synbio experts applying an engineering mindset to harness the power of biology and produce novel biomaterials, fuels and tackle waste.* **Moderator: Dr Emma Ball,** Head of Ecosystem Development, Illumina **Panel:** • **Nusqe Spanton**, CEO & Founder, Provectus Algae • **Dr Louise Brown**, CEO, HydGene Renewables • **Dr Tom Williams**, CEO and Co-Founder, Number8Bio • **Dr Natalie Curach** Senior Director BD Gingko Bioworks • **Gabrielle Munzer**, Partner, Main Sequence Ventures	**Artificial Intelligence in Australia's Life Sciences and Healthcare Ecosystem: Adopting, Adapting & Accelerating** *According to Statista, artificial intelligence (AI) in the worldwide healthcare market was worth around US$11 billion in 2021. From 2022 to 2030, it is expected to grow at a massive 37% compound annual growth rate. AI has the potential to replace human capital on less complex problems while preserving the expertise of physicians and healthcare professionals. AI can also improve discovery in drug development, improve accuracy, efficiency, timelines and costs in clinical trials, expedite the identification of risks in patient diagnoses, and enable precision medicine.* *Early adoption in the healthcare sector is mostly driven by administrative efficiency and, in some start-ups, in drug discovery, clinical trials planning, and data management. The long-term attraction for AI is improving patient outcomes and driving down healthcare costs.* *In this panel session, hear expert panellists explore the key enablers required to support artificial intelligence in the Australian healthcare systems and their limitations.* *Join us as panellists ponder how we collectively approach artificial intelligence in healthcare, strategies to mobilise support of and build R&D capabilities in AI, and the infrastructure requirements to confidently incorporate AI into Australia's healthcare system.* **Chair: Kelly Constable,** Senior Advisor, Lumira Ventures **Panel:** • **Adjunct Professor Elizabeth Koff**, Managing Director, Telstra Health • **Dr Joanna Batstone,** Director & Professor of Practice, Monash Data Futures Institute • **Dr Stefan Hajkowicz**, Senior Principal Research Consultant, CSIRO	**"Who's running this show?" A guide to boards and shareholder agreements** *With a focus on early-stage companies to IPO and beyond, this session will feature a panel of experienced directors as they cover elements of building and operating as an effective board and managing shareholder relationships, including:* • *How do you build a board that is right for your current stage of growth, and lay a path to the next stage?* • *The role of the Chair and the relationship between Chair and CEO.* • *Doing business as a board.* • *Managing relationships with Shareholders, including the place of Shareholders' Agreements* • *Changing the line-up as the Company's needs change.* **Chair: Lis Boyce,** Partner, Piper Alderman **Panel:** • **Sue MacLeman,** Advisor and Non-Executive Director MTP Sector • **Sarah Meibusch,** Partner, One Ventures • **Dr Alan Taylor**, Executive Chairman, Clarity Pharmaceuticals

5.30pm – 7.30pm	**Welcome Reception** Bioindustry exhibition, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre **Welcome to Country** – Turrbal Dippil Tribe **Hon Dr Steven Miles**, Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure **Lorraine Chiroiu**, Chief Executive Officer, AusBiotech **CSIRO representative** *Sponsored by:* CSIRO

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AusBiotech '23 AgriBiotech Summit

one-day agribiotech summit during AusBiotech

2 NOVEMBER 2023

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Thursday 2 November 2023

9:00am-9:30am	**MILLIS ORATION** Plenary Room	**AGRIBIOTECH SUMMIT** **9.00am – 5.00pm** Breakout Room 2
	Navigating the future: predictions and potentials of Australian biotechnology **Chair: Dr Andrew Nash,** Chief Scientific Officer, CSL **Emeritus Professor Ian Frazer AC FRS,** Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland; Director, Microba *The significant global impact of Professor Ian Frazer's transformative research led to the Gardasil® vaccine, thereby crystallising him as a household name for Australian biotechnology and beyond. Gaining FDA approval in 2006, Gardasil® set a relentless pace and dominated the global HPV vaccine market: it is now available in more than 120 countries with more than 100 million doses having been distributed around the world.* *In the wake of a global pandemic, Australia's immediate focus is on sovereign vaccine manufacturing capacity expansion. In broadening the nation's agenda, it will require talent, and bolstered capacity along the entire bench to bedside pathway. This is*	**9.00am – 9.15am** **Opening & welcome** **Rosanne Hyland**, COO, AusBiotech and **Dr Paul Debarro,** Senior Principal Research Scientist, Director Strategic Project Development, Health & Biosecurity, CSIRO **9.15am – 9.45am** Breakout Room 2

	necessary not only to ensure Australia's future health, but also to contribute to our national prosperity. *With unwavering determination and endless passion, 2023's Millis Orator Prof. Frazer delves into what part of this agenda we meet currently, and what are the challenges that hinder our progress towards the rest, as Australia paves the way for more, revolutionary global health advancements.* *The Millis Oration is named in honour of Emeritus Professor Nancy Millis's contribution to the industry and is a focal point of the annual industry gathering, appropriately named after this pioneer of Australia's biotechnology industry. It is held annually at the conference together with continuous support from CSL.* *Sponsored by:* CSL	**NZ's approach to adding value to food through nutrition research** **Chair: Dr Marthe D'Ombrain** Head of Global Research Innovation, CSL Limited, Board Member AusBiotech **Joanne Todd**, Challenge Director, High Value Nutrition *With the aim of tackling the biggest science-based issues and opportunities facing New Zealand, the NZ Government established the National Science Challenges in 2014 encompassing 11 Challenges. One of these challenges, High-Value Nutrition, is focused on developing high-value foods with validated health benefits to drive economic growth. In this session, hear from Challenge Director Joanne Todd on the learnings over the past nine years, and how the High-Value Nutrition Challenge brings together the country's top scientists to work collaboratively across disciplines, institutions, and with New Zealand's food and beverage industry to achieve their objectives.*
9:30am-10:00am	**First-in-class donor-derived microbiome therapy informing medicine discovery** **Chair: Serg Duchini**, Non-Executive Director, ESFAM Biotech, Board Member, AusBiotech **Dr Sam Costello,** Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder BiomeBank *BiomeBank's BIOMICTRA™ was the first microbiome-based therapy approved world-wide when it was listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) in November 2022. BIOMICTRA is donor-derived and is approved for use in C. difficile infection. It has been supplied to patients in over 40 hospital networks around Australia.* *In this keynote, discover how BiomeBank is using BIOMICTRA in other diseases to inform medicine discovery of second-generation cultured microbiome-based therapies.*	**9.45am – 10.30am** Breakout Room 2 **Biosecurity** *Queensland's biosecurity system faces increasing numbers of new plant disease and/or pest threats along with a shifting risk profile as a result of climate change and external drivers like global people and commodity movements.* *Accurate, timely and comprehensive diagnostic tools are critical for building and sustaining the system's capacity to rapidly identify and address these biosecurity threats. These tools require more than an ability to quickly confirm identification of the threat and its associated characteristics; they also need to support the system's capacity to understand*
10.00am - 10.30am	**PLENARY** Plenary Room	

	Dancing with patents **Chair: Dr Robyn Stokes,** CEO, Bionics Gamechangers Australia **Dr Lisa Haile,** Partner, DLA Piper US **Professor Nick Opie**, CIO, Synchron *If you are looking to step into the US market with a new therapeutic or medical device, it is critical to survey the "dancefloor" that has already been laid down with respect to competitor patents. Understanding potential blocking positions sooner than later will allow you to plan your launch in the US without concerns about freedom to operate issues.* *Join this dynamic duo as they cross the dancefloor to discuss the 'patent dance' – the consequences and risks of not surveying the patent landscape well in advance, using others' data within your own patent applications and tips on how to manage your company's IP risks as part of your overall business strategy. Learn how to don the 'right shoes' and set yourself up for success as you step onto the global stage of life sciences intellectual property protection and enforcement.*		*the risk associated with these species and model that risk in order to build its evidence base on targeted and general interventions.* *This session adopts a multi-disciplinary panel approach to discuss how scientific/technology and practice areas can come together to ensure Queensland, and more broadly Australia, will sustain its biosecurity status in the face of increasing and shifting biosecurity threats, many of which hold the capacity to significantly impact environments, community health, market access and food security.* **Chair: Dr Rachel Chay,** Deputy Director General & Chief Biosecurity Officer, Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries **Panel:** • **Dr Jane Oakey,** Senior Principal Scientist, Animal Biosecurity & Welfare • **Dr Rohan Rainbow**, Managing Director, Crop Protection Australia
10.30am - 11.00am	**Morning tea and networking break** Bioindustry exhibition		
11.00am - 11.45am	**CONCURRENT SESSION 4A** Plenary Room	**CONCURRENT SESSION 4B** Breakout Room 1	**AgriBiotech Summit** 11.00am – 11.45am Breakout Room 2

	Product development: a team sport *Product development is a team sport, demanding a clear game plan to deliver a product that provides value to users. A successful approach almost invariably includes starting with the end in mind and engaging early with potential customers to define product requirements and use cases.* *This expert panel will discuss best-practice due diligence activities used to develop user requirements and a critical path for the development of pharmaceuticals, vaccines and medical devices, including case studies and insights on how they work with innovators to guide them to develop products that matter. The panel will also provide guidance on how to navigate pathways for engaging with Defence and national security agencies.* **Chair: Dr Felicia Pradera**, General Manager, Health Security Systems Australia **Panel:** • **Jenny Herz**, Co-Founder, Biointelect • **Dr Anand Gautam,** Executive Director & Emerging Science Lead, Pfizer • **Dr Flavia Huygens,** Chief Scientific Officer, Founder and Executive Director, Microbio • **Dr Craig Rayner,** Director, Regional Centre for Respiratory Medicines and Tropical Disease, Moderna • **Dr Chris Nave**, CEO, Brandon Capital	**Is Cyber Insurance necessary? Watch LIVE how easy a Cyber hack can be!** *Any company can be affected by a breach of sensitive information whether customer, employee or intellectual property. And as technology becomes more complex and sophisticated, so do the threats we face. That is why every business and organisation needs to be prepared with a well-designed insurance program. A well designed insurance program, can assist in managing the business interruption from a network failure or attack, potential data loss and restoration, crisis communications and also manage liabilities which may flow from unauthorised use of your network and release of confidential data* **Speakers:** • **Rob Brown**, Director, Cyber Response, McGrathNicol • **Mieke Van Dam,** Life Science Manager A&NZ *Sponsored by* CHUBB®	**The role of biotechnology in the transition towards biobased manufacturing** *Historically in Australia, energy use has been an input cost to agriculture and providing feedstock to a biofuels sector was something seen in subsidised international economies. Since 2006, there have been significant changes in key inputs into agriculture including fossil fuel-dependent fertilisers.* *There has also been a growing interest from customers on how the food production sector manages its environmental footprint.* *Reducing input costs, decarbonising production and developing lower emission-omitting energy solutions for the supply chain provide both challenges and opportunities for the agriculture sector.* *This panel session will discuss the challenges and opportunities for using biotechnology to enable the transition of manufacturing supply chains towards agricultural feedstocks and a decarbonised bioeconomy.* **Chair: Bronwyn Venus**, Head of Strategy, Insights and Engagement, Sugar Research Australia **Panel:** • **Dr Robert Speight**, Director, Advanced Engineering Biology Future Science Platform, CSIRO • **Dr Natalie Curach** Senior Director BD Gingko Bioworks • **Professor Gary Schenk,** School of Chemistry and Molecular biosciences, UQ • **Michele Bauer,** Deputy Director-General, Emerging Industries, State Development, Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
11.45am – 12.30pm	**Concurrent Session 5A** Plenary Room	**Concurrent Session 5B** Breakout Room 1	**AgriBiotech Summit** **11.45am – 12.30pm** Breakout Room 2

	Revolutionising medicine: exploring the potential of RNA therapy in the evolving biotech landscape *RNA therapy, a cutting-edge approach to treat or prevent diseases using RNA-based molecules, has sparked immense interest and investment in the United States. Over the last four years, non-vaccine RNA-based medicines have attracted a staggering US$16 billion in funding. These pioneering companies are not only focused on addressing diseases that were previously untreatable by conventional medicine groups, but they are also exploring how RNA medicine can drive down the costs of traditional medicines like biologics. Additionally, the potential of RNA to facilitate gene editing, potentially negating the need for viral vectors, has opened exciting new possibilities.* *While Australia has been actively involved in RNA science for over four decades, it is now on the brink of an industrial expansion in this transformative field. This session will delve into the unparalleled potential of RNA therapy and how the Australian biotech landscape is rapidly evolving to harness its power and allure significant investment.* *Join us for this session as we uncover the ground-breaking advancements in RNA therapy and explore how Australia is positioning itself to lead the charge in this revolution of modern medicine. Together, we will witness how RNA-driven innovation has the potential to reshape the future of healthcare and improve the lives of millions worldwide.* **Chair: Dr Daniel Getts,** Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder, Myeloid Therapeutics **Panel:** • **Dr Darren Saunders,** Deputy Chief Scientist & Engineer, NSW • **Professor Pall Thordarson,** Director, University of New South Wales RNA Institute • **Dr Matthew Hewitt,** Vice President, Cell and Gene Therapy, Charles River Laboratories	**Roadmap to manufacturing success: What does it take to create successful manufacturing in Australia** *In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, governments around the world are reviewing their sovereign capabilities in critical areas such as medicines and vaccines. Australia ranks last on OECD rankings for manufacturing self-sufficiency. There is an enormous task in rebuilding our domestic manufacturing capacity. Australia has a highly skilled workforce and high standard regulatory environment. What policy settings could assist Australia become a powerhouse of innovative pharmaceutical manufacturing? What lessons have been learned from COVID?* **Chair: Julie Phillips,** Chief Executive Officer & Director, BioDiem **Panel:** • **Kylie Sproston**, CEO Bellberry Ltd • **Professor Susie Nilsson**, Research Director, Biomedical Manufacturing, CSIRO • **Deb Anton**, Head of Division, Department of Industry, Science and Resources • **Ian Wisenberg,** Operating Partner, Bridgewest ANZ.	**Harnessing First Nations knowledge in biotechnology and natural product discovery** *Earlier this year, Uniseed and Bulugudu Ltd (owned by the Indjalandji-Dhidhanu people) invested $2.6 million into Trioda Wilingi, a University of Queensland/UniQuest spin out company developing innovative medical gels from cellulose nanofibres extracted from spinifex harvested in north-west Queensland.* *Trioda Wilingi has the exclusive global rights to develop novel injectable spinifex medical gels, which have many potential applications including osteoarthritis, drug delivery and cosmetic treatments. Under the agreement, a percentage of all royalties will go into an Indigenous education fund at UQ, to enhance training and education opportunities for Indigenous Australians.* *This panel session will discuss Trioda Wilingi's journey to date, the role of Indigenous knowledge and practices in science, and how to develop effective and meaningful partnerships between scientists and Indigenous communities to translate First Nations knowledge into commercial medical products.* **Chair: Julia Spicer OAM** – Queensland Chief Entrepreneur, Queensland Government **Panel:** • **Tim Case**, Interim CEO, Trioda Wilingi • **Colin Saltmere**, Managing Director, The Myuma Group • **Alan Rowan**, Director, Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, University of QLD
12.30pm - 1.20pm	**AusBiotech Annual General Meeting** Breakout Room 1		

12.30pm – 1.30pm	**Networking lunch and networking break** Bioindustry exhibition		
1.30pm - 2.15pm	**Concurrent Session 6A** Plenary Room	**Concurrent Session 6B** Breakout Room 1	**AgriBiotech Summit** **1.30pm – 2.15pm** Breakout Room 2

	Biopreparedness: supporting global health through a productive vaccine development pipeline *Never has there been greater recognition of the need for rapid development and delivery of safe and effective vaccines to control or even eliminate new and emerging diseases. Hosted by NSW Health, this panel session will allow attendees to engage with some of Australia's leading experts covering the entire vaccine pipeline – from discovery, design and testing through to small-scale production, clinical trials, and patient treatment.* *Panel members will discuss how large-scale, cross-jurisdictional partnerships can accelerate the development, commercialisation, and uptake of vaccines.* *This session is a must for anyone with a stake in the end-to-end commercial development of vaccines - from universities, medical research institutes, consumer organisations, industry, government and beyond!* **Chair: Anne O'Neill,** Acting Executive Director, Office for Health and Medical Research, NSW Ministry of Health **Panel:** • **Dr Laura Collie**, Senior Medical Advisor, Office for Health and Medical Research, NSW Health • **Professor Paul Young**, Professor of Virology, Research Development, Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences, The University of Queensland • **Dr Deborah Burnett**, Group Leader – Protective Immunity Group, Garvan Institute of Medical Research • **Professor David Tscharke**, NHMRC Fellow and Group Leader, Division of Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Australian National University • **Dr Alexandra J Spencer**, Lecturer in Immunology and Group Leader, School of Biomedical Sciences and Pharmacy, University of Newcastle *Sponsored by:*	**Navigating the path to commercial viability: unlocking success for early-stage technology developers** *In the dynamic realm of technology development, early-stage innovators often face the critical challenge of balancing technical excellence with commercial viability. This engaging panel session aims to explore why it is imperative for early-stage technology developers to think about and prioritise the commercial aspects of their products from the outset.* *Join us as we bring together distinguished experts representing the pharmaceutical industry, venture capitalists, and successful inventors-turned-entrepreneurs. Their diverse perspectives will shed light on what stakeholders seek when evaluating investments and navigating the complex journey of bringing a product to market. The panel discussion will dive into essential topics, beginning with the importance of quantitative approaches to determine commercial viability. Attendees will gain valuable insights into the financial considerations that underpin successful commercialisation strategies. Moreover, the session will delve into the realm of market access and uptake. The panellists will explore the challenges and opportunities associated with accessing specific markets, including distribution channels, reimbursement mechanisms, and the crucial perspective of end-users—the patients.* *By emphasising the need for early-stage technology developers to adopt a holistic approach that considers the target patient populations and identifies the potential payers, this session will highlight the reasons why commercial viability should be at the forefront of their thinking. Attendees will gain invaluable insights into the challenges and rewards of taking a technology all the way, including the significant financial investment required throughout the development and commercialisation process. Don't miss this thought-provoking session, where we will uncover the secrets to navigating the path to commercial viability.* **Chair: Dr Patricia Vietheer,** Senior Director R&D Strategy & Planning, Biointelect **Panel:** • **Bruce Goodwin,** Director, Omico	**Leveraging open-source information and patent analytics to drive agritech / foodtech innovation** *Discover how open-source data and patent insights can be leveraged to ignite agrifood tech in Australia towards key targets like sustainability, novel ingredients, and agricultural / manufacturing efficiencies. Hear first-hand how Australian organisations are using these powerful tools to discover game-changing trends, develop new collaboration opportunities, and help launch new innovation.* **Chair: Dr Peter Brown,** Principal, Patents: Life Sciences, Spruson & Ferguson **Panel:** • **Lloyd Thomson**, Commercialisation and Business Development Manager, Uniquest • **Adjunct Professor Andrew Scholey,** Research, Monash and Swinburne Universities • **Dr Andrew Kelly**, Executive Director, BioPacific Partners

	NSW GOVERNMENT Health	• **Professor John Skerritt,** Universities of Melbourne and Sydney, Australia • **Dr Alan Taylor**, Clarity Pharmaceuticals • **Chris Smith**, Partner, Brandon Capital • **Hon. Gabrielle Upton,** ARC Centre of Excellence in Quantum Biotechnology *Sponsored by:* 	
2.15pm - 3.00pm	**CONCURRENT SESSION 7A** Plenary Room	**CONCURRENT SESSION 7B** Breakout Room 1	**AgriBiotech Summit** **2.15pm – 3.00pm** Breakout Room 2

Curbing AMR: beyond the medicines

Antibiotics and other medicines used to treat infectious diseases are the cornerstone of modern medicine. Now they are failing due to the rising rate of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), with The WHO declaring AMR as one of the top 10 global public health threats. Although new medicine are essential, microbes are expert at thwarting our efforts to kill them, which is why we need to place a greater focus on preventive and alternative strategies while considering the role of the environment in the evolution and spread of AMR.

With less than two per cent of the Australian health budget being spent on prevention, how might we support the shift to a preventive AMR mindset by governments and healthcare providers? What types of policies and regulatory approaches could be used? What is needed to create collective and focused action on AMR when the number of possible responses is so vast and varied?

Chair: Professor Branwen Morgan, Minimising AMR Mission Lead, CSIRO

Panel:

- **Professor Chris Greening,** Head, Centre to Impact AMR R&D Facility, Monash University
- **Katrina Lapham,** Director Strategic Market Access & Policy, Biointelect
- **Dr Teresa Wozniak**, Research Team Leader, Digital Solutions for AMR, CSIRO
- **Mr Andrew Bowskill, Co-Chair,** Australian Antimicrobial Resistance Network (AAMRNet)

Sponsored by:

CSIRO

Getting to regulatory approval: A fierce chat with former heads of TGA and EMA give their view on hot regulatory topics.

As Australia's thriving industry works towards attaining regulatory approvals and commercialisation, hear from the former heads of Australia and Europe's regulatory bodies as they tackle the hottest regulatory topics that may be impacting your companies.

Topics tackled by this terrific twosome include:

- ***Getting global regulatory approval, and the reliance and cooperation among regulatory agencies:*** *Hear about how agencies around the world collaborate, and how crucial it is in today's global biopharmaceutical and medical device markets; it supports industry to navigate the complex landscape of regulation and approvals, enhances the ability to respond to global health challenges, and ensures patient access to safe and effective treatments.*

- ***Best use of expedited pathways to get regulatory approvals:*** *Varying between regulatory agencies and regions, these pathways are designed to expedite the availability of treatments for serious or life-threatening conditions, unmet medical needs, or public health emergencies.*

- ***Real world evidence:*** *Patients are central to the development of clinical evidence on products during clinical trials, compassionate use programs and off label use; will the use of real-world data that is usually collected outside of the clinical trial (for therapeutics) or investigational testing (for medical devices) setting replace or complement randomised control trials? Discover the latest developments and thinking amongst regulators.*

- ***Understanding the regulatory nexus:*** *TGA, EMA and FDA: When it comes to ensuring the safety and efficacy of pharmaceuticals and medical products, the alignment and distinctions between regulatory agencies are of paramount importance. Understand where and how the TGA, FDA and EMA align and differentiate, as you work towards regulatory approvals. The synergies, coupled with each agency's distinct*

Hitchhiking along the long and winding investment road: who will the investors pick up and how to avoid being left behind

The attraction of capital will be a critical factor in the food and agribusiness sector realising its full growth potential. Technology that can deliver efficiencies and greater output in the sector is being developed here in Australia, however, those technology developers lack access to traditional funding sources and will increasingly rely on capital from investors including venture capital.

This session will discuss the array of investment types available to agritech companies, tried and true methods and pitfalls that companies face when seeking growth capital, and how to attract investment in the current capital raising environment.

Chair: Sarah Meibusch, Partner, One Ventures

Panel:

- **Russel Rankin,** Director, Food Innovation Partners
- **Brian Ruddle,** Managing Director, Impact Innovation Group Pty Ltd
- **Nusqe Spanton**, CEO & Founder, Provectus Algae
- **James Williams**, Investment Director, Yuuwa Pty Ltd

		focus, underscores the critical role these regulatory bodies play in ensuring that biotech products meet the highest standards, and promote global health and well-being. • ***Regulatory flexibility created during the Covid pandemic;*** *is it here to stay? Explore how the public health situation, political decisions, economic conditions, and societal attitudes play a role in shaping the future of these regulations.* • ***Political regulatory reforms:*** *get the 101 on what's proposed in the EU's proposed new pharmaceutical legislation and uncover what the consequences for the life sciences industry may be.* **Moderator: Jane Kelly,** CEO CMAX Clinical Research Pty Ltd **Panel:** • **Dr Thomas Lonngren,** Director, PharmaExec Consulting AB • **Professor John Skerritt,** Universities of Melbourne and Sydney, Australia	
3.00pm - 3.30pm	**Afternoon Tea** Bioindustry exhibition		
3:30pm – 4.15pm	**CONCURRENT SESSION 8A** Plenary Room	**CONCURRENT SESSION 8B** Breakout Room 1	**AgriBiotech Summit** **3.30pm – 4.15pm** Breakout Room 2

	What does AI and machine learning mean for our innovators' IP? *Machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) have the potential to support commercialisation by accelerating the discovery process, such as identifying novel antibody designs or optimising the selection of potential candidates, optimising clinical trial patient recruitment, and improving patient outcomes.* *As AI and ML become more prevalent in biotech development, there may be opportunities to patent new algorithms and technologies, thereby creating new opportunities for innovation in a globally competitive field.* *Around 80 per cent of Australia's life science's industry are SMEs and pre-revenue, and so the opportunity to use AI and ML tools that help to get through low-resource periods can be a tempting light. However, what are the impacts on your inventorship and for your IP ownership?* *Join this panel to discuss the legal pitfalls to look out for as these tools accelerate biotech discoveries – whether your own, or those you may collaborate with. It's important for our innovators to consider the issues and develop appropriate strategies for managing them; public discussion will be encouraged.* **Chair: Dr Leigh Guerin**, Senior Associate, Patent Attorney, Phillips Ormonde Fitzpatrick **Panel:** • **Dr David Cardoso**, Vice President Business Development, Pending.AI • **Michael Schwager,** Director General, IP Australia • **Dr Ken Seidenman,** Senior Associate, FB Rice	**From quantum technology to bio-innovation: the future of biotechnology** *As the field of biotechnology and medical technology continues to advance, new frontiers emerge and, one such frontier is the fascinating world of quantum technology, both in and for, biology.* *Quantum technologies have the potential to transform various aspects of biotech and medtech, from drug discovery to new instruments and tools for imaging, microscopy and diagnostics.* *Australia brings significant global capability in this arena, and our panel of quantum tech experts will explore some of the wicked problems the lifesciences industry is trying to solve and, the transformative potential of near-term application of quantum technologies in the biomedical space.* *The discussion promises to be an eye-opening exploration of how (and when) quantum technology, sensing in particular, will radically alter the life sciences landscape, and how Australian and Global collaboration is moving to commercialise these new technologies.* **Chair: Scott Hansen**, CTO, COREMATIC **Panel:** • **Dr Matthew Hewitt**, Vice President, Technical Officer CGT & Biologics at Charles River Laboratories • **Jayden Castillo**, Chief of Staff, Quantum Brilliance • **Sarah Sharp**, CEO, Frontier Sensing • **Professor Halina Rubinsztein-Dunlop,** AO, FAA, FRSB, Director of Quantum Science Laboratory, School of Mathematics and Physics, The University of Queensland • **Professor Chris Vale**, Director, Quantam Technologies Future Science Platform, CSIRO	**Food for thought: sustainability and emission reduction in the alternative protein industries.** *Earlier this year, the world's population passed 8 billion people. With an expected further 500 million mouths to feed by 2030, the demand for protein will only increase.* *Queensland and wider Australia are leading providers of food protein to the world through its seafood, livestock, grains and pulses industry, however but these activities alone will not be sufficient to meet demand.* *Increasingly industrialised countries are moving away from meat and dairy consumption towards alternative sources of protein and foods, which rely on plants, microorganisms, and cell cultures.* *Biotechnology, and technology in general, offers the potential to increase protein production in a sustainable manner. This is not simply a matter of plant protein displacing animal protein in the world's diet: we will need to explore all avenues to meet demand from the use of gene technology to enhance the climactic range of existing plants, to new plant and animal food sources, to the use of rapidly developing precision fermentation.* *In this session, panel speakers will cover a range of technologies and options for sustainable protein production and discuss how we integrate new proteins into our food system, export supply chains, and markets.* **Chair: Professor Michelle Colgrave**, *CSIRO* **Panel:** • **Laura Navone**, R&D Director, Eden Brew • **Michael Fox**, Co-founder & CEO, Fable Food Co • **Brendan McKeegan**, Co-Founder & Director, Australian Plant Proteins • **Alex Baker,** CEO, Future Feed
	CONCURRENT SESSION 9A **(4.15pm – 6.00pm)** Plenary Room	**CONCURRENT SESSION 9B** **(4.15pm – 5.00pm)** Breakout Room 1	**AgriBiotech Summit** **4.15pm – 5.00pm** Breakout Room 2

Biotech careers beyond the bench

The 2-hour session is pitched at PhD, postgraduate, and undergraduate students alike and will bring together industry leaders from a broad range of roles to share their valuable insights and experiences, shedding light on different career paths and opportunities within life sciences.

Moderator: Julie Phillips, CEO & Executive Director, BioDiem Ltd

Session 1 - **The Business of Biotech – finance, IP, Recruitment & consultants**

- **Dr Peter Brown** - Spruson & Ferguson (Patent Attorney)
- **Dr Rachel Cameron**, Principal, Brooker Consulting
- **Dr Donmienne Leung**, Director, Abbvie Ventures
- **Dr Chris Nave**, CEO, Brandon Capital

Session 2 - **Medical & Health**

- **Ms Liz de Somer**, CEO Medicines Australia
- **Jane Kelly CEO** – CMAX Clinical Research Pty Ltd
- **The Hon. Gabrielle Upton**, ARC Centre of Excellence in Quantum Biotechnology
- **Kylie Sproston,** CEO Bellberry Ltd

Moderator: Michelle Gallaher, Executive Director, Oculus MioMed

Session 3 - **Research & Government/Public Sector**

- **Professor Ian Frazer**, Director, Microba
- **Professor John Skerritt** – Uni of Syd, Uni of Melb
- **Professor Susie Nilsson** – Research Director CSIRO
- **Dr Dean Moss**, CEO, Uniquest

Session4 - **Manufacturing & Therapeutics**

- **Bev Menner**, CEO, Cell Therapeutics
- **Dr Eden Liu,** Senior Production Office**,** QIMR Berghofer
- **Dr Anne Collins**, CEO Sementis
- **Michelle Williams**, Strategic Partnerships Lead, Sanofi

Sponsored by:

Korean Biotech Leaping towards Innovative Technology

Seoul Bio Hub is a biomed startup innovation platform hosted by the Seoul Metropolitan City and managed by Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST).

Seoul Bio Hub gives biotech companies a chance to promote their technology and explore partnering options, as well as draw in investments.

In this session, we will present innovative technologies through the biotech company's pitch and provide business partnership opportunities with Australia and global companies.
The biotech companies are: Drug delivery platform developer SANGMYUNG innovation, mRNA-based therapeutics developer Renhaim, Medical cannabis developer NeoCannBio, Global genome service provider and platform based cancer therapeutics developer Theragen Bio, AI platform based novel drug developer Pharos iBio

Chair: **Julie Quinn** Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner, Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) Korea

Panel:

- **Dr Young Tae Lee**, Chief Global Officer, SANGMYUNG Innovation
- **Jason Hur**, Director, Renhaim
- **Jeong Kook Kim**, President, NeoCannBio
- **Sugi Seol**, NGS global sales team Leader, Theragen Bio
- **Dr Kyu Tae Kim**, Chief Business Officer, Pharos iBio

Sponsored by:

biohub
SEOUL BIO HUB

You are what you eat - harnessing AI to power the Agribiotech value chain

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) products and services has rapidly increased with the rise of the digital age and computing power. We now see AI applied broadly in many everyday situations at work, home and across the community. Advances in both AI and biotechnology offers the potential solutions to global social, environmental, and economic problems at a scale and speed not seen before. New opportunities will continue to arise as the technology evolves and society becomes more comfortable with its broad practical application. These advancements are predicted to transform our agrisystem and the way we work to collaboratively tackle issues such as of climate change, global food shortages and nutrition

Chair: Salvo Vitelli, General Manager, Agribusiness Policy. Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Panel:

- **Sarah Meibusch**, Partner, One Ventures
- **Professor Scott Chapman**, School of Agriculture and Food Sustainability, University of QLD
- **Dr Peyman Moghadam,** Embodied AI Leader, CSIRO

	BROOKER Consulting		
6.30pm– 10.00pm	**Conference Dinner** Plaza Ballroom, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre **Hon. Cameron Dick MP,** Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment *Pre-dinner drinks & canapes sponsored by:* SMARTWAYS LOGISTICS FOR LIFE		

Friday 3 November 2023

09.00am - 09.45am	**Concurrent Session 10A** Plenary Room	**Concurrent Session 10B** Breakout Room 1	**EARLY-STAGE INNOVATION FORUM** Breakout Room 2
	Animal model alternatives: the future of medicine screening is driven by human biology *We stand at the dawn of a new era in medicine development, powered by innovative New Approach Methods (NAMs) and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) advocacy.* *These powerful advances have triggered significant changes in regulatory requirements worldwide, including the removal of the animal-testing mandate during medicine discovery in the US through the FDA Modernization Act 2.0.* *This bill allows FDA to consider information from sources other than animal studies to facilitate and support all clinical trial stages. These sources encompass cell-based approaches such as human pluripotent stem cells (iPSC), organotypic in-vitro cultures (micro-tissues, spheroids, organoids), microphysiological systems, as well as in-silico computer-based modelling, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine-learning.* *This panel will explore how the role of NAMs and animal tests will evolve as the industry strives to identify the most accurate methods for predicting patient responses to new*	**Boosting cell therapy innovation in Australia** *Cell therapies are a worldwide fast-growing therapeutic modality and the US' FDA is expecting to approve an increasing number of new cell therapy products each year.* *Only very few cell therapy products are currently licensed in Australia, but Australian innovation is filling the pipeline. In North America, clusters of cell and gene therapy communities consisting of academia, biotechs, technology providers, pre-clinical and clinical research organisations, VCs, manufacturers, and consultants are emerging around the country, providing innovators with a bespoke environment to deliver innovative cell therapies. In Australia, similar clusters are beginning to form around academic originators and their institutes while foreign entities are multiplying their expressions of interest in Australia as an alternative to existing hubs in Singapore and China, buoyed by the growing recognition of Australia as an attractive clinical trial destination and fast-to-proof-of-concept environment.* *Success factors include research funding which is meaningful enough to advance Australian-originated products into clinical development, access to sufficient venture capital, a well-developed hospital network and clinical trial infrastructure*	*The Early-Stage Innovation Forum enables early-stage projects and technologies from research institutes, universities, hospitals and pre-series A companies in the area of human therapeutics and enabling technologies to pitch to a panel of industry experts, corporate VCs and early-stage investors to continue their commercialisation journey.* *Sponsored by:* sanofi **9.00am – 9.10am** Welcome and official opening **9.10am – 10.30am** Early-Stage Investment Forum: pitches session 1 • Kimaritec • Minimum Bio • Murdoch University

	therapeutic candidates and pave the way for a new era of more reliable and effective therapies that will bring benefits to a larger number of patients. **Chair: Associate Professor Tam Nguyen,** Deputy Director of Research, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne **Panel:** • **Dr Christos Papadimitriou,** Chief Executive Officer, Tessara Therapeutics • **Greg Williams,** Health and Biosecurity lead, CSIRO Futures • **Amanda Richman**, Ethical Stewardship Lead, Australian Ethical Investment • **Dr Chris Schyvens**, Director of Toxicology, TGA • **Natalie Anderson**, Scientific Outreach Consultant, Humane Research Australia	*which embrace innovation, efficient workforce training of technical and manufacturing staff, and Government support in the form of streamlined approval processes, a favourable tax environment including for the manufacture of products destined for export, and a developed domestic market with established and efficient pathways for approval and reimbursement.* *The session will discuss how Australia compares to its global competitors, which areas need more support and investment, and how this could be achieved.* **Chair: Dr Mathias Kroll**, Chief Commercial Officer, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute · **Panel:** • **Professor Rajiv Khanna,** Distinguished Scientist, QIMR Berghofer • **Professor Simon Cool**, University of QLD School of Chemical Engineering • **Dr Rebecca Lim**, Senior Vice President Scientific Affairs, Prescient Therapeutics • **Professor Michael Valenzuela,** Co-Founder & CEO, Skin2Neuron, Sydney • **Dr Jennifer Hollands**, Government and Academic Liaison, Cell Therapies Pty Ltd	• Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute (ONJCRI) • Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre • Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre • ProSeek Bio **10.30am – 11.00am** Morning team and networking break **11.00am – 12.30pm** Early-Stage Investment Forum: pitches session 2 • QIMR Berghofer • Queensland University Of Technology • Reliis • Telethon Kids Institute • Telethon Kids Institute • Uniquest • Uniquest • Uniquest **12.30pm** Early-Stage Investment Forum concludes
09.45am - 10.30am	**Concurrent Session 11A** Plenary Room	**Concurrent Session 11B** Breakout Room 1	**2.15pm** AusBiotech 2023 closing ceremony Winner of the Early-Stage Innovation Forum announced
	Empowering Biotech Startups: Incubators and Accelerators Drive Innovation *In the fast-paced and competitive world of biotech startups, early-stage companies face numerous challenges on their path to success. However, incubators and accelerators have emerged as powerful catalysts, providing a nurturing environment where these start-ups can flourish. Incubators and accelerators are important for seeing more of Australia's world class medical research making it to the clinic.*	**A national plan for leading APAC's cell and gene manufacturing** *The global cell and gene industry has developed apace in recent years and is only accelerating. While the initial scientific challenges of C&G products have been overcome, the manufacturing and delivery requirements remain complex and diverse, with the increasing number of therapies pushing global manufacturing capabilities and capacity to the limit. Australia has an opportunity to position itself as an APAC regional leader in C&G manufacturing. By working together to promote its strengths and fill the current gaps, it can provide*	

	The session will explore the transformative potential of ecosystem partner collaborations in propelling early-stage biotech start-ups towards global success and meaningful patient impact. The session will cover: • *What do accelerators/incubators offer biotech start-ups* • *What accelerators/incubators offer broader biotech ecosystem stakeholders* • *The product development gaps / challenges that can be address by incubators/accelerators* • *How incubators connect discovery research and manufacturing to* • *The role of corporate, industry and investor partnerships* • *How are incubators and accelerators contributing to the maturing of the Australian biotech ecosystem, what the future looks like.* **Chair:** Camille Shanahan, General Manager, Jumar Bioincubator **Panel:** • **Andrew Gray**, Director CoLabs • **Dr Melissa McBurnie**, Partner & Head of Impact – Adelaide, Brandon Capital • **Dr David Cardoso**, Vice President Business Development, Pending AI	*world-leading manufacturing capabilities, research, clinical trials, and translational know-how.* *This panel will discuss Australia's role in the global C&G ecosystem, the objectives and tactics outlined in Australia's National Cell and Gene Manufacturing Blueprint, and how we can foster the development of the Australian ecosystem to a self-sustaining state and position Australia as a leader in the APAC region.* **Chair: Karen Parr**, Director, Communications & Policy, AusBiotech **Panel:** • **A/Prof Zlatibor Velickovic,** Facility Director, Cell & Tissue Therapies WA, Royal Perth Hospital • **Cheryl Maley**, Interim Chief Executive Officer, BioIntelect • **Dr Heather Donaghy**, Scientific Engagement Officer, Therapeutic Innovation Australia • **Dr Bev Menner**, CEO, Cell Therapies Pty Ltd	
10.30am - 11.00am	**Morning tea and networking break** Bioindustry exhibition		
11.00am - 11.45am	**Concurrent Session 12A** Plenary Room (11.00am – 12.30pm)	**Concurrent Session 12B** Breakout Room 1	**EARLY-STAGE INNOVATION FORUM** Breakout Room 2

	Building the national mRNA ecosystem – major projects and infrastructure mRNA and RNA technology promises to be a new frontier in medical research, providing pathways to treat previously 'undruggable' diseases. Across the globe many countries are racing to establish themselves at the forefront of the emerging RNA sector and Australia is building on a strong history of medical research and pharmaceutical manufacturing to grow its own world-leading RNA ecosystem. This session will provide insight into major projects underway across Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales that aim to build national mRNA capability of global significance. The session will also include presenters from Federal Government organisations to speak to efforts being undertaken by government to understand Australia's full RNA ecosystem and develop advice for government on the potential of Australia's RNA sector. The session will focus on the complementary nature of the capabilities under development in each state, the collaborative relationship between government and industry and how these combined capabilities will serve to grow an end-to-end research, manufacturing and clinical mRNA ecosystem in Australia that is globally connected and competitive. **Chair: Professor Kate Seib**, Associate Director (Research), Institute for Glycomics, Griffith University **Panel:** • **Dr Saranya Sridhar**, Global Clinical Head of COVID-19, mRNA Vaccines and Translational Medicine Franchise, Sanofi • **Dr Craig Rayner**, Director, Regional Research Centre for Respiratory Medicines and Tropical Diseases, Moderna • **Dr Daniel Getts**, CEO and Founder, Myeloid • **Louise Talbot**, General Manager, Sector Development Branch, Industry Growth Division -	**Increasing vaccine access, vaccine deployment and rapid development** *We are increasingly facing threats to our health and prosperity. The need to vaccinate a population will increase with global warming and we need to be prepared for the next pandemic. COVID highlighted issues such as vaccine hesitancy and a gap between those who had access to vaccines and those who did not. The unavailability of vaccines is more prevalent in remote areas and indigenous communities due to cold chain challenges, transport logistics, lack of infrastructure and skilled health care practitioners. The panel will discuss how we meet challenges and meet rapid development required for the ever-increasing threat of disease.* **Chair: Professor Paul Young**, Professor of Virology, The University of Queensland **Panel:** • **Professor Robert Booy**, Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Sydney • **Dr Iris Depaz,** Country Medical Lead and Head of Vaccines ANZ, Sanofi • **Associate Professor Meru Sheel**, Sydney Infectious Diseases Institute and Sydney School of Public Health *Sponsored by:* vaxxas	*The Early-Stage Innovation Forum enables early-stage projects and technologies from research institutes, universities, hospitals and pre-series A companies in the area of human therapeutics and enabling technologies to pitch to a panel of industry experts, corporate VCs and early-stage investors to continue their commercialisation journey.* *Sponsored by:* sanofi
11.45am - 12.30pm		**Concurrent Session 13B** Breakout Room 1	

	Department of Industry, Science and Resources, Commonwealth Government • **Hon. Jaala Pulford**, Chair, MTPConnect	**Australian Biotech needs "TCR"** *Four Industry leaders acknowledge and discuss the uphill challenge for Australian Biotech and sovereign manufacturing - fostering Talent, urging Collaboration and availability of Resources to make it all happen. This session centered around the newly-published findings from the 2023 Biopharmaceutical Resilience Index (Index) from Cytiva which despite being a global review, enables a point a reference for the panellists as they offer their perspectives on Australia's biggest challenges in kick starting sovereign manufacturing.* **Chair: Dr Erin Evans**, CEO, Life Sciences Queensland **Panel:** • **Professor Trent Munro**, Senior Vice President of Therapeutics, Microba Life Sciences • **Mark William Womack,** Chief Executive Officer at BioCina • **Jane Ryan**, Viral Vector Manufacturing Facility, Westmead • **Jon Ince**, General Manager Australia & New Zealand, Cytiva *Sponsored by:* cytiva	
12.30pm – 1.15pm	**Lunch and networking break** Bioindustry exhibition		
12.30pm - 1.15pm	**IDT Lunch & Learn** Breakout Room 1 **Accelerated mRNA manufacture from synthetic DNA templates** **Dr Seth Cheetham,** Deputy Director BASE Facility, UQ **Targeting the dark genome to treat cancer** **Dr Sarah Diermeier,** CSO Amaroq Therapeutics **Advancing Genome Editing solutions for your therapeutic targets: forging a translational pathway from Discovery to the Clinic**		

	Sasha Thomas, IDT Clinical Development Leader *Sponsored by:* 
1.15pm – 1.45pm	**KEYNOTE** Plenary Room
	mRNA vaccines and therapeutics - product development and regulatory aspects of a platform technology **Chair: Karen Parr**, Director, Communications and Policy, AusBiotech **Professor John Skerritt,** Universities of Melbourne and Sydney, Australia *Since the first regulatory approvals and deployment of mRNA vaccines in late 2020, they have proven to be highly effective in the treatment COVID-19. Many other mRNA vaccines are now under development e.g., for other respiratory and tropical and other infectious diseases, rare metabolic diseases and oncology. mRNA therapeutics are also being developed for treatment of a range of diseases.* *A major factor behind the explosion of research and success in development of mRNA vaccines and therapeutics is that the products are developed from a common platform technology underpinning their design and development. This can streamline both the development and regulatory evaluation of these products, although regulatory guidance is needed on which aspects of the product and its regulatory review will be more common between products and which aspects are expected to be product specific.* *For Australia to maintain a competitive research, development, regulatory and commercialisation environment, there needs to be a clearer description and agreement of the implications of platform technology for these enabling processes, and a willingness to capitalise on the benefits of platform technology to enable efficient translation of products through the development and regulatory phases to commercial products.* *This plenary will describe platform technology as it relates to mRNA vaccines and therapeutics, its impact on medicine and vaccine development and regulatory considerations, and the urgent need for agreed guidance materials.*
1.45pm – 2.15pm	**PLENARY** Plenary Room
	The Discovery and Development of Ojjaara (momelotinib): a blockbuster in six acts **Chair: Robyn Lindner**, General Manager, AusBiotech NSW **Dr Chris Burns**, CEO & Managing Director, Amplia

	The JAK1/2 inhibitor momelotinib was invented at Australian biotech Cytopia almost 20 years ago. The discovery journey, from identification of the JAK kinases at the Ludwig institute in Melbourne in 1989 to the FDA approval in September 2023, represents a major achievement for Australian biomedical science. The highs and lows from this three-decade odyssey will be presented.
2.15pm – 3.00pm	**Closing Ceremony** Bioindustry exhibition **Rosanne Hyland**, Chief Operating Officer, AusBiotech