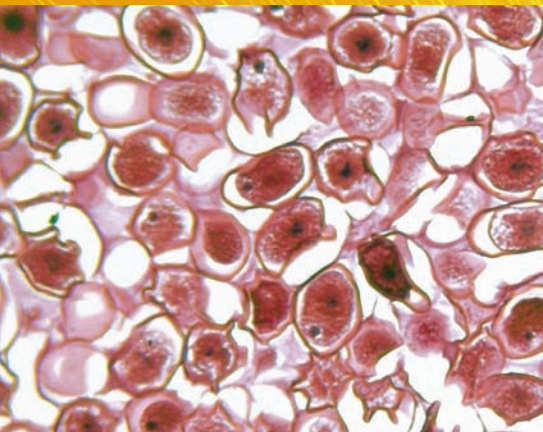


Science Pathways: *Getting Science on the National Agenda*

Inaugural meeting of the
*Early-Mid Career Researcher
Forum - the voice of Australia's
future scientific leaders*

Sept 24-25, 2012 Canberra



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Program

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Introduction



“The Forum” (that is, the Early-Mid Career Researcher Forum) of the Australian Academy of Science was first discussed when the Academy Council had a retreat in the Blue Mountains about seven years ago. We realized that the Academy, whose Fellows include virtually every top science researcher in Australia, and which advised Government on many key science-related issues, was unknown amongst young researchers. Not only were we invisible, but the Academy was not fully aware of the issues that affect the women and men who are going to fill our shoes in the years ahead. Slowly yet steadily (because most things in the Academy move slowly) we set about establishing the Forum (with its active steering committee and its independent program) to represent early career scientists and their issues to the Academy and to Government. I knew we had succeeded when the groups to which the Forum gave evidence complemented their views, and often incorporated these into policy. The Forum should become the most notable, authoritative and commanding peak body of opinion representing early-mid career researchers, and work with the Academy to ensure that we can speak with a measured and confident voice on behalf of all Australian scientists.

Professor Bob Williamson AO, FRS, FAA
Secretary for Science Policy, Australian Academy of Science

Program in brief

Monday, 24th September, 2012

- 10:00am *Registration/Morning Tea (30 min)*
- 10:30am Welcome and introduction (Prof. Bob Williamson)
- 10:45am Opening – Prof. Ian Chubb, Chief Scientist for Australia
- 11:00am Chuwen Keynote – Sustaining the New Scientific Revolution through the 21st Century (Prof. Brian Schmidt)
- 11:30am **Session I: What are the real issues for you?**
Focus Groups
- 1:00pm *Networking Lunch (1 hr)*
- 2:00pm **Session II: Best practices in the training and development of Australia’s emerging scientific leaders**
Panel Forum
- Tony Peacock, CRCA – The contribution of CRCs to research training in Australia
 - Marnie Blewitt, WEHI – Family-friendly policies that promote gender equity
 - Andrew Hopkins, AAO – Mentoring and career development
- 3:30pm *Afternoon Tea (30 min)* CUBEnet workshop (Prof. Phil Poronnik)
- 4:00-5:20pm **Session III: Career Hotspot - what else is there besides academic research?**
Panel Forum
- Cathy Foley, CSIRO – Research careers in Australia and overseas
 - Moira Clay, TICHR – Careers in research administration
 - Susan Hawes, DIISTRE – From research into policy
- 5:20pm Homework – what we’ve learned and where to take it from here?
(Dr Maggie Evans-Galea)
- 6:30-9:30pm *SOCIAL EVENT – Ivy Café, Old Canberra House (www.ivy-cafe.com.au)*

Tuesday, 25th September, 2012

- 9:00am **Session IV: Policy Development and Implementation**
Education Session
- Anna-Maria Arabia, STA – Raising awareness, gathering information
 - Paul Harris, CSIRO & ANU – Through the Government’s looking glass
 - Margaret Sheil, UM – Policy development in complex environments
- 10:00am *Morning Tea (30 min)*
- 10:30am **Session V: What are some potential solutions?**
Focus Groups
- 12:30pm *Networking Lunch (1 hr)*
- 1:30pm **Session VI: Getting science on the agenda**
Floor Discussion, outcomes and action points
- 2:45-3:00pm *Meeting Close (Prof. Bob Williamson)*

Background

Science Pathways 2012: Getting Science on the National Agenda

The Australian Academy of Science recognises the challenges faced by Australia's emerging researchers and in 2011, established the Australian Early-Mid Career Researcher Forum (the Forum). The Forum engages with early-mid career scientists from around Australia and advises the Academy on the key issues raised by younger researchers, to help inform its policy recommendations to government. Importantly, the Forum provides a vital connection between Australia's most eminent scientific experts and our emerging scientists.

The Forum is the national voice of Australia's future scientific leaders. It examines critical issues including career structure, education, job security, funding, training and gender equity, across multiple disciplines. The Forum liaises with other national organisations, such as Science & Technology Australia, to positively contribute to Australia's health and economy, and the future careers of our emerging scientific experts.

Are you passionate about your future scientific career in Australia?

This meeting aims to engage you – Australia's early-mid career researchers (EMCRs), across all disciplines and from around the country - in active discussion. The Forum wants to learn more about the specific challenges you face and with you, devise some possible solutions – both aspirational and practical. **We want you to have your say!**

Using your ideas and recommendations, the Forum will produce a publication for government ministers, policy-makers and other interested parties on key issues facing young researchers establishing scientific careers in Australia. We will also develop a national web-based resource for all EMCRs.

Importantly, you will also extend your professional skills through an Education Session on policy development and implementation, and learn more about rewarding scientific careers in the Career Hotspot. It will also provide opportunities to network with leading scientific professionals from some of Australia's top organizations in public and private enterprise, so don't be shy!

FOCUS GROUPS

There will be two focus group sessions (*Session 1* and *Session V*). There will be eight colour-coded focus groups - your name tag will indicate your group. There will be a mixture of EMCRs from different institutes, career stage and discipline in each group. A Forum member will facilitate the group discussion. A scribe will also make notes for presentation of your group's ideas/main discussion points to the entire floor when we reconvene at the end of the session.

1. RED (Becker Room, large room, 20 people)
2. ORANGE (Jaeger room 16 people)
3. YELLOW (Ian Wark theatre, stalls upstairs - right side, 15 people)
4. GREEN (Library - 12 people)
5. BLUE (Fenner breakout area - 12 people)
6. PURPLE (Foyer - 14 people)
7. WHITE (Ian Wark theatre, stalls upstairs - left side, 15 people)
8. BLACK (Ian Wark theatre, downstairs – 13 people)

LET'S GET THE BALL ROLLING

DAY 1

Session I: What are the real issues for you?

This focus group session aims to identify the key issues for emerging scientists, including those specific to certain disciplines and cross-cutting issues common to all.

The good, the bad and the ugly?!

1. What aspects of your current role do you enjoy most? Which parts frustrate or annoy you?
2. Thinking beyond both your experiences and those of your peers, what are the general positive and negative aspects of science careers at your institute/university/organisation? This could include data collected by your institute/university/organisation or publications.

The nitty gritty questions

3. How is your performance as a researcher judged? Do you agree or disagree with the way this is done?
4. What would you describe as the strengths and weaknesses of your career training to date?
5. If you have worked abroad, or in another institution in Australia, how would you compare your experiences with where you work now?
6. What job would you aspire to hold in 10 years time from now? What preparation do you think you need to achieve this career goal?

In a nutshell...

7. Summing up your positive answers, what lessons or ideas could be shared with other researchers?
8. Looking at your negative answers, what solutions can you envisage? Be creative but realistic!

Session II: Best practices in training, development and policies

Following *Session I*, we will have identified a number of challenges faced by EMCRs in establishing their careers. In this session, we will hear from several experts on strategies they have implemented to address some of these. Please consider the following questions:

Do you have ready access to professional training and development?

1. Did your PhD and postdoctoral training provide you all the skills to perform the role of Group Leader? What was missing? Why was it missing (not provided, not funded, apathy)?
2. Are you mentored adequately? Does your institute have an established mentoring program? Do they help you identify a mentor? What is the benefit to the mentor (other than personal satisfaction)? Is there structure within scientific workplaces to encourage better mentoring of EMCRs?
3. What are the fundamental issues discouraging either men or women from progressing to more senior roles? Is it choice, unrealistic expectations, inaccurate perceptions or a combination of issues?
4. Do you find leading scientists at your institute/organization to be unrealistic role models? Are your expectations unrealistic?
5. What are the challenges faced by scientists looking to leave traditional academic research? A lack of transferable skills or a lack of understanding by employers of what a PhD graduate can offer? Is there a lack of options in your field compared to other disciplines?

In what ways can research training and development practices or policies be improved?

6. Should this be a national strategy or is it a local/employer issue? Who should fund it?
7. How can EMCRs be better prepared at transitioning to an independent researcher?
8. Are there existing courses available to develop additional professional skills for emerging leaders? What do or should these courses teach? Who should this be available to: PhD students, early-career or mid-career scientists, new lab heads?
9. How can employers be encouraged to implement new policies, such as gender equity? Should this be a requirement of grant administering organisations?
10. Should a PhD prepare you for a wider range of careers (other than research)?

Pie in the Sky

11. What policies/strategies would you like to see in your sector?
12. What do you think will help you succeed in your career?
13. Do you think a system-wide “cultural shift” in how we approach research and research careers is needed? If yes, what kinds of changes would you make?

Session III: Career Hotspot

Session III aims to give a bird’s eye view of some rewarding careers beyond academic research. You will hear the panel’s thoughts on these (and other) questions:

1. What two things do you enjoy most about your current job?
2. What two things do you find most challenging?
3. What brought about your decision to move from a full-time research career? How did you make the initial transition?
4. What are the most important things that you learnt from your research career that help you in your current job?
5. Was it necessary to acquire any additional qualifications?
6. Looking at the field you are currently in, what opportunities do you see in the future for research scientists like those here today?
7. How do you balance job responsibilities with other aspects of your life?
8. What advice would you give to the participants here today who might consider a move away from hands on research?
9. Do you have a Plan B (C, D,...)? Do you think it is necessary?
10. Do you know what different types of careers are available to you? Did you learn about these in your PhD?
11. Did your mentor/supervisor suggest you learn about other careers in addition to research?

DAY 2

Session IV: Education Session

Chaired by Prof. Bob Williamson, Secretary for Science Policy with the Australian Academy of Science, this session will overview the different stages and aspects to developing effective policies. This is an opportunity for you to gain a thorough understanding of the policy development and implementation process. This knowledge will be directly applied in *Sessions V* and *VI* - when you will be asked to share your ideas for future policy recommendations and contribute to developing an 'action plan' for the next year.

Session V: What are some potential solutions?

Following on from *Session I* each focus group will have identified key areas of importance that concern early-mid career researchers. You will also know some of the best practices in training and development available, and understand the policy development and implementation process.

This second focus group session provides you the opportunity to apply this knowledge and discuss ideas for solutions that will address these issues and help bring about positive change.

- 1) Within the group select a few key priority issues and put forward two or three ideas for actions that can be taken by:
 - a) Individuals
 - b) Employers (Institutions and organisations)
 - c) Government and policy makers
- 2) In the current economic climate, what changes could be made without increasing spending? How would you prioritise efficient use of currently available funds to address the issues raised? An example of a scheme being trialled in the US is the NIH "Pathways to Independence Award" <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/funding/training/redbook/phdk99r00.htm>
- 3) What do you see as the role of the AEMCR Forum and the Australian Academy of Science in furthering discussion, debate and promoting action on these issues?

Session VI: Getting science on the agenda – action points!

This session will be held in the main auditorium with all delegates present for an open floor discussion. The aims are to:

- Briefly review EMCR issues and solutions
- Prioritise the solutions/recommendations to identify the "Top 5" to include in a Forum publication that will be disseminated to Ministers prior to the next Federal election
- Discuss the development of a National EMCR web-based resource (acting as a major hub with links to reliable, quality controlled information and websites)

In addition, we would like to get your input into potential future Forum activities, which may include:

- 2013 *Science Pathways* meeting – a national EMCR meeting with a proposed theme: "Getting EMCRs Internationally Engaged"
- State-based EMCR networks, functions and events
- Would the establishment of "Academic Program Offices" with designated staff for professional development and support of EMCRs be useful?
- Forum members presenting information to their local EMCRs

With your assistance, we will establish a series of short (1-3 months), medium (6 months) and longer term (1 year) goals for the Forum to work towards – **we want to represent YOU!**

Detailed Program

Monday, 24th September, 2012

- 10:00am *Registration/Morning Tea*
- 10:30am Welcome and introduction - Bob Williamson
- 10:45am Opening – Ian Chubb, Chief Scientist - The “Health of Australian Science”
- 11:00am The Chuwen Keynote Address
Brian Schmidt: Sustaining the New Scientific Revolution through the 21st Century
- 11:30am **Session I: What are the real issues for you?**

Focus Groups Moderator: James Tickner, Michelle Dunstone
Discussion ideas: focus groups with Forum members at each table
The challenges – e.g. career path, funding, gender equity, brain drain, etc
Is this the same for EMCRs across all scientific disciplines?
The various aspects (intellectual freedom, project longevity, gender equity, career interruptions, career progression, schedules, pay/contract)
Lack of career structure and alternative options – especially outside of research
- 1:00pm *Networking Lunch*
- 2:00pm **Session II: Best practices in the training and development of Australia’s emerging scientific leaders**

Panel Forum Moderators: Raelene Endersby, Anna-Maria Arabia
Tony Peacock, CRCA – The Contribution of CRCs to Research Training in Australia
Marnie Blewitt, WEHI – Family-friendly policies that promote gender equity
Andrew Hopkins, AAO – Mentoring and career development
Panel Forum on the solutions – e.g. better training, mentoring, bridging funds, mentored fellowships, skills development, management, finance, communication etc
Do EMCRs believe these challenges are possible to overcome?
Are solutions effective – what would they like to see? What would help them succeed?
- 3:30pm *Afternoon Tea*
- 4:00-5:20pm **Session III: Career Hotspot - what else is there besides academic research?**

Panel Forum Moderator: Rosemary Keogh
Cathy Foley, CSIRO – Research careers in Australia and overseas
Moiria Clay, TICHR – Careers in research administration
Susan Hawes, DIISTRE – From research into policy
How they did it, challenges they faced, value of having a PhD (or not)
Roundtable ‘meet the expert’ sessions ~20 min each
- 5:20-5:30pm Homework – what we’ve learned and where to take it from here?
Maggie Evans-Galea
- 6:00 - 9:00pm *SOCIAL EVENT – – Ivy Café, Old Canberra House www.ivy-cafe.com.au*

Tuesday, 25th September, 2012

9:00am **Session IV: Policy Development and Implementation**

Education Session Chair: Bob Williamson

- Anna-Maria Arabia, STA – Raising awareness, gathering information
- Paul Harris, CSIRO & ANU – Through the Government's looking glass
- Margaret Sheil, UM – Policy development in complex environments

10:00am *Morning Tea*

10:30am **Session V: What are some potential solutions?**

Focus Group Moderators: Krystal Evans, Darren Saunders

Discussion: focus groups with Forum members at each table

Discuss diversifying PhD training/EMCR skills – how?

Defined career paths, EMCR funding

Ways to balance workload, improve gender equity, facilitate expat return

Same challenges for EMCRs across all scientific disciplines?

Unique issues versus cross-cutting/underlying issues for all

Engaging society

12:30pm *Networking Lunch*

1:30pm **Session VI: Getting science on the agenda**

Discussion Moderators: Maggie Evans-Galea, Andrew Siebel

Discuss overall issues and draft 5-point action plan

1. Write a publication to disseminate to ministers etc in lead-up to election:
 - Review EMCR issues
 - Present solutions/recommendations
 - Why govt should invest in science
 - Why business should invest in science
 - Why the public should care
 - What else to include?
2. Develop a web-based resource of employer information, advocacy involvement, toolkits etc.
3. Get input on Forum activities for the coming year. What would they like to see us doing more/less/better?

2:45-3:00pm *Meeting Close - Bob Williamson*

Opening Address



Professor Ian Chubb

Chief Scientist of Australia

Biography

Professor Ian William Chubb, AC, MSc, DPhil (Oxford), Hon DSc (Flinders), Hon DLitt (CDU), Hon DUniv (ANU), Hon LL.D (Monash)

Professor Chubb commenced in the position of Chief Scientist of Australia on 23 May 2011.

Previous roles:

2001-2011 Vice-Chancellor of The Australian National University

1995-2000 Vice-Chancellor, Flinders University

1993-1995 Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Monash University

1990-1995 Chair of the Commonwealth's Higher Education Council and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Wollongong.

Professor Chubb was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia for "service to higher education including research and development policy in the pursuit of advancing the national interest socially, economically, culturally and environmentally and to the facilitation of a knowledge-based global economy".

The Chuwen Keynote Address



About Ben Chuwen

Dr Benjamin M. Chuwen, PhD

1974 - 2012

Celebrating his life, commitment and passion...

Dr Ben Chuwen completed his PhD at the Centre for Fish and Fisheries Research at Murdoch University in January 2010 and was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with Dr Jeremy Lyle at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) at the University of Tasmania. As an ichthyologist, Ben's work focused on the biological aspects of key fisheries species, such as the Black Bream, and how such biotic variables can change with fishing pressure and/or environmental change. Ben also developed quantitative ecosystem models for estuaries, and published his research in international journals and presented at a number of international and national conferences. Ben had completed the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation's Advance in Seafood Leadership Development Program and was the Tasmanian State representative on the board of the Australian Society for Fish Biology. Ben used to pride himself on being able to effectively communicate with a wide range of stakeholders and community members to enable the results of his work to be disseminated as widely as possible.

Ben was a founding member of the Australian Early-Mid Career Researcher Forum in 2011 and joined because he wanted to make a difference. As a passionate scientific researcher with a friendly, easy-going nature, Ben was an advocate for all young scientists, regardless of their professional discipline. With a strong commitment to a healthy work-life balance, Ben wrote in his Forum biography, "I enjoy a balanced work/family life, which I achieve through being as productive as possible during my working time and allowing myself quality time after hours with my family." Ben avidly acknowledged the love and support of his family, and how this helped him juggle the demanding roles as both a young father and an emerging researcher.

On Sunday March 4th this year, Ben woke with a 'lightning bolt' headache that rapidly became life-threatening. He had a brain arteriovenous malformation since birth which ruptured and caused the first of three severe haemorrhagic strokes. Following multiple surgeries and several weeks in intensive care, Ben passed away peacefully on Friday, April 20th, 2012. He was 37 years old. Our thoughts remain with his family, especially his wife Nicole and their two young daughters Lila and Gracie. As scientists, we know that research groups also spend a lot of time together and what affects one, ultimately affects all. Ben's colleagues at IMAS described him as "a dynamic and enthusiastic young scientist" and they all strongly supported Ben's family throughout this difficult time.

In celebration of Ben's life, commitment and passion for all things science, the Forum will hold the first *Chuwen Keynote* address at its inaugural national meeting this September. We all admired Ben's love for both his work and his family, and we all want to make him proud.

Chuwen Keynote Presenter



Professor Brian Schmidt

Laureate Fellow, The Australian National University

Sustaining the New Scientific Revolution through the 21st Century

The 20th Century will be remembered as a 100 years where Science transformed the world, bringing unprecedented (although not Universal) prosperity to the world. Starting with the development of the fundamental physical laws of nature, this knowledge fostered revolutions across the scientific spectrum, as well the technical revolution both of which continue to this day. This revolution has had a remarkable impact on all facets of our lives, and this includes the way science is undertaken. Science is no longer undertaken by male researchers from privileged backgrounds working in isolation, but rather is a huge endeavour that needs to engage talent from all walks of life working collectively to solve the world's problems. I will discuss the transition that Australian Science is making, putting it into the international context, and talk about some of the hurdles yet to be overcome to ensure that Science continues to be able to transform Australian Life for the better into the future.

Biography

Brian Schmidt is a Laureate Fellow at The Australian National University's Mount Stromlo Observatory. Brian was raised in Montana and Alaska, USA, and received undergraduate degrees in Physics and Astronomy from the University of Arizona in 1989. Under the supervision of Robert Kirshner, he completed his Astronomy Master's degree (1992) and PhD (1993) from Harvard University. In 1994 he and Nick Suntzeff formed the HighZ SN Search team, a group of 20 astronomers on 5 continents who used distant exploding stars to trace the expansion of the Universe back in time. This group's discovery of an accelerating Universe was named Science Magazine's Breakthrough of the Year for 1998. Brian Schmidt joined the staff of the Australian National University in 1995, and was awarded the Australian Government's inaugural Malcolm McIntosh award for achievement in the Physical Sciences in 2000, The Australian Academy of Sciences Pawsey Medal in 2001, the Astronomical Society of India's Vainu Bappu Medal in 2002, and an Australian Research Council Federation Fellowship in 2005. In 2006 Schmidt was jointly awarded the US\$1M Shaw Prize for Astronomy, and shared the US\$0.5M 2007 Gruber Prize for Cosmology with his High-Z SN Search Team colleagues. In 2008 he was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the United States National Academy, and Foreign Member of the Spanish Royal Academy of Sciences. His work on the accelerating universe was awarded the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics, jointly with Adam Riess and Saul Perlmutter. Brian is continuing his work using exploding stars to study the Universe, and is leading Mt Stromlo's effort to build the SkyMapper telescope, a new facility that will provide a comprehensive digital map of the southern sky from ultraviolet through near infrared wavelengths.

***Invited Speakers
and Panel Members***
(In order of appearance)

Session II:

Best practices in the training and development of
Australia's emerging scientific leaders



Tony Peacock

Chief Executive Officer, Cooperative Research Centres Association

The Contribution of CRCs to Research Training in Australia

Tony Peacock and Nigel Palmer¹

Cooperative Research Centres Association, Canberra and ¹Centre for the Study of Higher Education, University of Melbourne

The Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Program was established in 1991 to increase the interaction between academia and industry. Approximately 200 CRCs have been funded since that time and a postgraduate program has been a part of every CRC. In 2010, 218 research doctorates were completed in CRCs, about 4% of the Australian total of all completions. The CRC Program is the 9th largest provider of PhDs in the country (noting that CRCs do not confer degrees themselves, so these figures would also be counted with other providers).

CRCs enjoy good levels of funding; reasonable flexibility and strong links with industry. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect their students to have good completion rates and good employment rates with industry relative to other providers. From a broad measure of completion rates, it appears that CRC research doctoral completion rates are higher than most categories of providers in Australia. The Group of Eight Universities appear to have the best completions rates over the past decade and CRCs have generally been on a par with that Group, but with more variability year-to-year. Unfortunately, employment destination information is scarce for all providers of doctoral training, and we lack the evidence to make valid comparisons.

Biography

Tony Peacock is the Chief Executive of the Cooperative Research Centres Association. Tony was the Chief Executive of the Invasive Animals CRC from 2005 and the Pest Animal Control CRC from 2001. He was Managing Director of the Pig R&D Corporation from 1996-2001. Tony is a passionate advocate for applied research and was the 2010 winner of the Australian Government Eureka Prize for Promoting the Public Understanding of Science. He has a high media profile with regular spots on ABC radio speaking on innovation and has appeared on 60 Minutes, The Project, Catalyst and Scope. A reproductive scientist by training, Tony has worked at the Universities of Sydney, Melbourne and Saskatchewan. He has served on the Board of a number of start-up biotechnology companies, is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Canberra. He maintains several roles on conservation projects. His current research interests are in conservation, science communication, research leadership and effective innovation systems.



Dr Marnie Blewitt

Laboratory Head, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute

Family-friendly policies that promote gender equity

Whilst over recent decades the number of female students taking tertiary science degrees has increased to equal if not exceed the number of males, there has been no real change in the number of women in senior roles. There is a dramatic decline in the representation of women between the post-doctoral and laboratory head career stages; we are losing the majority of these intelligent and highly trained women from research. To redress this decline, over the last 3 years the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute has progressively implemented a series of gender equity initiatives, that encompass family friendly policies, financial support for post-doctoral and laboratory head women with childcare age children, promotion of more women to senior roles and attempts to make cultural changes within the Institute. I will outline these initiatives and provide some perspective on their success so far, and how achievable these types of initiatives may be to the broader scientific community.

Biography

Marnie completed her undergraduate studies at The University of Sydney, with a double major of Molecular Biology and Genetics. She completed honours and a PhD at the same University, with Prof. Emma Whitelaw on mammalian epigenetics. During her PhD, she designed and developed a sensitised ENU mutagenesis screen to find novel epigenetic modifiers in the mouse, for which she was awarded the Genetics Society of Australia DG Catcheside prize for the best PhD in Genetics 2005. Marnie moved to Melbourne at the end of 2005 to take up a NHMRC post-doctoral fellowship with Prof. Douglas Hilton at The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute. Here, she has worked on one of the mouse mutants identified in the mutagenesis screen, identifying a critical role for the novel protein Smchd1 in X inactivation, and has also studied the role of polycomb group proteins in hematopoietic stem cell function. This work earned her the AAS Gani medal in 2009, and the L'Oreal Australia For Women in Science fellowship 2009. In January 2010, Marnie established her own group at The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute as ARC Queen Elizabeth II fellow, working on the molecular mechanisms of epigenetic control. Her lab studies epigenetic control in several systems, including X inactivation, parental imprinting, hematopoietic stem cell function and neural stem cell function. She has a keen interest in gender equity, having been involved in the new gender equity policies and initiatives implemented at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in July 2009.



Professor Andrew Hopkins

Head of Anglo-Australian Telescope Science, Australian Astronomical Observatory

Abstract

Mentoring, and being mentored, are crucial aspects in everyone's career development. Often these relationships develop spontaneously, or occur as a natural result of the supervisor/student (or postdoc) dynamic. You can, however, also drive the mentorship process yourself in order to maximise your own career potential. This works in both directions, as mentoring more junior colleagues provides insights that you can invert and learn from just as well when you interact with your own peers or more senior mentors. I will discuss some of the elements that make for a good mentoring relationship, and highlight the importance of having supportive mentors throughout your career.

Biography

I am the Head of Anglo-Australian Telescope Science at the Australian Astronomical Observatory. My research focuses on galaxy evolution, using multiwavelength data to explore how galaxy morphologies develop and evolve, and the role of star formation and galaxy environment. I grew up in country New South Wales, and completed my undergraduate science degree and PhD at the University of Sydney. I took up a postdoctoral position at the University of Pittsburgh in 1999, during which I was awarded a Hubble Fellowship by the Space Telescope Science Institute. After spending six years living in Pittsburgh I returned to the University of Sydney in 2005 to take up an ARC Queen Elizabeth II Fellowship in the School of Physics. In 2008 I moved to the Anglo-Australian Observatory (now the Australian Astronomical Observatory) as the Head of AAT Science.

CUBEnet Workshop



Professor Philip Poronnik

Abstract

The Collaborative Universities Biomedical Education Network (CUBEnet) was established in December 2011 by the National Committee on Biomedical Sciences of the Academy. The initial project is funded by the Office of Learning and Teaching and the 20+ universities that are participants. CUBEnet also partners with other discipline networks including biology, chemistry and maths. Our overall goals are to (i) provide the critical mass needed to identify, address and solve the central challenges that face us in delivering a forward looking and sustainable curriculum and (ii) maximize the efficiency of development, dissemination and adoption of innovative curriculum. In a complex tertiary environment, such a network is critical to aggregate, filter and connect ideas and information with the appropriate teams of people to achieve effective, transferable and sustainable solutions. The major focus of CUBEnet is on the undergraduate curriculum, however, as we develop our programs to improve key graduate skills, we also look to mechanisms to enhance the postgraduate experience and create training opportunities for post-docs looking towards a career in academia. The purpose of this brief presentation is to explore synergies and opportunities for collaborative projects with the mid and early career researchers and to develop a unity of purpose and a collective voice to keep the post-graduate career pathways on the national agenda.

Biography

Professor Poronnik is currently Deputy Head of School Learning and Teaching and Discipline Head of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the School of Medical Sciences at RMIT University in Melbourne. Prior to this he was Professor in Physiology at the School of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Queensland. He is an active researcher with a focus on molecular cell physiology funded by both the NHMRC and ARC. In 2004 he was awarded a UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award in 2004. He is an "In Focus" review editor for the International Journal of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, on the Editorial Board for the American Journal of Physiology Renal Reviews.

In addition to his scientific research, Professor Poronnik is heavily involved in science education research. He is an Associate Fellow of the Australian Learning and Teaching Council and a Research Professorial Fellow in the Centre for Educational Innovation and Technology at the University of Queensland. His key research areas are around creativity and innovation and embedding transferrable skills in the undergraduate science program. He currently leads the Collaborative Universities Biomedical Education Network (CUBEnet) on behalf of the National Committee on Biomedical Sciences.

Session III:

Career Hotspot - what else is there besides academic research?



Dr Cathy Foley

Chief, CSIRO Materials Science and Engineering

A PhD does not necessarily mean that you will one day be a university professor undertaking research in the academic arena. In fact the Institute of Physics in the UK has established that 80% of people with a physics degree do not end up “wearing a white coat”. So what else is there? In this talk I will present some information on careers outside the academic research areas and talk about the wide range of ways that a PhD in science can lead to challenging and exciting careers elsewhere. I will also touch on the expectations of the modern researcher that is very much broader than just doing research.

Biography

Dr Cathy Foley is the Chief of CSIRO Materials Science and Engineering. Previous to her current appointment, Cathy was involved in CSIRO’s Superconducting Devices and Applications Project developing superconducting systems for mineral exploration, detection of metal for quality assurance in manufacturing, terahertz imaging, and UXO detection. This multiple million-dollar project assisted with the discovery and delineation of the BHPB Cannington Silver mine and her team is currently commercialising their systems. Her group was the first team to successfully fly superconducting systems.

Career highlights

Cathy has a world-class reputation in her field, being:

- Fellow of the Institute of Physics in the UK;
- Immediate past President of the Australian Institute of Physics;
- Fellow of the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ASTE);
- Immediate past President of Science and Technology Australia (formally Federation of Australian Science and Technology Societies, FASTS); and
- Member of the Prime Minister’s Science Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC)

Cathy was awarded a Public Service Medal on Australia Day in 2003. In the same year, she won the Eureka Prize for the promotion of Science and in 2009 she was the NSW and National winner of the Telstra Women’s Business Award for Innovation. Cathy was also the recipient of the AUSIMM MIOTA award for LANDTEM as a mineral exploration tool.

Qualifications

BSc (Hons) Dip Ed, Macquarie University 1981

PhD, Macquarie University, 1985



Professor Moira Clay

Director Academic & Research Services,
Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

Careers in Research Administration

The research enterprise is getting increasingly complex presenting opportunities to diversify careers in research management and administration. There is an increasing imperative for researchers, research organisations, research funders and research partners to work more efficiently and effectively, in an increasingly competitive environment, to demonstrate research quality, outcomes and benefits. With this brings challenges in availability of funding, succession planning, collaborations, partnerships and networking, infrastructure, capacity building and translation of research results into demonstrable community benefits. Research managers play a critical role in provision of strategic leadership, advice, facilitation and development. This talk will focus on pathways into careers in research management and administration, skills and attributes required and professional opportunities.

Biography

Professor Moira Clay is the Director of Academic and Research Services at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research in Perth. This senior leadership role involves fostering and enhancing the Institute's research capacity with a major focus on development and mentoring of future research leaders.

Her background is in laboratory-based biomedical research. She completed a PhD on high density lipoprotein regulation at the Baker Institute in 1990 and went on to do a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Cincinnati, USA. Following this, she returned to Australia to continue her research in Adelaide at the Hanson Centre.

During her time in Adelaide, Moira joined the Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR). She was elected to the National Board of Directors in 1998. She subsequently became President in 2003, and led the public, political and scientific advocacy work of the Society. The highlight of her Presidency was facilitation of the Exceptional Returns campaign, which involved development of a report by Access Economics showing the economic return from investment in Australian research. The report, "Exceptional Returns, the Value of Investing in Health R&D in Australia", has been widely cited nationally and internationally and was crucial to achieving increases in NHMRC funding in the 2006-07 Commonwealth budget.

Moira's involvement in ASMR inspired her decision to move from lab research to research management in 2000. She was the Research Program Manager for the Heart Foundation from 2000 to 2005, a national role involving management of a \$7.5 million national research funding program, development of the Pharmaceutical Roundtable and implementation of an Evaluation framework. Following this, she became the Policy Advisor for the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne, directing the research advocacy, strategy and policy development for the Institute. She then took up the role of Associate Director of Children's Cancer Institute Australia in Sydney, with primary responsibility for the support, advocacy and advancement of research at the Institute.

Following her move to Perth in 2010, Moira was nominated and subsequently elected to the Executive of the Australasian Research Management Society (ARMS) as a Committee Member. She is currently President-Elect of ARMS and will become President in mid-September 2012. Moira is passionate about engaging and supporting the profession of research management in Australia. Her focus during her year as President will be ongoing implementation of the ARMS 2020 Strategic Plan.

Dr Susan Hawes

Assistant Manager, Enabling Technologies Policy Section,
Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education

From research into policy

How can a scientist with specific expertise work in the public service that traditionally prizes transferable skills? In fact, many scientists successfully work in the public service; some use their research background, others their knowledge of universities and the scientific community as well as how science works. The public service is Australia's largest employer, with many different areas, including policy development, program implementation and regulation. Working in the public service is a good way to understand how science-related policies are shaped by government and the broader views about science and technology. Although it may not always be an essential part of the selection criteria, scientists have a lot to offer the public service. Understanding science, how it works and scientific thinking, is useful to inform a wide range of policy agendas. As the astronomer Carl Sagan observed 'science is more than a body of knowledge, it is a way of thinking.'

Biography

Dr Susan Hawes is interested in science and innovation policy and is currently working for the Australian government. She works on policy for emerging technologies such as in biotechnology and nanotechnology, research-university collaborations and input into industry and community sectors. Susan was a scientist and has a PhD from King's College, University of London and was a researcher and lecturer at Temple University, Philadelphia in the USA and Monash University in Melbourne. Susan worked on epigenetic inheritance, embryology and embryonic stem cells and was a consultant for Crucell, the biopharmaceutical company. Her interest in embryology developed following many years working as a clinical embryologist in IVF clinics in London. She established and oversaw IVF units in Singapore, India, Egypt and the Philippines.

Susan has been involved in advisory committees, associations and has organised scientific conferences. She founded a national network, the Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research and is its current President. She writes and speaks on stem cells and IVF and took part in a science-art installation about human embryos. She is a lecturer on the Monash Bioethics Intensive course and has recently become member of the Australian Defence Force Human Research Ethics Committee.

Session IV:

Policy Development and Implementation



Anna-Maria Arabia

Chief Executive Officer, Science & Technology Australia

Nations rise and fall on the strength of their science. Yet, just having good science is not enough. The challenge is ensuring its findings and results are understood and used to develop sound public policy. Yet there are a number of policy challenges in Australia where the science is either being ignored or the vast divide between policy and science is letting the nation down.

Answers to complex policy questions rely on good science, and trained experts who understand the evidence and are able to put it into action. Using an evidence-based approach to policy development has been shown to increase impact and ensure cost-effectiveness.

Policy development is rarely if ever a linear process, similarly research outputs are not made-to-fit products that can be picked up off a supermarket shelf. Ultimately it is a question of communication. Whether or not the most relevant research reaches the person with the problem depends on the means and frequency of communication, which must start early in the policy development process.

Neither the researcher nor policymaker is naïve enough to think that policies are informed by evidence alone. Of course politics and community sentiment do play a role, but this should not be at the exclusion of the scientific evidence base.

Biography

Anna-Maria Arabia is CEO of Science & Technology Australia, the peak body for the science and technology sector. Previously Anna-Maria was a senior policy advisor to Anthony Albanese, Federal Infrastructure Minister, and was social policy advisor to former Labor Leader, Kim Beazley. She has also worked as a policy adviser in the Federal Department of Health and Ageing and collaborated with the Italian Government to foster cooperation in science and technology between Australia and Italy. Anna-Maria is a trained scientist completing a Bachelor of Science at the University of Melbourne and has undertaken post-graduate research at the Baker Heart Research Institute in Melbourne, and the Mario Negri Pharmacological Research Institute in Milan. Twitter: @ayyemm.



Paul Harris

Deputy Director, HC Coombs Policy Forum Crawford School
of Public Policy, The Australian National University

Through the Government's looking glass

The Australian Government invests approximately \$9 billion of public money each year in research, science and innovation. Why does it do this, and how do we know we are achieving the desired public (and private) goods?

A focus on science policy enables a clearer view of the links between “policy for science” – how we decide what gets funded and done (and who decides) – and “science for policy”, or the role of science in informing policy in a wide range of fields.

Across a number of key areas, including the research workforce, international collaboration and research impact, we can improve the ways in which we think and talk about science policy, improving the links between investments and outcomes.

Biography

Paul Harris is Deputy Director of the HC Coombs Policy Forum in the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University and a Special Advisor to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia's national science agency.

Prior to this, Paul was General Manager of CSIRO's Government and International Relations group and a Visiting Fellow at the ANU Centre for Policy Innovation.

In addition to a number of other projects, Paul leads the Coombs Forum's “Science, Technology and Public Policy” research program, which involves collaboration with government and researchers from a range of disciplines.

In 2011, Paul chaired the Australian selection panel for the Fulbright International Science and Technology Award. He has also been a member of the evaluation panel for the Australian Government's International Science Linkages programme and its expert advisory group on science collaboration with India, as well as the expert advisory panel for the Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology Cooperation.

Prior to his time at CSIRO, Paul worked in a number of different roles, including for Senate Committees at Australia's Parliament House and in publishing.

Paul has an undergraduate degree in literature and history and a masters degree in international politics from ANU.



Professor Margaret Sheil

Provost, University of Melbourne

Policy Development in Complex Environments

Drawing on her experience at the Australian Research Council, and as a member of a number of national research and science committees, policy, this presentation will outline some of the factors that inform the development of effective research and science policy. The importance of strategic planning, consultation and expertise will be explored along with the need to frame policy within the relevant national and international context. The complexities of developing policy at the interface of academia and government will also be discussed using some recent examples of success and less successful approaches.

Biography

Professor Margaret Sheil has been the Provost at the University of Melbourne since April 2012. In that role she leads the development and delivery of the Melbourne curriculum, student experience and scholarly information services and a range of other academic matters and committees. The Provost is the standing deputy to the Vice Chancellor. From 2007 to 2012, Professor Sheil was the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Research Council (ARC) and led the development of a range of new funding schemes and the Excellence in Research for Australia evaluation of Australian University Research. She is a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) and a member of the Advisory Council of the Science Industry Endowment Fund (SIEF). She has previously been a member of the Prime Minister's Science, Innovation and Engineering Council, the National Research Infrastructure Council and the Cooperative Research Centres Committee. Prior to joining the ARC, Professor Sheil had been Deputy Vice-Chancellor(Research), Dean of Science and a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Wollongong.

Travel Award Recipients

(Listed alphabetically)



Radiya Ali

Australian National University

I am interested in the biology of embryonic development. Specifically, in the early molecular events that drive mammalian embryonic development to create a healthy foetus. Recently, my work has begun to focus on skin wound healing to understand why embryos, and not adults, have the capacity to regenerate wounds without scarring. Besides 'bench' science and training of students/staff, in my 10 years as a cell and developmental biologist I have actively contributed to the scientific community through society memberships (ASCB and ANZSCDB), departmental seminar series organization and as the ACT state representative for the ANZSCDB society.



James Allison

CAASTRO

Dr James Allison is a Super Science Fellow at the University of Sydney. He studies the evolution of the fuel available for forming stars in galaxies by searching for the absorption of radio waves in clouds of cool hydrogen gas. He is part of the science team for the First Large Absorption Survey in HI, an all-sky survey on the Australian Square Kilometer Array Pathfinder, in Murchison Shire, Western Australia. James completed his PhD thesis at the University of Oxford, U.K., where he used observations of the Cosmic Microwave Background to probe the warm gas within giant clusters of galaxies.



Alan Alves Brito

Australian National University

As an astrophysicist my research has been observationally oriented with extensive use of spectroscopy. I aim to understand how galaxies were formed and have evolved in the Universe through their stellar populations. During my PhD I was a postgraduate student visitor at PUC (Chile), University of Virginia (USA) and at the RSAA/ANU. As soon as I finished my PhD I was a visiting researcher at the CAUP (Portugal) and the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics (Germany). As a postdoc, I have been working at Swinburne University (Australia, 2008-2009), at PUC (Chile, 2009-2011) and currently at ANU (2011-).



Kathryn Backholer

Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute

Kathryn Backholer is a Senior Research Officer in the Obesity and Population Health unit at the Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, and an adjunct Research Fellow at the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at Monash University. Kathryn completed her PhD at the end of 2009 in the basic science field of Neuroendocrinology and subsequently made a shift in research direction to epidemiology and population health. Her current work aims to build the evidence base to inform policy and practice of the most effective ways to improve population levels of chronic disease and reduce social inequalities in health.



Line Bay

Australian Institute of Marine Science,
CASS Foundation Regional Travel Awardee

I use physiological, genetic and genomic data to understand how coral reef organisms interact with their environment, and how migration and selection shape population structure. I study the rates and mechanisms of physiological acclimatisation, and the potential for genetic adaptation in response to climate and ocean change. In 2006 I was an associate lecturer at JCU where I taught evolutionary genetics. In 2007 – 2011 I was a post-doc at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies working on coral acclimatisation (2008 – 2011 was funded by a Qld Smart State Fellowship). In 2011 I recruited to AIMS in the position of research scientist.



Sheshanath Bhosale

RMIT University

Dr Sheshanath V Bhosale (Shesh) received his MSc from the Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University-Nanded, India in 1999 and his doctoral degree with “Magna cum Laud” at the Freie University Berlin, Germany in 2004. Dr Bhosale then moved to the University of Geneva, Switzerland with a Roche Fellowship. In Australia, he spent five years at Monash University as an ARC-APD fellow. He is now an ARC-Future Fellow in the School of Applied Sciences at the RMIT University. He is developing an innovative and cutting-edge research program by preparing an affordable and efficient yoctowells device on magnetic nanoparticles with which study applications such as catalysis, drug/gene delivery and photodynamic therapy, separation and mimicking natural photosynthesis.



Rebecca Bilardi

Walter & Eliza Hall Institute

Rebecca completed her undergraduate studies at La Trobe University in 2005 with an interest in pursuing research into cancer therapy. She then began a PhD in the laboratory of Prof Don Phillips and Dr Suzanne Cutts where she investigated how cancer cells respond to DNA damage caused by chemotherapeutic drugs. This work was completed in 2010. Rebecca is now a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Prof Suzanne Cory at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute where she is working on improving treatment for patients with a severe form of acute myeloid leukaemia.



Jayani Chandrapala

University of Melbourne

Jayani is a highly motivated, efficient and enthusiastic physical chemist with a very sound knowledge in food systems and nutrition. She graduated with BSc (Hons) specializing Chemistry in 2003. Later, she moved to Australia to pursue MSc at Monash University where she was graduated with a H1. This led her to be awarded the Deans Postgraduate Award to carry out PhD at School of Chemistry. Jayani finished her PhD in 2009 and was later worked at CSIRO (Food Science and Nutritional Sciences) and University of Queensland. Currently, she is carrying out her research at University of Melbourne, while undertaking some teaching for the school.



Veera Chikkala

RMIT University

Dr Veera Chikkala works as a postdoctoral fellow in Plant Biotechnology in the School of Applied Sciences at RMIT University. She completed her PhD in 2009 at RMIT University in plant tissue culture and transformation. She now has an industry funded position in the Plant Biotechnology Group and plays a leading role in the delivery of a major (approx. \$1million over 3 years) research project on the development of genetically modified grasses. She has been responsible for development and delivery of day technology and experimental work, playing a leading role in the design of experiments and hands on development of experimental techniques and procedures. With these industry positions also come some constraints and flow on effects on traditional outputs such as publications that can impact on career prospects.



Aurore Chow

Australian National University

My research interests are in Social Psychology and Education. Broadly speaking, I have studied relationships between social groups (i.e. men and women, Australians and the Chinese) and how perceptions of the relationships between groups affects inter-group behaviour. More specifically, I have studied the dehumanization of people based on their social group membership. My current role within the ANU Research Student Development Centre (RSDC) involves researching post-graduate research student education, particularly in professional development and training for an academic career. Our Centre conducts research on how such programs impact PhD student retention and completion rates.



Prue Cormie

Edith Cowan University

Dr Prue Cormie is a senior research fellow at the Edith Cowan University Health and Wellness Institute and is supported by the Cancer Council of Western Australia postdoctoral research fellowship. As an exercise scientist her research focus centres on the role of exercise in the management of cancer. She is a recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research by an Early Career Researcher and the Exercise and Sports Science Australia Medal a national award for most outstanding PhD thesis of the year in the field of exercise and sport science throughout Australia. Dr Cormie is a member of the NHMRC postdoctoral reference group.



Gonzalo Estavillo

Australian National University

I originally graduated with a Bachelor degree in Biotechnology from Argentina, and later on received a PhD in in plant physiology from the University of Florida, US. I am currently a Research Associate at the ANU Research School of Biology. My research interest is to improve plant biomass production by either enhancing photosynthesis or plant performance under adverse conditions. We have found one gene involved in controlling plant viability under drought. We are validating these findings in wheat. Another challenge to materialize future technological breakthroughs is to train young scientists. I am also passionate about student supervision and teaching plant physiology.



Hendrik Falk

Walter & Eliza Hall Institute

Dr Hendrik Falk completed his pharmacy degree at the Martin-Luther Universität (Germany) in 2000. Dr Falk segued into biochemistry during his doctoral thesis on intracellular signalling at the Freie Universität Berlin. A post-doctoral position at the Max-Delbrück-Center, Berlin was the beginning of his fascination with high-throughput screening as a tool for drug discovery. Dr Falk joined the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in 2008 where he is currently employed as a Senior Research Officer. The main focus of his work is the in vitro profiling of drug-like molecules for the Cooperative Research Centre for Cancer Therapeutics.



Kathryn France

Edith Cowan University

Kathryn France is a Project Manager with the Edith Cowan University Graduate Research School. Kathryn recently completed a PhD in Social Marketing that was funded by an NHMRC Scholarship and which resulted in the first West Australian state-wide campaign on alcohol use during pregnancy. Previously, Kathryn has worked as a research officer and project manager on competitively funded research projects. Kathryn's background is in population health and her research interests are primarily in the areas of health promotion and communication, child health research and intervention research.



Rebecca Glauert

Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

Dr Rebecca Glauert works at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research as the Program Manager of the Developmental Pathways in WA Children Project (DPP), the largest cross jurisdictional data linkage project in Australia. The Developmental Pathways Project is a landmark project taking a multidisciplinary approach to investigate the pathways to health and wellbeing, education and juvenile offending outcomes among Western Australian children and youth. The Project works in collaboration with 13 state government departments to link together de-identified, longitudinal, population-based administrative data to create a world class research and policy planning/evaluation resource.



Shelley Gorman

Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

Shelley Gorman (BSc Hons, PhD (University of Western Australia)) is a BrightSpark Foundation Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. Shelley aims to improve the lives of all Australians through her research of the effects that sunlight has on immunity. Ultraviolet radiation is an important environmental agent, which is plentiful in sun-soaked Australia. Shelley currently manages several research projects all with a focus on the role that sunlight-induced vitamin D has in modulating immunity. Her goals are to determine whether controlled sunlight exposure, or treatment with sunlight-induced mediators could be used as part of therapies for allergic and inflammatory diseases like asthma, obesity-related metabolic disease and psoriasis.



Patrick-Jean Guay

Victoria University

Dr Patrick-Jean Guay is a research fellow within the School of Engineering and Science and the Institute for Sustainability and Innovation at Victoria University. After doing a BSc with Honours in Biochemistry and a MSc in Medical Research at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, he moved to The University of Melbourne to do his PhD in Zoology in 2003. He graduated in 2008 and after a short post-doc in The Department of Zoology at The University of Melbourne, he moved to Victoria University in 2009. He has been studying Australian waterbirds for more than 8 years now. His research focuses on the ecology, behaviour and conservation of Australian native waterbirds. His current research projects include the use of artificial wetlands, such as waste stabilisation ponds, by waterbirds; the nomadic movement of waterfowl across the Australian landscape; human-waterbird conflicts; hybridisation between introduced Mallards and native dabbling ducks around the world. He is a founding member of the Applied Ecology Research Group within the Faculty of Health Engineering and Science and is now the deputy leader of the group. He also supervises multiple postgraduate students and he teaches in various units of the Bachelor of Science Ecology and Environmental Management Specialisation.



Ashleigh Guillaumier

University of Newcastle, CASS Foundation Regional Travel Awardee

My research interest surrounds public health promotion. I am a current APA Scholarship PhD student in the area of health behaviour. Undergraduate research training was gained during honours year of a Bachelor of Psychology at the University of Newcastle, and I have worked as a research officer with the University of Newcastle for 2.5 years. I am currently in the second year of the PhD (Behavioural Science) program, undertaking a project that focuses on the impact of selected population-level tobacco control strategies on severely socially disadvantaged smokers. This project involves a touch screen computer survey, face-to-face interviews and focus groups.



Kiao Inthavong

RMIT University

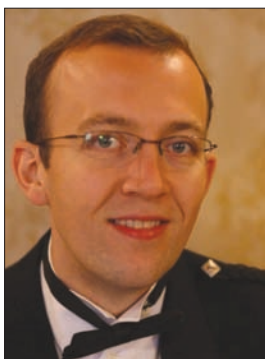
Dr Inthavong is an ARC Australian Post-Doctoral Industry (APDI) Research Fellow, at RMIT University. His research interests include heat transfer, computational fluid dynamics (CFD), numerical heat transfer, multiphase flows and applications to inhalation toxicology for building and ventilations systems, and prediction of aerosol deposition in the human airways. This research reproduces the human respiratory system using computational modelling and application of mathematical models describing fluid/particle flows, and allows determination of health effects by predicting the deposition patterns of different particle types upon inhalation. This research is supported by research grants including ARC grants to investigate ways of reducing wood dust exposure (Parliament House, Canberra 2009), and to create an integrated model for assessing health effects of nanoparticle inhalation.



Taghrid Istivan

RMIT University

Dr Taghrid Istivan is a lecturer of Microbiology and Molecular Biology at the School of Applied Sciences, RMIT University. She was awarded her PhD from RMIT University in 2005 in biotechnology and molecular microbiology. She has since worked as a postdoctoral research fellow on several projects at Monash University and RMIT University focusing on developing novel technologies for pathogen detection and vaccine development. She is course coordinator and lecturer for several undergraduate microbiology courses at RMIT University. Her research interests are in microbial pathogenesis and novel therapeutics. She now has a research team (5 international PhD students and a postdoc) with projects involving the molecular detection and virulence of *Campylobacter* spp. and the application of de novo-designed bioactive peptides as cancer therapeutics.



Oliver Jones

RMIT University

Dr Oliver Jones is an analytical chemist recognized internationally in environmental pollution and toxicology using metabolomics approaches. Currently a lecturer in analytical chemistry at RMIT University, he completed a PhD in Environmental Chemistry at Imperial College London. He then worked as a postdoctoral research fellow at the Biochemistry Department of the University of Cambridge and held a lectureship in School of Engineering and Computing Sciences at the University of Durham. He is vice president of the Australia and New Zealand Metabolomics Network and Metabolomics Network. He is interested in the fate and behavior of organic micro-pollutants in the environment and their potential to cause human health effects, and has published in *Lancet*. His recent work has involved developing new methods for mixture effects testing using metabolomics and *Caenorhabditis elegans*.



Everson Kandare

RMIT University

Dr Kandare is a Vice-Chancellor's Research Fellow based in the Platform Technologies Research Institute and the School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering at RMIT University. He is an integral member of the Sir Lawrence Wackett Aerospace Centre's Composite Materials Group and the Materials Modeling and Simulation Group. His research is focused on creating new, advanced high-performance composite materials using nanotechnology. His research interests include: self-assembly synthesis routes for nanostructured and layered metal hydroxides, intercalation chemistry, thermal resistive materials, thermo-mechanical modeling and molecular dynamics simulation of multiphase nanocomposite systems. Dr Kandare has expertise in fibre/polymer nanocomposites previously holding research positions in this field at the Institute for Materials Research and Innovation, UK and Marquette University, US. He has >60 publications, supervises students and lectures in Materials Science and Engineering.



Jana Lai

Menzies School of Health Research, CASS Foundation Regional Travel Awardee

My research interests lie in child health, in particular bacterial respiratory infections such as pneumonia. In 2009, my Honours research focused on the validation of a molecular diagnostic tool to detect common respiratory pathogens in Indigenous children. For this work I received the NT Young Achiever's Award in the Science and Engineering category and subsequently became a finalist for NT Young Australian of the Year 2011. For my PhD, I am a part of a large clinical trial in Vietnam to address the questions surrounding the most appropriate vaccine and schedule for introduction of pneumococcal vaccination in the region.



Brigid Lynch

Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute

Dr Brigid Lynch is a cancer epidemiologist whose research focuses on how physical activity and sedentary behaviour are associated with cancer risk, biological mechanisms underlying risk and health outcomes for cancer survivors. She has over 40 publications relating to these research topics. Dr Lynch holds a Sidney Sax – Public Health Training Fellowship from the National Health and Medical Research Council. She received her PhD in Population Health from The University of Queensland in 2008, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Cancer Epidemiology within the Department of Population Health Research, Alberta Health Services (Canada) from 2009 - 2010. Dr Lynch is now a Research Fellow in the Physical Activity Laboratory at Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, where she is working with national and international collaborators to establish a research program in the emerging field of sedentary behaviour and cancer.



Greg Madsen

CAASTRO

Greg Madsen completed his PhD in astronomy at the University of Wisconsin in 2005 with a focus on understanding diffuse interstellar plasma. As a research fellow at the Australian Astronomical Observatory, he established a new survey telescope that is now mapping the southern skies. His observational work continues to challenge prevailing theories of the interstellar medium. He is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Sydney where he is investigating the nature of transient and variable stars and quasars. Greg is passionate about sharing his enthusiasm for astronomy with school students. Last year, he established an outreach program which directly engages astronomers with students through videoconferencing.



Nitin Mantri

RMIT University

Dr Nitin Mantri completed his PhD at RMIT University in 2007. He is an Early Career Researcher in Plant Biotechnology, School of Applied Sciences, RMIT University. His role involves: a) research in the field of Functional Genomics and Pharmacogenomics and b) teaching Genetics and Functional Genomics. His work attracted >\$1M funding with current support from Australia India Strategic Research Fund, ARC Linkage, and Horticulture Australia Ltd. His research involves a) using contemporary tools like Next-Generation Sequencing to identify alleles responsible for abiotic stress tolerance in chickpeas, b) developing DNA markers for flavour-related compounds in strawberries using microarrays, and c) production and testing of novel bioactive honeys with antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties and developing honey-based cosmetic formulations. He has >20 publications including one which ranks first in the “Top 20 articles published in the same domain, All time” (www.BioMedLib.com). He received the RMIT University Early Career Researcher Award and Vavilov-Frankel Fellowship by Bioversity International, Italy.



Clint McCullough

Edith Cowan University

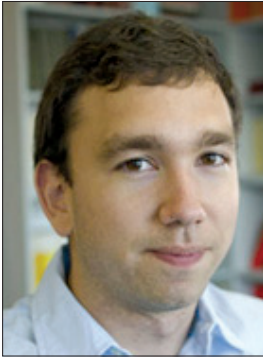
Clint McCullough is a Senior Research Fellow and Principal of Edith Cowan University's Mine Water and Environment Research Centre (MiWER), as well as Principal Environmental Scientist with the multinational science and engineering consulting firm Golder Associates as national mine closure lead. Originally from New Zealand where he worked as an aquatic ecologist, Clint has degrees in zoology and fisheries and his doctorate in ecotoxicology. Clint was awarded the 2012 Vice Chancellor's Award for an Early Career Researcher and works principally with the resource industry across Australia and internationally, researching environmental impact mitigation and remediation, and advising leading environmental practice. Mining water contamination and mine rehabilitation and closure are key interest areas.



Blythe McLennan

RMIT University

Blythe is a Research Fellow in emergency management with RMIT University's Centre for Risk and Community Safety in Melbourne. She is a human geographer with an interest in working across research disciplines and between research and practice to support decision-making for complex environmental and sustainability issues. Blythe currently works on a project with the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre that aims to support the Australian fire and emergency management sector to make decisions about sharing responsibility for community safety and disaster resilience. Her PhD, completed in 2009 at the University of Alberta in Canada, examined challenges and opportunities for environmental policy-making and land use management in Costa Rica in the context of globalization.



Melih Ozlen

RMIT University

Dr Melih Ozlen holds a doctorate (2006) in industrial engineering from Middle East Technical University. He was a post-doctoral researcher in Syracuse University, and a lecturer in Hacettepe University. He is now a lecturer in operations research and program leader for postgraduate degrees in analytics, operations research and statistics at RMIT University. He researches multi-objective optimisation, mathematical programming and combinatorial optimisation. He is developing synergic parallel algorithms for multi-objective integer programming problem and mathematical programming based algorithms for decision problems in low-dimensional topology. He has published papers in ACM Transactions on Mathematical Software, Algorithmica, Computers & Operations Research, European Journal of Operations Research, Journal of Global Optimization, Journal of Operational Research Society. His teaching subjects include linear programming, mathematical modelling, decision analysis, simulation and stochastic processes.



Nathan Pavlos

University of Western Australia

Dr Nathan Pavlos completed his PhD at the University of Western Australia in 2005 and carried out his post-doctoral training at the Max-Planck-Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Gottingen, Germany as a NHMRC CJ Martin (Biomedical) Research Fellow (2007-2009). He returned to Australia in 2010 and is currently an Associate Professor at UWA where he heads the Cellular Orthopaedic Laboratory. His research interests include membrane trafficking in bone cells and skeletal disease with a particular emphasis on bone-resorbing osteoclasts which underpin debilitating bone disorders like osteoporosis. His work has attracted several awards and a number of nationally competitive research grants.



Ravi Shukla

RMIT University

Dr Ravi Shukla is a 2011 Vice Chancellor's Research Fellow in the School of Applied Sciences, RMIT University. He is the core member of Bio-nanotechnology and is in the Health Innovation Research Institute. He obtained his PhD (2007) in Biotechnology (Cell Biology) from the National Centre for Cell Science and National Chemical Laboratory, India followed by a National Cancer Institute postdoctoral fellowship from 'NCI-Cancer Nanotechnology Research Platform', University of Missouri Columbia, USA. He has expertise in nanomedicine interfacing, cancer biology, biotechnology, nanotechnology, targeted molecular imaging and therapy with 25 publications, two US patents and several international conference presentations. His research has resulted in >5 patent applications and publications in 'PNAS', 'Nanomedicine', 'Nano-Letters'. His discoveries around 'Green Nanotechnology' for production and application of gold nanoparticles in breast tumor imaging/therapy published in 'Small', highlighted by 'Science'. Dr Shukla serves on editorial boards of International Journal of Green Nanotechnology and Synthesis & Reactivity in Inorganic, Metal-Organic and Nano-Metal Chemistry.



Judit Szabo

Charles Darwin University, ANU Regional Travel Awardee

I am interested in biodiversity conservation. I have also worked on questions about optimal monitoring, conservation resource allocation, threatened species management and citizen science. Currently I am a Research Fellow with the ARC project Increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of Australian threatened bird conservation. We have analysed 30 years of bird research and management to find biological, social, economic and institutional correlates of success, what interventions are likely to be successful and what is their cost and how to allocate resources among threatened species. I previously worked on other issues of optimal monitoring and my PhD research was in Ecotoxicology.



Meghan Thomas

Edith Cowan University

Dr Meghan Thomas is the Founding Director of the Edith Cowan University's Parkinson's Centre (www.parkc.org.au). Originating from WA, she completed half her doctoral work at the University of Cambridge Brain Repair Centre, and has extended this connection into a post-doctoral collaboration. Dr Thomas' research interests are focused on two entwined approaches; 1) defining the subtypes of Parkinson's and 2) applying developmental biology principles to better understand how to cure, halt or reverse the symptoms of Parkinson's. Since completing her PhD in 2005, she was been awarded an ARC Discovery grant, published 15 manuscripts, and generated over \$67,000 in philanthropic donations.



Melanie Thomson

Deakin University, Geelong, ANU Regional Travel Awardee

Dr Melanie Thomson is an experienced scientist with a proven record of developing animal models of human disease. She now specialises in the area of host-pathogen interactions of clinical infectious diseases including rotavirus, Neisseria meningitidis and Helicobacter species. Before returning to my native Australia to a position at Deakin in May 2011, she spent 12 years living, studying (completing Masters and PhD) and working in medical research in the UK. She has published 9 papers, including 2 ERA A* and 6 ERA A journals



Vanessa Vaughan

Deakin University, Geelong, CASS Foundation Regional Travel Awardee

I am currently in the third year of my PhD, investigating the role of free radicals in muscle wasting associated with cancer (cachexia) and the development of therapies to prevent and treat the disease. In particular, my research focuses on translational nutritional and antioxidant therapies, such as Eicosapentaenoic Acid from fish oil. In addition to working towards the production of my thesis, I have contributed to a publication in British Journal of Cancer (2011, 104:1055), am first author for two reviews and an original research article currently under peer review, and have a developing interest in science communication.



Laurens Willems van Beveren

University of Melbourne

Laurens is currently working as senior research fellow in the School of Physics at the University of Melbourne. He is affiliated to the ARC Centre of Excellence for Quantum Computation and Communication Technology (CQC2T) and is leading the quantum measurement program, focusing on low-temperature, low-noise electronic characterization of several solid-state device architectures, involving silicon and diamond semiconductors. His interest goes out to the interplay of quantum electronics and the optical properties of these devices, which can be suitably studied in the recently commissioned cryogen-free dilution refrigerator from Leiden Cryogenics which cools down samples to 10 mK (base temperature).



Elizabeth Williams

Australian National University

For the past eight months, I have been researching nuclear reaction dynamics at the ANU. I study how reaction parameters influence fusion and fission cross sections in heavy nuclei, and am also involved in projects relating to nuclear astrophysics, quantum physics and materials science. I am also actively involved in science outreach and communications, for which I was recently awarded an ACT Young Tall Poppy Science award.

Before joining the ANU, I held postdoctoral positions in nuclear science at the CSIRO and in nuclear physics at Yale University in the USA.



Jacqueline Williams

Victoria University

Jacqueline is a post-doctoral research fellow and lecturer in the Institute of Sport, Exercise and Active Living and School of Sport and Exercise Science at Victoria University. She completed her PhD in at RMIT University in 2007 and has previously been employed at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute (2006-2009) and the University of Melbourne (2007-2009). Her research examines the neurocognitive basis of motor skills, utilising brain stimulation and imaging techniques in both typically developing and clinical populations. In 2011, she was awarded the VU Vice Chancellor's Peak Award for Excellence in Research and Research Training (ECR).

***Platinum, Gold and Bronze
sponsor registrants***

Platinum Sponsor - Monash University



Eva Alisic

Dr Eva Alisic is a research fellow at Monash Injury Research Institute, with an interest in emergency care and trauma recovery, in particular the ways professionals and parents can support children after traumatic events such as car accidents, disaster, and violence. After completing her PhD at Urecht University in 2011, she paid a long visit to the Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health, which combines research focus with policy development and training for professionals and communities. In the same year, she led a project at the Psychotrauma Center in the Netherlands to improve services for children exposed to fatal intimate partner violence. Recent awards including a Larkins Fellowship (Monash University), a Marie Curie IOF fellowship (EU), and a Rubicon fellowship (Dutch Research Council) have enabled the establishment of the Trauma Recovery Lab at Monash University.

Eva blogs about recent events, international studies, and clinical practice at trauma-recovery.net.

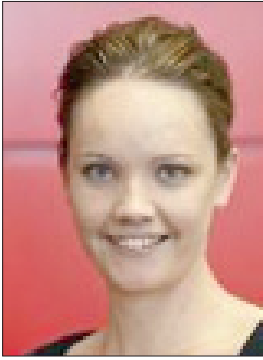


Tim Cavagnaro

Dr Tim Cavagnaro brings a multi-disciplinary approach to understanding the impacts of climate change on agricultural crops. His research in plant nutrition and soil ecology has emphasised the importance of ecosystem conditions on crop nutrient uptake, yield, and toxicity, and the role ecosystem management can play in ensuring sustainable and safe food crops.

Tim believes that communicating the significance of research findings to those making policy decisions is an essential part of his work. He played a lead role in a major study investigating the ways climate change has affected agriculture in California, with findings contributing to changes in Californian legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2012, Tim was awarded an ARC Future Fellowship for a project that will take current knowledge about the role of soil ecology in sustainability and translate it into forms that can be used by land managers.



Kate Hoy

Dr Kate Hoy is a Research Fellow / Clinical Neuropsychologist in the Brain Stimulation and Neurosciences team at MAPrc. Her research focuses on the use of non-invasive brain stimulation such as magnetic seizure therapy (MST) to treat cognitive symptoms. A recent pilot study, funded by beyondblue, has generated promising results with fewer memory and cognitive side effects than conventional electroconvulsive therapy (ECT). A large-scale trial comparing the two therapies is currently underway.

In 2009 Kate was awarded a NHMRC postdoctoral training fellowship. In 2010, she was an inaugural Monash Researcher Accelerator Program Recipient, awarded to the top performing 3% of research fellows at Monash University. She is currently the Team Coordinator of the Brain Stimulation and Neurosciences team at MAPrc.

Kate is currently a member of the NHMRC's newly established Postdoctoral Reference Group.



Naotsugu Tsuchiya

Dr Nao Tsuchiya is Associate Professor at Monash University's School of Psychology and Psychiatry. His research is centred on fundamental questions of consciousness. Why and how does our subjective conscious experience emerge from physical electrochemical activity in the brain? Why is neuronal activity in the cortex, but not the cerebellum, responsible for consciousness? Do any other animals experience subjectivity? If so, how can we know? These used to be questions for philosophers, but today's powerful imaging technologies mean that neuroscientists are uniquely positioned to address these ideas.

Nao came to Monash earlier in 2012, from his previous role as a Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) PRESTO (Precursory Research for Embryonic Science and Technology) fellow. He has been a visiting researcher at RIKEN, at the Caltech Division of Biology, and at Advanced Telecommunications Research (ATR).

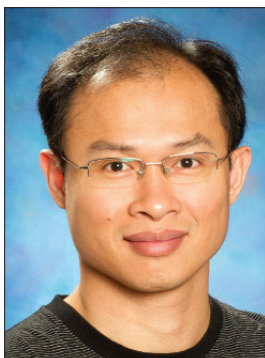
From 2012, Nao is undertaking research supported by an ARC Future Fellowship entitled "The neuronal bases of consciousness and attention".

Gold Sponsor - The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)



Lisa Golding

Dr Lisa Golding is a Research Scientist within the Contaminant Chemistry and Ecotoxicology Program, CSIRO Land and Water. Her research on aquatic ecotoxicology and chemistry has focused on the bioavailability and toxicity of contaminants on marine and freshwater algae, invertebrates and fish. She has also conducted biokinetic research to model the bioaccumulation and toxicity of metal from multiple exposure pathways. Recently, she has started researching the bioavailability and toxicity of emerging nanotechnologies such as cerium dioxide to aquatic biota. A lot of her research has applied outcomes with assessing the toxic risk of contaminants in aquatic ecosystems and helping to derive water quality guidelines to protect biota.



Chuong Nguyen

Dr Chuong Nguyen is a postdoctoral fellow at CSIRO Mathematics, Informatics and Statistics. Chuong is actively developing and applying 3D reconstruction techniques to obtain high-quality 3D models of plants and insects at High Resolution Plant Phenomics Centre and Australian Insect Collection in Canberra. Chuong has technical background in Aeronautical Engineering, Fluids Dynamics, Laser and Nuclear Imaging. During last few years, Chuong developed imaging techniques to study effects of blood flow dynamics in atherosclerosis diseases. Chuong patented a method to reconstruct 3D structure of cancer tumours using gamma rays. Chuong also has experience in "TRIZ", a Soviet-founded international problem-solving system."

Bronze Sponsor - Elsevier Science & Technology



Cassandra Sims

Product Sales Manager – SciVal & Scopus for Elsevier Science & Technology, Australia and New Zealand.

Cassandra has over 15 years experience in Research, Portfolio Development, Account Management, Information Communications Technology and Online Publishing.

Prior to joining Elsevier, Cassandra worked for over four years, as National Sales and Marketing Manager/Sustainability Portfolio Manager for Connection Research Services Pty Ltd. Cassandra has worked closely with Government and Academic Institutions to build rapport and develop required research portfolios. Cassandra has also worked in online publishing and information technology for over 10 years, actively researching and reporting on energy market trends and the changing ICT landscape.

***Australian Early-Mid Career
Researcher Forum***

- Inaugural Members 2012



Marguerite (Maggie) Evans-Galea (Chair)

Murdoch Childrens Research Institute

Dr Maggie Evans-Galea is an investigator with the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute (MCRI). She received her PhD from UNSW and completed her postdoctoral fellowships in the United States at the University of Utah and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. She returned to Australia in 2008 to focus on translational research for the neurodegenerative disease Friedreich ataxia. In 2009, she received the AGTS Young Investigator Award and the FARA USA New Investigator Award, and in 2010 an MCRI Leadership Award. Maggie is a member of the National Health and Medical Research Council Postdoctoral Reference Group and Chair of the Early-Mid Career Researcher Forum with the Australian Academy of Science. Twitter @MVEG001



Andrew Brooks

University of Queensland

Dr Andrew Brooks is a Senior Research Officer at the Institute for Molecular Biology (University of Queensland) and joined the research group headed by Prof Michael Waters in 2006. Andrew completed his PhD in 2002 on Dengue Virus at James Cook University and then moved to St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN, USA where he investigated the role of Epstein-Barr Virus in oncogenesis. Andrew's research interests are in cell signalling, oncogenesis, and virology. He is currently investigating the molecular mechanism of Growth Hormone mediated signalling via the Growth Hormone Receptor (GHR) and the role of GHR in oncogenesis.



Michelle Dunstone

Monash University

Dr Dunstone is an NHMRC CDA fellow in the School of Biomedical Sciences, Monash University. Through the support from ARC funding, Dr Dunstone's work focuses upon Membrane Attack Complex / Perforin (MACPF)-like proteins, a family of proteins that perform key roles in human immunity, including elimination of bacterial pathogens, virally infected cells and pre-cancerous cells. Recently, Michelle's research revealed the unexpected finding that MACPF proteins are distantly related to a lethal family of toxins more generally associated with and produced by bacteria that cause diseases such as listeriosis and anthrax. This discovery provided long-sought after insight into the shape and mechanism of function of the MACPF family.



Raelene Endersby

Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

Raelene is an Associate Principal Investigator at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. She received her PhD in 2003 in the field of leukaemia and haematology at the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research and travelled to St Jude Children's Research Hospital for postdoctoral training in the field of paediatric brain tumours. Her goals are to reduce the morbidity and mortality of children with brain tumours through improved understanding of tumour biology. Her work involves the development of laboratory models that mimic human brain tumours and using them to identify new therapeutic targets and assess novel therapies.



Krystal Evans

Walter & Eliza Hall Institute

Dr Krystal Evans is a senior post-doctoral research fellow at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne. She is developing a new malaria vaccine, a project initiated through a Grand Challenges Exploration grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Krystal completed her PhD at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in 2006 and undertook a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of York, UK before returning to Australia in 2009. She has extensive experience with science advocacy and communication, and believes scientists need to maintain a public presence to ensure research is recognised as an essential element of our society. Twitter @dr_krystal



Giampiero Iaffaldano

Australian National University

I am a geophysicist and my field of expertise is computational geodynamics. I make use of numerical models to test hypotheses on the forces driving and resisting tectonic plate motions, which is the process shaping Earth's surface over millions of years.

I have been trained as a physicist during my undergraduate at the University of Rome 'La Sapienza'. I then obtained my PhD in Geophysics from the 'Ludwig-Maximilians' University of Munich, and moved to Harvard for a two-year post-doc.

Since 2010 I am Research Fellow in Earth Physics within the Research School of Earth Sciences at the Australian National University.



Rosemary Keogh

Royal Women's Hospital

Dr Rosemary Keogh is a Senior Research Fellow at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne. Her research program investigates vascular changes in human pregnancy and the serious complications that develop when these changes are compromised. She spent a decade overseas after completing her PhD working in the UK and USA, gaining a global perspective on research careers. Rosie is passionate about advocating for science, be it to fellow researchers, the public or politicians and has served on the board of the Australian Society for Medical Research for the last 5 years.



Darren Saunders

Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Dr Darren Saunders is a cancer biologist at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research and Senior Lecturer in Medicine at the University of NSW in Sydney. He leads a research team studying the molecular biology and genetics of cancer, with the aim of developing new therapies and improving patient outcomes. Dr Saunders has a PhD from the University of Wollongong and recently returned to Australia following a 3-year position at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. Dr Saunders was awarded the NSW Life Scientist Research Award in 2010 and currently holds a fellowship from Cancer Institute NSW. Twitter @whereisdaz



Andrew Siebel

Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute

I completed my PhD in 2004 on “Regulation of uterine oxytocin receptors in pregnancy” at The University of Melbourne. I then was awarded a NH&MRC Peter Doherty Fellowship in the field of Developmental Origins of Metabolic Diseases in the Department of Physiology, University of Melbourne. In 2009, I moved to the Human Epigenetics Laboratory at the Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute investigating the epigenetic mechanisms underlying glycaemic memory. I am currently a Senior Research Officer in the Metabolic and Vascular Physiology Laboratory investigating the beneficial effects of HDL cholesterol in the context of cardiovascular disease, cardiac metabolism and diabetes.



James Tickner

CSIRO

James read physics at Oxford University and completed his DPhil at the same institution in 1997. He now specialises in the development of new methods to solve challenging measurement and imaging problems in the minerals and security industries. He is currently a CSIRO OCE Science Leader and heads CSIRO’s nucleonics research team. One of his key projects was the invention, development and commercialisation of a novel air cargo scanning technology to find concealed explosives and other contraband. His team is currently developing new sensors to detect and monitor ultra-low levels of valuable metals such as gold and platinum, to improve the efficiency of developing these mineral resources.

James has received numerous awards for his work including two CSIRO medals, the Australian Academy of Science Frederick White prize and a Eureka Prize. He has authored over 100 publications and patents in the fields of particle physics and nuclear instrumentation.



Camille Couralet

Early Career Researcher Policy Officer, Australian Academy of Science

Camille completed her PhD in 2010 at the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Belgium. Her project examined the growth and ecology of tropical trees in the rain forest Reserve of Luki, Democratic Republic of Congo. She then became a Research Associate at the Australian National University to develop a network of tree-ring chronologies throughout the Australian Alps.

In 2012, Camille joined the Australian Academy of Science in the Science Policy Section. Her work involves the maintenance of a database of Australian EMCRs, oversight and production of the Academy’s EMCR newsletter *Early Days* and the organisation of events for EMCRs such as the ECR Program at the Academy’s annual meeting *Science at the Shine Dome*, the Theo Murphy High Flyers Think Tank and the Australian Frontiers of Science.

Camille is the main EMCR Forum contact within the Academy secretariat and provides the Forum with advice and support.



Professor Bob Williamson

Secretary for Science Policy, Australian Academy of Science

Professor Bob Williamson was Professor of Molecular Genetics at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, Imperial College, University of London from 1976 until 1995, when he moved to Melbourne as Director of the Murdoch Institute and Professor of Medical Genetics. He retired in 2004, and now is an Honorary Senior Principal Fellow of the Murdoch Institute (now the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute), the University of Melbourne, and Monash University. He has over 400 refereed career publications, including about 40 in *Nature*, *Nature Genetics*, *Cell* and *Lancet*. He was involved in the identification of genes for cystic fibrosis, Friedreich ataxia, craniofacial abnormalities, heart disease and Alzheimer disease. More recently he has taken a major interest in national science policy and medical and scientific ethics. Until last year he was still actively helping a small research group working on stem cells, cystic fibrosis and ataxia. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science (where he is Secretary for Science Policy), a Fellow of the Royal Society, and an Officer of the Order of Australia.

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- 49th in the world for Chemistry (ARWU, 2011)
- 33rd in the world for Clinical, Pre-Clinical and Health (THE rankings, 2011-2012)
- 42nd in the world for Life Sciences (THE rankings, 2010)

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Listed by surname

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