

OneTRI 23 CONFERENCE



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- Artwork by David Williams of Gilimbaa



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are on today, and we recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay deep respect to them and their cultures; and to Elders past, present and future.



WELCOME

On behalf of the Conference Organising Committee, welcome to the inaugural *One*TRI Conference.

Today's conference is about enabling the TRI community to better understand the research being undertaken here, to encourage and grow partnering and collaborations.

It has provided an important opportunity for our EMCRs to participate in the organisation, planning and active participation of the event. I have witnessed great collaboration and enthusiasm from Committee volunteers who have put together an exciting and diverse program.

The *One*TRI Conference comes at an exciting time for TRI. As we enter our second decade, we will soon embark on a new phase of translating medical discoveries, through Australia's first scale-up biomedical manufacturing capability TM@TRI.

At TRI, to continue achieving research excellence, we are focused on developing our staff, EMCRS and students in a wholly collaborative way where our emerging leaders can learn from their more senior colleagues. We hope the program provides attendees an opportunity to network, share insights and discuss their research.

We have been delighted at the number of abstracts submitted, resulting in an array of excellent speakers and interesting posters presentations. The Organising Committee encourages you to view these in the scheduled breaks and to attend this afternoon's networking session. By doing so, you will show your support for our emerging researchers and research leaders at TRI.

Finally, we sincerely thank our event sponsors: Charles River, Evident (powered by Olympus), MTPConnect, Sanofi, Vaxxas, Tecniplast, PCI Pharma Services and Evolve Scientific (an NES Fircroft Company). Be sure to demonstrate your gratitude to our sponsors as you network throughout the day.

Our OneTRI Conference is an exceptional opportunity to inspire, connect and innovate.



Professor Scott Bell CEO. TRI

THANK YOU TO OUR ORGANISING COMMITTEES

ONETRI CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Andrea Viecelli (РАН)	Mitchell Stark (UQFI)
Anthony Chen (UQFI)	Ra'eesa Doola (мsн)
Bene Watson (TRI)	Scott Bell (tri)
Carmel Hawley (АКТN)	Soi Law (MR)
Jake Gratten (MR)	Sonia Henriques (QUT)
Jo Forbes (MR)	
Julia Renaud (тฅı)	
Lisa Philp (qut)	
Liza Beach (TRI)	
Melissa Watter (TRI)	

EMCR COMMITTEE

Irina Buckle (MR) Lauren Aoude (UQFI) Lisa Philp (QUT) Mark Adams (QUT) Ra'eesa Doola (MSH) Shannon Joseph (UQFI) Sonia Henriques (QUT) Evelyn Ng (UQFI) Henry Lamb (QUT)



Back row from left: Jake Gratten (MR), Scott Bell (TRI) and Melissa Watter (TRI). *Front row from left:* Bene Watson (TRI), Liza Beach (TRI), Soi Law (MR), Ra'eesa Doola (MSH) and Lisa Philp (QUT).

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MTPConnect is forging stronger connections between research and industry to help maximise opportunities for Australians to not only make scientific and technological breakthroughs, but to see them developed through the proof-of-concept stage and successfully translated and commercialised. In this way, MTPConnect is building a more resilient and competitive medical products sector. For more information visit: **www.mtpconnect.org.au**

sanofi

The Translational Science Hub links world-class researchers in Queensland with scientists at the Sanofi mRNA Centre of Excellence in France and the United States. This has been made possible thanks to a partnership between Sanofi and the Queensland Government, The University of Queensland and Griffith University that will place Queensland and Australia at the forefront of vaccine development and biomedical research.

The Translational Science Hub will initially focus on the evaluation of a new generation of vaccines and the development of mRNA immunisations, including a world-first mRNA vaccine for chlamydia. For more information visit: www.sanofi.com.au

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Brisbane-based biotechnology company Vaxxas is focused on enhancing the performance of existing and next generation vaccines and increasing access to vaccination, through its proprietary needle-free vaccine technology, the high-density microarray patch (HD-MAP).

With the potential for self-administration and designed to be stored at room temperatures, eliminating the need for cold-chain storage and distribution, Vaxxas' HD-MAP technology is rethinking what's possible with vaccines.

Founded in 2011 on research at The University of Queensland, Vaxxas has been a key tenant of the TRI since 2015, rapidly translating from a small university-based entity to a scale-up biotech company with more than 130 employees. Prior to opening its first manufacturing facility in Brisbane's Northshore precinct in June this year, Vaxxas exclusively used office, laboratory and GMP cleanroom space at the TRI to develop its pipeline of products. Vaxxas continues operating an important footprint at TRI enabling performance of a broad range of preclinical studies for its own programs and programs with global partners. For more information visit: www.vaxxas.com



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Established in 1997, Tecniplast Australia's primary objective is simple: to keep your animals safely cared for, reliably and economically. Tecniplast have been at the heart of creating innovative solutions for over 70 years. We have an acute awareness of the continuous evolution of biomedical facilities and are proud to have the capability to design and develop products in-house.

Tecniplast offer a wide range of integrated solutions for lab animal facility, for example, the world leading range of IVC systems and the Emerald Line - Washing, disinfection and logistics equipment including bottle washers and fillers, rack washers, cabinet washers and decontamination locks, including Laminar airflow technology, Digitally Ventilated Caging and Biocontainment and bio-exclusion caging. For more information visit: **www.tecniplast.it/au**

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We service a range of industries with the Life Sciences sector being one of our core industries - Biotechnology, Consulting Laboratories, Pharma and Med Devices, Research and Development and Regulatory Affairs and Compliance. We offer you a truly flexible recruitment service that we tailor to your needs, including both temporary / labour hire of scientific and technical staff (entry level to management) through to recruitment of permanent scientific and technical staff. This flexibility extends to all aspects of the recruitment process, including reporting and pricing structures. For more information visit: www.evolvescientific.com.au

8:30AM-**Registration opens TRI Atrium** 9:00AM **Conference Welcome** TRI Auditorium 9:00AM-10:30AM Prof Scott Bell Chief Executive Officer, TRI Session 1 - Careers in focus: What and how? Session sponsor welcome Dr Iris Depaz, Translational Science Hub In this session careers are put in focus where attendees will hear from various professionals who will share their insights, experiences and expertise. Session chairs: Dr Lisa Philp, QUT and Dr Mitchell Stark, UQ Sponsored by Sanofi 9:00AM-Prof Antje Blumenthal Research Group Leader, UQ, Frazer Institute 9:15AM Navigating the host-pathogen-interface on the quest for improved treatments for infectious diseases 9:15AM-**Prof Gene Tyson** *Professor and Director, QUT, Centre for Microbiome* 9:30AM Research Improving human health with precision microbiome science 9:30AM-Prof Elizabeth Powell Hepatologist, Queensland Health 9:45AM Metabolic fatty liver disease: Clinical impact and ongoing challenges 9:45AM-**Prof Sailesh Kumar** Mayne Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Faculty of Medicine, UQ and Mater Research Institute 10:00AM Improving maternal and perinatal outcomes Panel discussion 10:00AM-10:30AM

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

10:30AM- 11:00AM	Morning tea	TRI Atrium
11:00AM- 12:30PM	 Session 2 - EMCRs in focus Session sponsor welcome Nisha Nagappan, Evident Australia In this session Early to Mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs), including final-year PhD students will showcase their work and share insights with the OneTRI community. Awards available: Best Presentation and Runner-up Awards (committee selection). People's Choice Presentation Award. 	TRI Auditorium
	Session chairs: Dr Soi Law, MRI-UQ and Dr Ra'eesa Doola, MSH Sponsored by EVIDENT OLYMPUS	
11:00AM- 11:10AM	Selwin Samuel Mater Research Institute, UQ Pathogen-associated molecular patterns resembling infectious microbes enhance neurogenic heterotopic ossifications after spinal- cord injury	
11:10AM- 11:20AM	Dr Sandra Brosda <i>Postdoctoral Research Fellow, UQ, Frazer Institute</i> Intra-tumour heterogeneity and evolution in oesophageal adenocarcinoma	
11:20AM- 11:30AM	Dr Charles Bidgood <i>Postdoctoral Researcher, QUT</i> Mitochondrial-targeted therapies for drug-resistant prostate cancer	
11:30AM- 11:40AM	Trinh Dang <i>PhD candidate, UQ, Frazer Institute</i> IL34 gene-therapy based modulation of antigen-presenting cells in squamous epithelial cancer to restore tumour specific immunity	
11:40AM- 11:50AM	Michaela Kindlova <i>Research officer, Mater Research Institute</i> Knowledge of human placental methylome help to avoid pregnancy defects	

11:50AM- 12:00PM	Muhammed B. Sabdia PhD Candidate, Blood Cancer Research Group, Mater Research Institute B-cell receptor neoantigens in Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia	
12:00PM- 12:10PM	Zeeshan Chaudhry Research Fellow, UQ, Frazer Institute Transcriptional regulation of long-term CD8+ T cell memory	
12:10PM- 12:20PM	Rabina Giri <i>Post-doctoral researcher, Mater Research Institute</i> Exome sequencing of a family with a severe colitis phenotype identifies a rare missense mutation in a novel IBD gene	
12:20PM- 1:30PM	Lunch TRI Atrium	
1:30PM- 3:00PM	Session 3 - Collaborations at TRI: Researcher linkage with the clinic or industryTRI AuditoriumSession sponsor welcome Tara Cassidy, Charles River In this session attendees will learn more about the vibrant crossroads where cutting-edge research, clinical mastery, and industrial innovation seamlessly intersect.TRI AuditoriumSession chairs: Dr Sonia Henriques, QUT and Dr Anthony Chen, UQSession chairs: Line Sponsored by Charles riverLine State	
1:30PM- 1:40PM	Associate Prof Lucy Burr Director of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine, Mater and Group Leader, Respiratory Research, Mater Research Institute, UQ Collaborative research, a clinician's perspective	
1:40PM- 1:50PM	Prof Katharina Ronacher <i>Head of the Infection, Immunity and Metabolism Group, Mater Research Institute, UQ</i> Oxidised cholesterols drive macrophage infiltration and inflammation in the lung during bacterial and viral respiratory infections	
1:50PM- 2:00PM	Associate Prof Fernando Guimaraes Group Leader, Frazer Institute Stairwell conversations as a pathway to curing rare cancers	

2:00PM- 2:10PM	Associate Prof Wayne Nicholls Director, Oncology Services Group, Senior Staff Specialist, Paediatric Oncology, Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service Stairwell conversations as a pathway to curing rare cancers		
2:10PM- 2:20PM	Dr Richard Gordon Associate Professor of Neuroscience, QUT Translating new treatments for neurological diseases with academic-industry collaborations		
2:20PM- 2:30PM	Dr Bryan Oronsky Chief Development Officer, EpicentRx Inc. Scott Caroen Senior Director of Operations and Corporate Development, EpicentRx Inc Translating new treatments for neurological diseases with academic-industry collaborations (Live-streamed from the US)		
2:30PM- 3:00PM	Panel discussion		
3:00PM- 3:15PM	Afternoon tea	TRI Atrium	
3:15PM- 4:45PM	Session 4 - Cutting edge capabilities at TRI: Did you know? Session sponsor welcome Andrew Bowskill, MTPConnect This session will showcase the work of researchers and professional scientific staff from across TRI. They will present their groundbreaking research and highlight the cutting-edge technologies that have recently emerged or are currently emerging at TRI. Award available: • People's Choice Presentation Award. Session chairs:	TRI Auditorium	
	Dr Charles Bidgood, <i>QUT</i> and Dr Amelia Fotheringham, <i>MRI-UQ</i>		
	Sponsored by MTPConnect		

3:15PM- 3:25PM	Mark Adams Strategic Research Fellow, QUT The intersection of in vitro, in silico, biophysical and omics approaches to understand and tackle therapy resistance in lung cancers	
3:25PM- 3:35PM	Brian Tse Senior Preclinical Imaging Scientist, TRI Didier Boucher Cancer and Ageing Research Program, QUT Queensland's first preclinical image-guided radiotherapy (IGRT) system to improve cancer radiotherapy	
3:35PM- 3:45PM	Erica Mu Senior Histology Officer, TRI Associate Professor Elizabeth Williams Group Leader, QUT Multiplex Staining Workflows at TRI Histology Core	
3:45PM- 3:55PM	Mark Scott Senior Microscopy Scientist, TRI Unlocking two-photon microscopy as a flexible tool for intra-vital imaging in disease models	
3:55PM- 4:05PM	Carina Walpole <i>Acting Senior Gnotobiotic Coordinator, TRI</i> The Humanised mouse and Gnotobiotic Facilities – a world of translational mouse models	
4:05PM- 4:15PM	Brenda Castro <i>Scientific Fellow, LVF Eye Centre</i> Engineered AAV capsids and inducible systems as strategies for an optimised gene therapy targeting acquired retinal diseases	
4:15PM- 4:45PM	Panel discussion	
4:45PM- 5:45PM	NetworkingTRI AtriumAwards announced for Sessions 2, 4 and profiled posters	

Program correct at time of printing but may be subject to change.

SESSION 1 SESSION PRESENTATIONS

Prof Antje Blumenthal Research Group Leader, UQ, Frazer Institute

Navigating the host-pathogen-interface on the quest for improved treatments for infectious diseases

Infections remain firmly placed among the leading causes of death globally. For example, sepsis and tuberculosis combined cause >12 million deaths annually, despite our extensive arsenal of antibiotics. Those who survive these infections are often left with long-term disabilities. In addition, the rapid raise of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in obligate and opportunistic human pathogens is a major concern. If we remain on our current trajectory, >10 million deaths will be attributable to AMR by 2050. Thus, improved treatments for diseases caused by drug-sensitive and drug-resistant bacteria are urgently needed. Prof Blumenthal approaches this challenge with both the pathogen and the host in mind. In this presentation, Prof Blumenthal will discuss her team's work on directly targeting pathogenic bacteria and their insights on how directing the host's immune response might aid in the treatment of severe infections. The long-term goal is to progress translation into more effective treatments for infections caused by drug-sensitive and drug-resistant bacteria.

Prof Gene Tyson

Professor and Director, QUT, Centre for Microbiome Research

Improving human health with precision microbiome science

The human gut is home to trillions of microorganisms that are intricately linked to health and disease. Recognising the potential for microbiome research to drive meaningful innovations in healthcare, our team integrated novel approaches in microbial genomics and bioinformatics to study the gut microbiome with unprecedented resolution. The resulting metagenomics analysis platform formed the foundation for Microba, a precision microbiome science company offering comprehensive gut microbiome profiling services to patients, clinicians and researchers. Prof Tyson will tell us more about how through human first, data-driven analysis of this dataset, Microba has identified novel therapeutic candidates for Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), which recently entered Phase I clinical trials in patients with IBD. Microba also has active programs in cancer immunotherapy, autoimmune disorders, and mental health. Prof Tyson will also tell us how these programs are on track to provide significant commercial, social and economic benefits for Australia, and will promote the health of Australians and the global community.

Prof Elizabeth Powell Hepatologist, Queensland Health

Metabolic fatty liver disease: Clinical impact and ongoing challenges

Liver disease in Australia is one of the top 10 leading causes of years of life lost. In Queensland, the number of hospital admissions for cirrhosis increased 1.6-fold over the last decade, with a disproportionate impact of liver disease on Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander peoples (respectfully referred to as Indigenous Australians). Moreover, liver diseases leading to cirrhosis are among the top contributors to the mortality gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian adults. In the past two decades, preventive and treatment strategies have been established to halt transmission and disease progression of hepatitis C and B. However, decreases in the number of new cases of hepatitis C and B-cirrhosis will be offset by sustained hazardous alcohol consumption and increasing obesity levels and associated metabolic complications including non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). Prof Powell will talk about working collaboratively with investigators from diverse disciplines to prevent the consequences of advanced liver disease, including liver failure, liver cancer and the associated economic burden.

Prof Sailesh Kumar

Mayne Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Faculty of Medicine, UQ and Mater Research Institute

Improving maternal and perinatal outcomes

Identifying infants at risk of adverse outcomes such as stillbirth, neonatal death or severe neonatal morbidity is difficult. In many cases underlying placental dysfunction is present – this causes poor oxygen/nutrient supply to the fetus resulting in a chronically hypoxic, small, or sub-optimally grown vulnerable fetus. Prof Kumar will tell us more about how his group investigates the role of ultrasound and/or placental biomarkers as potential diagnostic tools to identify fetuses at risk. With their industry partners they are exploring machine learning techniques using big perinatal datasets of routinely collected data to try and develop screening tests to identify women and infants at risk of complications. Their goal is to reduce the burden of disease associated with perinatal hypoxia and improve outcomes for mother and child.

SESSION 2

ABSTRACT SESSION - Refer to conference program outline, pages 10-11

SESSION 3 SESSION PRESENTATIONS

Associate Prof Lucy Burr

Director of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine, Mater and Group Leader, Respiratory Research, Mater Research Institute, UQ

Collaborative research, a clinician's perspective

Associate Prof Lucy Burr is an experienced respiratory physician, training supervisor and clinical trials researcher at Mater Health and Mater Research – The University of Queensland (UQ). She is the Director of Respiratory, Sleep and Cystic Fibrosis medicine at the Mater Hospital, Brisbane. A/Prof Burr will talk about the various pathways that clinicians can explore when embarking on a research journey. She will discuss the value of forging collaborations within the medical and scientific community and how this contributes to breakthroughs in medical research. A/Prof Burr will also shed light on the crucial role of biobanking to facilitate research. These insights will provide practical guidance for those looking to bridge the gap between clinical practice and research excellence.

Prof Katharina Ronacher

Head of the Infection, Immunity and Metabolism Group, Mater Research Institute, UQ

Oxidised cholesterols drive macrophage infiltration and inflammation in the lung during bacterial and viral respiratory infections

Immune cell recruitment to the site of infection is an integral part of an effective immune response to both bacterial and viral pathogens. However excessive immune cell infiltration in the lung can result in increased lung pathology and disease severity. Prof Ronacher will talk about how they recently discovered a novel and previously unrecognised mechanism of immune cell recruitment to the infected lung, which can be targeted harmacologically to improve respiratory infection outcomes. She will share with us data from tuberculosis and COVID-19 patients as well as preclinical data from animals infected with Mycobacterium tuberculosis or SARS-CoV-2. Together these data demonstrate that oxidised cholesterols are produced in the lung upon infection. These oxysterols drive macrophage, infiltration, and inflammation. Prof Ronacher will also provide the first preclinical evidence for the therapeutic benefit of targeting an oxysterol receptor to reduce COVID-19 severity.

Associate Prof Fernando Guimaraes, Group Leader, Frazer Institute Associate Prof Wayne Nicholls, Director, Oncology Services Group, Senior Staff Specialist, Paediatric Oncology, Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service

Stairwell conversations as a pathway to curing rare cancers

Osteosarcoma, Ewing sarcoma (EWS), and rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) are the most common paediatric sarcomas. Conventional therapy for these sarcomas comprises neoadjuvant and adjuvant chemotherapy, surgical resection of the primary tumour and/ or radiation therapy. Patients with metastatic, relapsed, or refractory tumours have a dismal prognosis due to resistance to these conventional therapies. Therefore, innovative therapeutic interventions, such as immunotherapy, are urgently needed. Recently, cancer research has focused attention on natural killer (NK) cells due their innate ability to recognize and kill tumour cells. Osteosarcoma, EWS and RMS, are known to be sensitive to NK cell cytotoxicity in vitro. In the clinical setting however, NK cell cytotoxicity against sarcoma cells has been mainly studied in the context of allogeneic stem cell transplantation, where a rapid immune reconstitution of NK cells plays a key role in the control of the disease, known as graft-versus-tumour effect. In this presentation, A/Prof Guimaraes and A/Prof Nicholls will discuss how their collaboration started, and current and future strategies to enhance the NK cell-versus-paediatric sarcoma effect, with a clinical focus. The different approaches encompass enhancing antibody-dependent NK cell cytotoxicity, counteracting the NK cell mechanisms of self-tolerance, and developing adoptive NK cell therapy including chimeric antigen receptor-expressing NK cells.

Dr Richard Gordon, Associate Professor of Neuroscience, QUT Dr Bryan Oronsky, Chief Development Officer, EpicentRx Inc Scott Caroen, Senior Director of Operations and Corporate Development, EpicentRx Inc

Translating new treatments for neurological diseases with academic-industry collaborations Neurological disorders are the leading cause of disability worldwide and exert an enormous socioeconomic impact on healthcare systems. Parkinson's disease (PD) is the fastest growing neurological disorder globally and its prevalence is expected to double over the next decade. Despite being over 200 years since the first description of PD by James Parkinson, there are currently no effective treatments to slow or stop the progression of PD, making it an area of urgent unmet medical need for therapeutic development. Dr Gordon talk will summarise their ongoing research efforts at TRI, to develop and translate new therapies for PD through strategic academic-industry partnerships involving researchers, clinicians, patients and industry experts.

SESSION 4

ABSTRACT SESSION - Refer to conference program outline, pages 12-13



CORE FACILITIES

TRI Core Facilities provide world-class emerging technologies for researchers and commercial start-ups to advance medical discoveries to healthcare solutions.

Drop in at our *One*TRI Conference table (or email us via **corefacilities@tri.edu.au**) to discuss how our impressive facilities and specialist teams can assist with:

Biological Research • Gnotobiotics Preclinical Imaging • Proteomics Histology • Microscopy • Flow Cytometry

Inspired? Want to Connect?

To support the translation of scientific discoveries to patients, TRI has two specialised clinical trial units along with a trials-specific support team known as Translational Trials: TRI's Clinical Research Facility (CRF) and TRI@Childrens (TRIC).

Clinical researchers and Principal Investigators can request access to the trial facilities and the Translational Trials team, situated in the Research Wing of Princess Alexandra Hospital precinct. The team supports all stages of clinical trials from feasibility assessment, through start-up, clinical conduct and closeout.

Need to know how we can help you? Stop by our *One*TRI Conference table or drop us an email via **trials@tri.edu.au**.



Our state-of-the-art, flexible clinical manufacturing and training facility is the only one of its kind in Australia for the small-scale manufacturing of medical technology and pharmaceutical products for early-stage clinical trials. Chat to us during the breaks at our *One*TRI Conference table.

For facility tours, availability and pricing enquiries email us at cleanroom@tri.edu.au.



<image>

TRI is here to help you Innovate!

Coming in 2025 TRI is building Australia's first scale-up biomedical manufacturing facility for maturing, high-potential biotech start-ups. TM@TRI will add almost 6500sq m of gross floor area to TRI's footprint, making it the largest end-to-end translational research hub of its kind in Australia. TM@TRI will support biotech companies as they mature and manufacture products for Phase II and III clinical trials.

Want to be part of TM@TRI? Touch base today with our Industry Engagement Manager Glenda Colburn or email glenda.colburn@tri.edu.au.



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