

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020



FROM THE ACVA LEADERSHIP

As we arrive at the last newsletter of what has been a momentous year for all and head towards the holiday season, the ACVA leadership would like to reflect on the achievements that have been made this year including:

- The recruitment of our Operational team
- Facilitating our third Industry roundtable along with the formation of two working groups:
 - Industry and Academia Partnership Working Group
 - Evidence and Value-Based Care (EVBC) Working Group
 - Both our Industry working groups have submitted reports and action plans
 - Our EVBC group submitted to the MSAC review and Parliamentary Inquiry on new drugs and novel medical technologies
- Our successful and ongoing partnership with Bioplatforms Australia and the implementation of the Research Catalyst Program
- The wonderful achievements made by our Emerging Leaders Committee, namely:
 - The whole of sector Mentoring program
 - The CV Champions Program, which supports our next generation of cardiovascular research advocates
- New initiatives to build research capacity, connectivity and impact through:
 - Our pilot grant writing success program, with the pilot webinar attracting over 120 participants
 - Development of the Academy of Reviewers program to increase the quantity, quality and consistency of cardiovascular research reviewers
- The formation of three Special interest groups at the request of our members:
 - Environmental determinants on CV health
 - Cardio-oncology
 - Peripheral arterial disease
- Providing a unified advocacy voice to governments at all levels, including for innovative funding approaches and streamlined processes for translation and commercialisation.
- Working with and aligning key stakeholders to raise the profile for CVD and the significance of research in fighting our nation's biggest killer, celebrating our members' successes with the MRFF Mission for Cardiovascular Health, CRE grants and supporting our members with alternative funding sources, like the ARDC.

Last but not least, we want to take the opportunity to celebrate with our Victorian members the end of what was over 100 days in COVID-19 lockdown.

Wishing you all a happy holiday, stay safe, and we hope to see you all recharged and refreshed in the new year.

ACVA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The ACvA will be hosting its Annual General Meeting (AGM) later this month on Friday 27 November 2 – 4pm AEDT. The AGM will be held virtually and all members are invited to attend through registration [here](#).

AGM papers and Notice of Meeting were circulated to our membership on 6 November. However, if you have not received it or have further enquiries, please contact Meng Hsu (meng.hsu@ozheart.org).

TARGETED TRANSLATION RESEARCH ACCELERATOR (TTRA) UPDATE

Earlier in the year, MTPConnect was appointed administrator of the Medical Research Future Fund's (MRFF) \$47 million Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) initiative for Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease (D&CVD). The TTRA program will provide a new integrated research program to improve the prevention, management and treatment of D&CVD in Australia. Research efforts will focus on the most pressing areas of unmet clinical and research needs in D&CVD, which are leading causes of death and disability in Australia. Specifically, the TTRA will:

- (i) establish research centres for diabetes and cardiovascular disease;
- (ii) establish a contestable funding program to support D&CVD research projects;
- (iii) promote the clinical and commercial translation of novel therapeutics, diagnostics, devices and digital solutions for D&CVD.

As part of MTPConnect's consultative approach to identify the research priorities in these areas, the ACvA has been recognised as having relevant expertise that can assist in this project by the TTRA Expert Advisory Board to ensure that the full breadth of research needs is gathered and considered. A survey was recently sent out to our members on behalf of MTPConnect to identify topics of issue and priority.

The ACvA has also been invited to participate in the TTRA Roundtables in late November to identify and prioritise research topics pertaining to D&CVD. The membership of these roundtables will make up the TTRA Advisory Panel. It is noted that the priorities will be for targeted research topics for interventions that will make a tangible difference in a subset population, and that this "tangible difference" will include factors such as quality of life, clinical impact, commercialisation outcomes, consumer expectations, with feasibility also being an important consideration.

The ACvA has nominated Profs Alicia Jenkins and Gemma Figtree as our representatives to the Roundtables.

BIOPLATFORMS AUSTRALIA

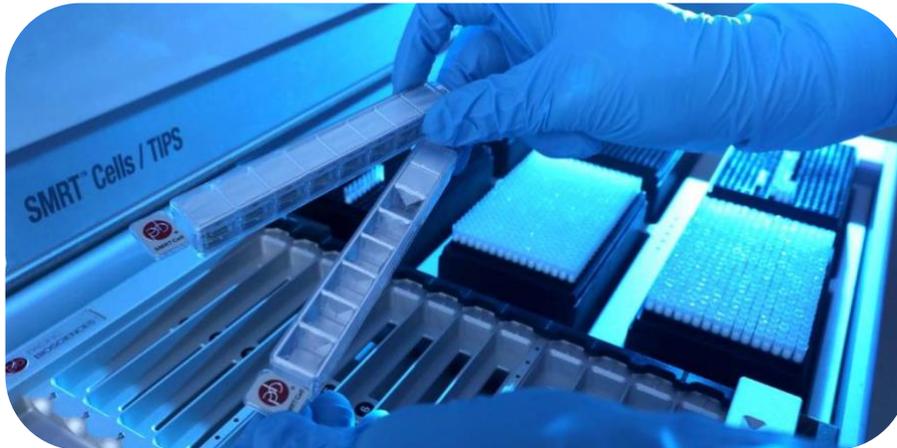
This month, we are featuring the 16 Bioplatfroms Australia facilities across the nation. Bioplatfroms Australia was established through the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) to strategically coordinate and position Australia's biomolecular research infrastructure capability in support of Australia's research priorities. Bioplatfroms Australia currently

manages a national network of 'omics research infrastructure providers and the bioinformatics capacity needed to support these activities.

Bioplatforms Australia partnered with us to fund the Research Catalyst Program, an initiative that provided its awardees access to "omics" technologies in their network of facilities and assist data acquisition for upcoming collaborative grant applications such as NHMRC and MRFF.

We are keen and look forward to working together for future collaborations with research impact and efficiency, in line with the CV Mission and Roadmap.

Genomics



Australian Genome Research Facility

Various locations across Australia

The Australian Genome Research Facility (AGRF) has laboratories in Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney and Perth, each providing a gateway to a national network of state-of-the-art facilities, technology and expertise. Through exchanging and collaborating knowledge expertise, AGRF is able to offer access to innovative and state-of-the-art genomic technologies that enable Australian researchers to advance leading edge genomics research internationally.

For more information on AGRF services and information packs, visit their website:

<https://www.agrf.org.au/>

Ramaciotti Centre for Genomics

Located at the University of New South Wales, NSW

The Ramaciotti Centre for Genomics is the largest genomics facility at any Australian University. It is comprehensively equipped with the latest next-generation sequencing technology, single-cell genomics platforms and high throughput microarray systems. The facility has expertise in: next generation sequencing, microarray, genomics, transcriptomics, Sanger sequencing, sequencing, microbiome, biomedical, environmental, and nucleic acids. It is funded by the Australian Government as infrastructure of national significance and is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025.

For more information, visit their website: <https://www.ramaciotti.unsw.edu.au/> or contact Marc Wilkins, Director: m.wilkins@unsw.edu.au

ACRF Biomolecular Resource Facility

Located at the Australian National University, ACT

The ACRF Biomolecular Resource Facility (BRF) is a core lab providing researchers with access to state-of-the-art techniques for molecular, genetic and protein-based studies. Its highly skilled people can implement and run new cutting-edge technologies in these fields and provide consultancy on projects using BRF services and equipment. ACRF's services are available to researchers at the John Curtin School of Medical Research and ANU, as well as the broader regional scientific community and clients from across Australia's education, research and medical services community.

For more information, visit their website: <https://icsmr.anu.edu.au/research/facilities/brf> or contact Stephanie Palmer, Manager: stephanie.palmer@anu.edu.au

Garvan-Weizmann Centre for Cellular Genomics

Located at Darlinghurst NSW

The Garvan-Weizmann Centre is a research centre focused on the use of cellular genomics technology to address critical medical research questions. It is one of the few global sites where state-of-the-art technologies are seamlessly integrated, including the latest platforms in flow cytometry, microfluidics, genomics, high-performance computing and bioinformatics.

The Centre comprises three arms:

- A facility with cutting edge services in flow cytometry, single cell sequencing, and bioinformatics.
- A research and development team focused on bringing the latest methods and approaches in both molecular and computational areas of cellular genomics into the Centre.
- Research programs in immunology, cancer, stem cells, and the Human Cell Atlas.

For more information, visit their website: <https://www.garvan.org.au/research/garvan-weizmann/centre> or contact Joseph Powell, Head: j.powell@garvan.org.au

Genomics Western Australia

QEIIIMC, University of Western Australia, WA

Genomics WA was formed in recognition that WA is underserved by national genomics providers. Genomics WA aims to build critical mass in genomics expertise in Western Australia by providing competitive genomics services with experts based here in Perth. Genomics WA provides consultation, expert advice and streamlined library preparation, next generation sequencing and data analysis services.

For more information, visit their website: <https://www.genomicswa.com.au/> or contact Alka Saxena, Director: alka.saxena@perkins.org.au

South Australian Genomics Centre

SAHMRI, SA

The South Australian Genomics Centre (SAGC) comprises six founding partners – SAHMRI, the University of Adelaide, the University of South Australia, Flinders University, the Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI) and the Australian Genome Research Facility (AGRF). The SAGC provides a state-of-the-art fee-for-service genomics facility with an integrated bioinformatics platform to support users in the complex analysis of these data. The facility is equitably open to clients from all partner institutes in SA, as well as national and international academic, clinical and industry clients. The Centre uniquely brings together expertise and resources from biomedical, agricultural

(plant & livestock), microbial and environmental genomics. The facility will also maximise access to genomic technologies and bioinformatics through outreach, education and training. The aim is to create new cutting-edge research opportunities by enhanced connection between researchers, genomics user groups and bioinformatics experts.

For more information, visit their website: <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/research/about-us/facilities-precincts/south-australian-genomics-centre-sagc> or contact Mark van der Hoek, Facility Manager: mark.vanderhoek@sahmri.com

Proteomics



Australian Proteome Analysis Facility Located at Macquarie University, NSW

The Australian Proteome Analysis Facility (APAF) provides academic and corporate clients with modern functional proteomics and protein chemistry tools integrated with in-house and commercial bioinformatics toolkits. APAF provides high throughput, quality, national and international proteomics and protein chemistry research services in both fee-for-service as well as collaborative models. The facility houses 16 high mass resolution mass spectrometers including and Orbitrap Elite, 2 x Q-Exactive, 2 x Q-Exactive Plus, 1 Q-Exactive HFX, 2 x Triple TOF6600, 2 x Triple TOF 5600, 2 Edman sequencers and 3 amino acid analysers. This high-end infrastructure is supported by the scientific and technical expertise of 12 highly trained scientists including a scientific director, four leads scientists and nine technical officers. These scientists, technologists and informaticians possess a broad range of experience from biological application in the fields of neurosciences, cancer research, agricultural research, diagnostics development, analytical chemistry, small molecules and biotech development facilitate.

For more information, visit their website: <https://www.mq.edu.au/research/research-centres-groups-and-facilities/facilities/australian-proteome-analysis-facility> or contact Nicki Packer, Director: nicki.packer@mq.edu.au

Monash Proteomics & Metabolomics Facility

Located at Monash University, VIC

Mass spectrometry is one of the leading technologies to comprehensively identify and globally quantify proteins and other biomolecules in virtually every biological sample and environment. Due to its unparalleled sensitivity and accuracy, mass spectrometry is the method of choice for a plethora of applications ranging from biomarker discoveries to absolute quantifications of low abundant peptide species. Equipped with the latest mass spectrometric instrumentation, the Monash Proteomics & Metabolomics Facility (MPMF) combines cutting-edge technology with state-of-the-art methodology to provide the best possible results and expertise to customers and collaborators.

For more information, visit their website:

<https://www.monash.edu/researchinfrastructure/mpmf/home> or contact Ralf Schittenhelm, Director: Ralf.Schittenhelm@monash.edu

Monash Antibody Technologies Facility

Located at Monash University, VIC

Monash Antibody Technologies Facility (MATF) provides services for antibody discovery, antibody production, antibody sequencing and cell line cryopreservation. The primary focus in the core is generating high-affinity monoclonal antibodies that are specific for the customer's needs. Our scientist team also has expertise in more advanced techniques for antibody characterisation SPR, alternative antibody formats, humanisation and affinity maturation techniques.

For more information, visit their website: <https://www.monash.edu/researchinfrastructure/matf> or email info.matf@monash.edu

Mass Spectrometry and Proteomics Facility

Located at the Future Industries Institute, University of South Australia, SA

The Mass Spectrometry and Proteomics Facility (MSP) is a UniSA node that was established under the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS). At MSP, they set the benchmark for global best practice in the preparation, analysis and reporting of results. They undertake both fundamental and applied research to achieve tangible outcomes, which can be provided to industrial partners with the highest scientific standards of transparency and reproducibility.

For more information, visit their website: <https://fii.unisa.edu.au/infrastructure/mass-spectrometry-and-proteomics/> or contact Peter Hoffmann: Peter.Hoffmann@unisa.edu.au

Proteomics International and The University of Western Australia

Located at the University of Western Australia, WA

Proteomics International has entered a Private Public partnership with the University of Western Australia to provide proteomics services as the Western Australia Proteomics Facility. Proteomics International is a pioneering medical technology company operating at the forefront of predictive diagnostics and bio-analytical services. The Company specialises in the area of proteomics – the industrial scale study of the structure and function of proteins. Proteomics International's aim is to use its expertise in proteins to develop and commercialise diagnostic tests for chronic diseases where there is unmet medical need.

The proteomics services at the University of Western Australia adds leading expertise in research science proteomics, label-free quantitative proteomics and cutting edge in vivo stable isotope

labeling proteomics for protein flux analysis to the portfolio. The UWA service also has leading national plant and agricultural science proteomics experience.

For more information, visit their website: <https://www.proteomics.com.au/> or email support@proteomics.com.au

Metabolomics



Photo credit: Eric Wilkes

Metabolomics Australia

Located at the Bio21 Institute, The University of Melbourne, VIC

The Victorian node of Metabolomics Australia (MA) offers an advanced analytical and bioinformatics capability providing state-of the-art metabolomics infrastructure. The facility offers access to expertise and technologies that cover a wide range of metabolite chemistries and quantitative analyses required for comprehensive metabolite profiling applicable to biomedical, agri-food and environmental sciences. MA is committed to developing the “omics” incorporating emerging trends in partnership with national and international researchers ensuring MA is state-of-the-art and in a position to offer this to researchers both in academia and industry.

For more information, visit their website: <https://www.bio21.unimelb.edu.au/metabolomics-australia> or contact Dedreia Tull, Node manager: dedreia@unimelb.edu.au

Australian Wine Research Institute

Located at Glen Osmond, SA

The Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI) is the Australian grape and wine industry’s own research organisation. It supports a sustainable and successful grape and wine industry through world class research, practical solutions and knowledge transfer. The AWRI houses and operates the South Australian node for Metabolomics Australia and specialises in the analysis of trace metabolites and secondary metabolites, including volatiles, biomarkers and chemical quality markers. Whilst the facility has a food and agriculture focus, we have supported many collaborators from the biomedical fraternity.

For more information, visit their website:

https://www.awri.com.au/research_and_development/metabolomics_facility/ or contact Natoiya Lloyd, Node manager: natoiya.lloyd@awri.com.au

Centre of Metabolomics

Located at The University of Western Australia, WA

The University of Western Australia Centre of Metabolomics, ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology, and the University's School of Chemistry and Biochemistry draw upon wide-ranging resident expertise in mass spectrometry, chemistry, metabolism and informatics. Together they provide a comprehensive analytical and data interpretation service for all areas of the life sciences including plant, microbial, environmental and biomedical research.

For more information, visit their website: <https://www.cmca.uwa.edu.au/facilities/metabolomics-australia> or contact Michael Clarke, Node manager: michael.clarke@uwa.edu.au

Australian Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology

Located at the University of Queensland, QLD

The Queensland nodes of Metabolomics and Proteomics are housed at The University of Queensland's Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN). The AIBN is an integrated multi-disciplinary research institute bringing together the skills of world-class researchers in the areas of bioengineering and nanotechnology. AIBN offers both proteomics and metabolomics services and advanced collaborative interactions, particularly addressing pressing industrial challenges in cell and metabolic engineering.

For more information, visit their website: <https://aibn.uq.edu.au/> or contact Esteban Marcellin: e.marcellin@uq.edu.au

Bioinformatics

The Australian BioCommons

Located at The University of Melbourne, VIC

The Australian Bioinformatics Commons (BioCommons) is an ambitious new digital capability that will enhance Australian research in its ability to understand the molecular basis of life across all research domains, including environmental, agricultural and biomedical. Digital technologies are proving transformational for the life sciences. This large-scale investment in digital infrastructure will ensure Australian life science research remains globally competitive, providing access to the tools, methods and training researchers require to respond to national challenges such as food security, environmental conservation and disease treatments.

For more information, visit their website: <https://www.biocommons.org.au/> or contact Andrew Lonie, Director: alonie@unimelb.edu.au

Research Catalyst Program updates

Earlier in the year, the ACvA, in partnership with Bioplatforms Australia established the Research Catalyst Program to support our cardiovascular researchers with acquisition of data for upcoming significant collaborative grant applications. In line with Bioplatforms' mission to support innovation and help transform scientific outcomes in Australia, this support also aimed to develop long-lasting

collaborations between researchers and Bioplatforms' network partners. We caught up with some of our recipients and asked them how their projects are progressing.

Jonathan Golledge - *Whole genome analysis on abdominal aortic aneurysm*

How has the project progressed since being awarded the Research Catalyst Grant?

This project was developed to examine genetic risk alleles for artery weakening. Since the award a few months ago it has been a busy time with a large number of DNA samples extracted from the blood samples and sent for genotyping at the Ramaciotti Centre for Genomics under the kind supervision of Dr. Helen Speirs. The genotyping is well underway. Dr Tejas Singh, a junior doctor and current PhD student is helping with compiling the clinical and imaging data from the collaborating Australian sites to link to the genotyping data. It is planned next year to commence the bio-informatics under the supervision of an expert, Dr Matt Field.

Why was the particular BPA facility important for the project?

This project would not have been possible without the involvement of the Ramaciotti Centre for Genomics who have been outstanding in their Service, led by Dr Helen Speirs who has provided most helpful and accurate advice on sample preparation and been highly collaborative.

How has the funding helped with the project?

The seed finding has been a huge lift for this project by facilitating its start and being leveraged with other local funding to make this project possible. It is hoped that findings from the project will provide a strong basis for further research and associated funding applications aimed to advance the understanding of aneurysm disease and develop a medical management.

Any continuing partnerships that you envision?

The project has led to a long term collaboration with the Ramaciotti Centre for Genomics in other projects and has facilitated both national and international collaborations in this field (such as with Professor Matt Bown in Leicester UK).

Diane Fatkin - *Development of a custom genotyping array to detect cardiomyopathy gene mutations*

Our group at the VCCRI was delighted to join forces with our Bioplatforms Australia partner, the Ramaciotti Centre for Genomics, to develop a new custom gene screening array to study cardiomyopathy gene variants in patients with atrial fibrillation. This array will allow us, for the first time, to look for rare genetic variants in cardiomyopathy-associated genes, at a fraction of the cost of conventional gene panel sequencing or whole-exome/genome sequencing. We are very excited about the possibilities this holds for exploring genetic causes of atrial fibrillation and other inherited cardiomyopathies in research and clinical settings.

We are pleased to report that good progress has been made, and after extensive consultation with TWIST Biosciences, our panel design has been completed and the probe set manufactured and delivered. We are currently preparing our first plate of DNA samples that will be sent to the Ramaciotti Centre for sequencing.

The Ramaciotti Centre for Genomics was a great choice for our Bioplatforms Australia partner. Dr Helen Speirs and her team have been fabulous to work with at every step of this journey. They have extensive experience in human genome sequencing technologies and have been extremely helpful and good communicators.

This project would not have been possible without the seed funding provided by the ACvA/Bioplatforms Research Catalyst Program. In fact, we had not even considered doing something like this until the opportunity to explore new technologies became available. This program has truly been a "catalyst" to initiate an exciting new project.

Once we have preliminary data in hand to show that rare genetic variants in cardiomyopathy genes can be successfully detected by our new array, we hope to seek further grant support that will enable us to apply this technique to study larger patient cohorts. In anticipation of this, we are actively seeking to establish links with potential collaborators across Australia.

Dr Simon Foster - *Decoding monocyte signalling networks*

Since the awarding of the ACvA/BPA Research Catalyst Program grant, we have begun to collect data exploring the effects of chemokine receptor signalling in monocytic cells. These studies are conducted in close collaboration with our BioPlatforms Australia partner facility, the Monash Proteomics & Metabolomics Facility (MPMF), which is one of the premier facilities in Australia that can perform global phosphoproteomics analysis using state-of-the-art instrumentation. These experiments provide crucial information about signal transduction events relevant to inflammatory diseases, such as atherosclerosis, as well as rheumatoid arthritis, cancer and many other important diseases. The grant is enabling us to collect crucial pilot data to support NHMRC grant applications and will help generate high impact publications. Moreover, the grant is supporting a productive ongoing partnership between the researchers (Dr Simon Foster, Assoc Prof Martin Stone and Assoc Prof Kemp-Harper) at Monash BDI and the MPMF. It has also enabled us to establish a new collaborative project with colleagues at University of California San Diego (USCD).

Professor Mary Kavurma - *Single cell transcriptome profiling of diabetic peripheral artery disease*

How has the project progressed since being awarded the Research Catalyst Grant?

Peripheral artery disease (PAD), where narrowed or blocked arteries reduce blood flow to limbs, is a disease with high human and social impact, significantly reducing quality of life. It is the third most prevalent form of atherosclerotic disease after heart disease and stroke. Restoring blood supply is critical but current interventions are insufficient as extensive disease precludes re-vascularisation in many patients. Significantly, patients can experience acute events e.g. gangrene, necessitating surgical amputation of limbs. Finding a pharmacological therapy for PAD that increases stable blood vessel formation and enables blood flow that could prevent amputation, would be life changing for these patients. To develop new therapies, we need greater understanding of the disease itself, particularly how genes regulate cell-cell interactions to promote stable blood vessel networks. We are very excited to have begun our studies for this project and hope to supply our BPA facility with sample soon.

Why was the particular BPA facility important for the project?

Our study requires single-cell RNA sequencing, which is a powerful, state-of-the-art technique that informs us of transcriptional activity of every gene in a cell for thousands of cells at the same time. This technique has the potential to map in a 3D-manner, the cell-cell, cell-gene and gene-gene interactions altered in PAD. The Garvan-Weizmann Centre for Cellular Genomics at the Garvan Institute for Medical Research is absolutely crucial for this project. The head of the facility, A/Prof Joseph Powell, will perform the single cell RNA sequencing on tissues from our mouse models of PAD as well as human amputated tissues.

How has the funding helped with the project (e.g. completion of project will help with applications for tier one grants)?

Single cell RNA sequencing is expensive, and funding from the Research Catalyst Program has allowed us to conduct the proposed research in a dedicated manner. It will also facilitate the preliminary data necessary to obtain successful Category I funding, which would be essential for confirmation of identified targets, and whether any 'hits' could be tested for therapeutic benefit in pre-clinical models and beyond.

Any continuing partnerships that you envision?

Certainly. We have another project that is currently underway using single cell RNA technology at the Garvan-Weizmann Centre for Cellular Genomics.

CICADA INNOVATIONS

Cicada Innovations has spent the past 20 years building a community of deep tech founders who are solving the world's most pressing problems.



Its Sydney-based facility offers both office space and specialist infrastructure under one roof, including shared labs, a rapid prototyping centre and an electronics lab, all run by a community of experts. The incubator is made up of over 40 innovative deep tech companies working on cutting edge technologies across different industry verticals — from the future of food and healthcare to space 2.0.

Cicada brings together scientific innovators and strategic partners to accelerate the development of transformational technologies. The Cicada Innovations ecosystem has already helped more than 300 companies raise \$350m+ in venture capital and government grants, file 500+ patents and trademarks and launch 700+ innovations globally.

By its very definition, incubation is the process of keeping something at the right temperature and under the right conditions so it can develop. And that's what Cicada does — offer personalised coaching and support, and rally the ecosystem of founders, investors, researchers and more around a company or fledgling idea to accelerate its growth. Cicada offers the opportunity for innovators to get out of the lab or office and connects them directly to the one-on-one specialist help needed when building breakthrough technologies under conditions of extreme uncertainty.

Cicada also connects industry partners to new technologies and creators, sources solutions to pressing problems, and bridges the technology transfer gap by accelerating the path to market for these innovations. Finding, collaborating with and offering deep tech startups and researchers the long-term support needed to ensure success can be time-consuming, expensive and challenging. Cicada Innovations simplifies and de-risks that investment for partners.

Get in touch and join Cicada in its mission to nurture deep tech companies that are making a difference where it matters the most.

Events and programs: <https://www.cicadainnovations.com/events>

Newsletter sign up: <https://www.cicadainnovations.com/sign-up-to-our-newsletter>

Recent impact report: <https://www.cicadainnovations.com/australias-deep-tech-opportunity>

Programs: <https://www.cicadainnovations.com/cicadas-growth-programs>

CSANZ ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING AND ANZET MEETING



**CSANZ VIRTUAL
2020**

68TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE CARDIAC SOCIETY OF
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

11 - 13 DECEMBER 2020

WWW.CSANZASM.COM



ANZET20 VIRTUAL

14th Annual Australia & New Zealand Endovascular Therapies Meeting

11 - 12 December 2020

www.anzet.com.au

This year, the CSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) and ANZET Meetings are being held primarily in a virtual format from 11-13 December 2020.

While the live meeting and on-demand session content commences from 8.45am (AEDT) on Friday 11 December 2020, engagement with the Meetings has already begun. The virtual platform has been launched and registered participants can now view the posters and respective abstracts.

Access is only available if you have registered – **REGISTER NOW** at www.csanzasm.com or www.anzet.com.au. Registration fees have been significantly reduced for 2020 and several registration options are available - from in-person/hub to virtual for CSANZ or ANZET program content, plus an add-on option for all content.

The CSANZ ASM is excited to announce the launch of the video poster competition with a selection of abstracts presented by short video seeking your vote to take out the People's Choice Award for Best Video Poster.

We thank our abstract authors for submitting their posters so they would be available in the month before the Meeting and encourage you to support them by registering so you can view the posters and take part in the video poster competition. Registering now also gives you a chance to make sure you have no access issues, and the virtual platform works well before the live sessions start.

Want to meet and connect with your colleagues? Meeting hubs are available in Adelaide, Brisbane Sydney and Wellington offering a central venue, catering, evening wine and cheese, with selected sessions shown on the “big screen” while other sessions can be accessed on your own device. If you are Sydney based or nearby, we want to highlight the Opening Ceremony including the Ralph Reader Prize Session (Basic Science) on Friday 11 December will be streamed live from ICC Sydney. These sessions will be live on the virtual platform for other hub or virtual delegates. For more Meeting hub information please visit <https://www.csanzasm.com/meeting-hubs/>.

The full program is available at www.csanzasm.com and www.anzet.com.au. Join the conversation at #CSANZ2020.

ACVA ACTIVITIES



Mentoring program launch event

On 27th October we officially launched the ACvA Mentoring Program, a cross-sector mentoring program for PhD students, early and mid-career researchers. We were delighted to have over 50 mentors, mentees and ACvA members join us online as we heard from our panel of speakers talk about the benefits of mentoring.

The event was opened by ACvA Emerging Leaders Committee Chair, Associate Professor Francine Marques, who highlighted the importance of mentoring for a bright, diverse and inclusive future and to enhance connections across industries to facilitate discovery and translation for CVD. Following an update on the ACvA from President, Professor Gemma Figtree, our panel speakers, Dr Melina Georgousakis, Dr Inken Martin, and Professor Steve Nicholls then shared insights and advice from their own mentoring experiences. The importance of honesty and trust as well as defining clear expectations in the mentor-mentee relationships were common themes, as was the importance of mentoring to build the next generation of scientists.

We are grateful to our panel members for sharing their personal reflections on mentoring and we have had lots of positive feedback from the workshop. For those of you that were unable to attend the event, please see the link below to the ACvA Mentoring Program page where you will find a recording of the event.

<https://www.ozheart.org/mentoring-program/>

We now have almost 30 mentee-mentor pairs and registration is ongoing, so please use the above link if you would like to join the program as either a mentee or mentor.

We will be holding regular mentee events online, hosted by the mentees themselves. Our first event at 12 midday on Tuesday 24th November - thanks for Dr Yow Keat Tham (Baker Institute) and PhD student, Khalia Primer (SAHMRI), hosting next week's event. We also plan to hold a follow up mentor/mentee event in the New Year.

For questions and enquiries, please contact ACvA Mentoring Program Manager, A/Prof Anna Calkin anna.calkin@baker.edu.au

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Public Health and Chronic Disease Program: Heart Disease and Stroke – Support for Recovery Grant

The purpose of the grant opportunity is to provide support for Australians with heart disease or stroke to make the best recovery possible, to be well and participate in the community. The objectives of the grant opportunity are to support key activities from the draft National Strategic Action Plan for Heart Disease and Stroke in the areas of:

- Cardiac rehabilitation;
- Stroke rehabilitation;
- Digital health;
- Transition of care;
- Health information; and
- Peer and emotional support.

Applications close 17 December 2020.

Find out more below:

<https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=5587976b-b3c9-47ba-05f4-9128dad25b8e&keyword=GO2797>

MRFF Frontier Health and Medical Research Initiative

The Frontier Health and Medical Research initiative is a program to support researchers to pursue big ideas that can revolutionise health care and potentially create new industries. The 2021 Frontier Health and Medical Research grant opportunity now incorporates the entire Frontiers process, which was previously delivered as two discrete grant opportunities (i.e. Stage One in 2019 and Stage Two in 2020). **Applications close 11 December 2020.**

Find out more below:

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/frontier-health-and-medical-research-initiative>

ARC Future Fellowships 2021

Future Fellowships support mid-career researchers to undertake high quality research in areas of national and international benefit. The Fellowship is four years in duration and up to 100 are awarded each year. **Applications close 9 December 2020.**

Find out more below:

<https://www.arc.gov.au/grants/discovery-program/future-fellowships>

Wellcome Innovator Awards

Open internationally. Support for researchers who are transforming ideas into healthcare innovations that could have significant impact on human health. You're not eligible for an Innovator Award if your company is not established and/or doesn't have working capital. Applications are shortlisted every three months. **Current round of applications ends 1 December 2020.**

Find out more below:

<https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/schemes/innovator-awards>

National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia – Matched Funding Program

National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia (NSCFA) is offering grant money to projects that are utilising stem cell technology in Australia and are late pre-clinical trial stage in readiness for clinical trials OR ready to conduct a clinical trial. Under the Program, NSCFA will match any donation it receives from an approved donor (or donors) up to a maximum of \$50,000 with up to \$50,000 dollars of its own funds, to potentially provide a total of \$100,000 for a successful research project.

Applications are forecast to close 11th December 2020.

Find out more below:

https://www.stemcellfoundation.net.au/matched_funding_program

Women and Leadership Australia – Various Leadership Courses

Women and Leadership Australia offering partial scholarships of \$1,000 - \$5,000 for their career building leadership courses. Three courses are available for different career levels.

- Leading Edge Program – 4-month Early Career course with a \$1,000 scholarship
- Executive Ready Program – 7-month Mid-level course with a \$3,000 scholarship
- Advanced Leadership Program – 12-month Executive course with a \$5,000 scholarship

All courses are part-time and online, requiring two hours a week on average to complete.

Letter of Intent is due 4th December 2020.

Find out more below:

<https://www.wla.edu.au/health.html>

Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) – National Fellowship Program

The Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) National Fellowship Program promotes knowledge in the natural and social sciences and encourages women's academic and professional careers in the sciences. Applicants may propose research projects up to 12 months, with a maximum of \$10,000 being awarded. All female researchers are eligible to apply, however the career level of the candidate will be taken into consideration. **Applications close 11th January 2021.**

Find out more below:

https://www.gwis.org/page/fellowship_program