

LSQ WEEKLY NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

INDUSTRY NEWS | UPCOMING EVENTS | BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

04 December 2024

Dear Fractal

Thank you to our members and friends who joined our Networking Breakfast and AGM last week: it was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with colleagues and reflect on the successes of 2024. Thank you to [Associate Professor Arutha Kulasinghe](#) (*Below, right*) for a fascinating presentation about how his spatial biology approach to studying disease is shaping the future of precision medicine. Dr Kulasinghe is based at [TRI](#), and we are grateful to them for sponsoring this event. [Read more.](#)

At the breakfast, LSQ was proud to announce the newest addition to our Hall of Fame, the late Dr Iris Depaz, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to Queensland's biotechnology sector.

We are grateful to Dr Depaz's husband Dr Chris Booth for joining us to accept the award from LSQ Chair Professor Trent Munro on Iris's behalf (*Below, left*), and for sharing some personal stories about her life and passions. You can read the full citation [here](#).





It's been a busy few weeks for the sector in Queensland, with three major conferences in the south-east of the state.

This week the Multi-Omics conference presented perspectives on the latest in multi-omics, including spatial biology, digital pathology, artificial intelligence and omics-based deep tissue and liquid biopsy profiling. Featuring TRI-based Professor Ken O'Byrne (Metro South Health, QUT), Dr Arutha Kulasinghe, Associate Professor Fernando Guimaraes and Dr Meg Donovan (all from The University of Queensland).

On the Gold Coast, the 3rd Annual National Health & Innovation Precinct Summit closes today, with precinct and district leaders attending from across the country. The Discovery Day on Monday was a hit, with Gold Coast Health & Knowledge Precinct partners showcasing how they work together to support innovation. Congratulations to the Precinct, Griffith University and Lumina Gold Coast for hosting a great event.

The International Conference on Research Infrastructure (ICRI2024) runs until tomorrow in Brisbane. Hosted by CSIRO, with assistance from the Federal Department of Education and primarily funded by the European Commission, this is the major professional forum for the global research infrastructure community. This year ICRI has attracted more than 400 global experts, from Albania to Zambia, to discuss the scientific equipment, systems and networks that increase knowledge and help address some of the world's most pressing challenges.

There's no doubt that Queensland has a particular buzz right now, and we're committed to supporting this vibrant sector to thrive and grow.

With the end of year fast approaching, we are looking forward to reflecting on 2024 with many of you at this week's joint LSQ–AusBiotech celebration. See you there!

The LSQ team

Sector congratulations

Happy 40th Birthday to [UniQuest](#) ! Since 1984, Uniquet has been a leader in research commercialisation, creating over 100 start-ups and achieving game-changing successes like the Gardasil® HPV vaccine. We're looking forward to what the next decade brings...



AusBiotech Queensland

END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION



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If you haven't already registered for this week's joint LSQ–AusBiotech end-of-year celebration, you'll need to be quick, as the event is near capacity and registrations close at 5pm today.

Members of either LSQ or AusBiotech are invited to join us on **Thursday 5 December, from 5:00–8:00pm**, at the fabulous **Cloudland**, for an evening of networking with colleagues and friends.

Drinks and canapés will be provided, thanks to co-sponsorship from [360biolabs](#), [James & Wells Intellectual Property](#) and event supporter [Minter Ellison](#). More about our sponsors:

- With a brand new facility in Melbourne, and a lab in TRI in Brisbane, 360biolabs offer a full suite of pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic assays for your early-phase clinical studies.
- James & Wells Intellectual Property's experience ranges from managing large IP portfolios for international corporations, right through to protecting the ideas of start-ups, and everything in between.
- MinterEllison is one of Australia's largest law firms, with nearly 200 years of business history. They're known for their legal and consulting expertise — and for their inclusive culture and authentic character.

✱ Last chance – registrations close this afternoon! ✱

Sector news

[LSQ honours visionary biotech leader with Hall of Fame Award](#)

Life Sciences Queensland (LSQ) has inducted the late Dr Iris Depaz into its prestigious Hall of Fame, recognising her extraordinary contributions to Queensland's biotechnology sector.

[UQ wins Federal Quantum funding for melanoma detection technology](#)

UQ is one of 14 recipients of the Australian Government's Round One Critical Technologies Challenge Program (CTCP) funding, winning almost \$416,000, in partnership with Oscilladx Pty Ltd, to develop the Terahertz Quantum Technology detecting the Invisible Melanoma.

[Scoliosis management and treatment system wins 2024 QUT Excolo! pitching comp](#)

Associate Professor Paige Little, from the School of Mechanical, Medical and Process Engineering, and her team win \$100,000 in funding from the QUT Industry Engagement Fund to

accelerate the project's next stage of development. The team's suite of innovations, myScoliosis and myScoliDoc, have been developed from over 20 years of spine research at QUT.

[Have your say on the Draft National Framework for Genomics in Cancer Control](#)

Cancer Australia is developing a *National Framework for Genomics in Cancer Control*. The Framework aims to support people affected by cancer who will benefit from cancer testing and genomics-guided treatment and care.

[Australian Government establishes new national body for genomic research](#)

Genomics Australia will help fight cancers, rare diseases and deliver better health outcomes for Australians. Its focus will be on turning significant breakthroughs in genomic research into the everyday care that patients receive. Genomics Australia will work with states and territories to implement an updated National Health Genomics Policy Framework.

[Collaboration key to ultimate genotypes in plants and livestock](#)

UQ researchers are calling for international collaboration to achieve the ultimate genotype using techniques such as gene editing and synthetic biology to breed high yield, heat tolerant and disease-resistant crops and low emission cattle with excellent feed conversion efficiency.

[Revised medical ethical standards for global research, with 2024 Declaration of Helsinki](#)

The changes to the DoH were informed by regional and tropical meetings spread over two and a half years, where issues were discussed by local and international experts and engaged audiences with diverse opinions. These comprehensive revisions enhance the ethical framework of medical research by promoting inclusivity, protecting participants rights, and addressing contemporary challenges such as data privacy and global health emergencies.

New members

We are delighted to welcome [mexec](#) to our community.

mexec is an Executive Search Recruitment firm that also provides support to individuals seeking to transition to a new role and specialise in the science, health and innovation sectors. We look forward to sharing more about mexec in coming weeks.



Renewing members

Thank you to renewing member [Bivacor](#). TIME editors recently recognised the BiVACOR Total Artificial Heart as a TIME's 2024 Best Inventions under the Experimental category. Congratulations!



LSQ and partner events

[International Conference on Research Infrastructures](#)

Tuesday 3–Thursday 5 December | Brisbane

Hosted biennially, the International Conference on Research Infrastructures is the major professional forum for the global research infrastructure community.

[LSQ–AusBiotech End-of-Year Celebration](#)

Thursday 5 December | Cloudland, Fortitude Valley

Join LSQ and AusBiotech for our joint end-of-year celebration at the delightful Cloudland.

[Future Proofing Healthcare: Integrating Technology, Data, and the Human Touch](#)

Friday 6 December | Hybrid – In person: Amazon Web Services + Online

Presented by Amazon Web Services (AWS), in conjunction with the Office of Research and Innovation (ORI), this event will delve into the tipping point where healthcare systems are poised to harness the power of data and cutting-edge technologies to revolutionise decision-making and service delivery.

[Clinical Trials from Concepts to Close](#)

Wednesday 11 December | Brisbane City

The Office of Research and Innovation proudly presents the “Clinical Trials from Concept to Close” course, offering a comprehensive overview of clinical trial processes, including hypothesis generation, research protocol development, ethics, governance, participant safety, and final study reporting.

[42nd JP Morgan Annual Healthcare Conference](#)

Wednesday 8–Saturday 11 January | San Francisco, California

This premier conference is the largest and most informative healthcare investment symposium in the industry and connects global industry leaders, emerging fast-growth companies, innovative technology creators and investment community members.

[Science Meets Parliament 2025](#)

Wednesday 12–Thursday 13 February | ACT

This year marks 25 years of SMP – Australia's leading event for Australian STEM professionals to get career-boosting training, engagement with policymakers, and invaluable networking opportunities. Join this special milestone event to deepen your skills, expand your influence, and build lasting connections.

[BioAsia Hyderabad](#)

Monday 24–Wednesday 26 February | Hyderabad, India

BioAsia returns for its 22nd edition, uniting global leaders from the industry, academia, government bodies, and regulatory bodies

[Life Sciences Summit 2025 \(EOI Open\)](#)

Tuesday 18–Wednesday 19 March | Wellington, New Zealand

This event brings together global biotech leaders, innovators, and sustainability experts to drive innovation and foster collaborations. With a focus on advancements in biotechnology, the summit will explore solutions in healthcare, agriculture, and environmental sustainability. Don't miss out on thought-provoking discussions, networking, and the opportunity to shape the future of biotech.

[2025 Quantum Australia Conference \(SAVE THE DATE\)](#)

Tuesday 25–Thursday 27 March | Brisbane, Australia

Quantum Australia 2025 will once again bring together world-leading quantum researchers, businesses, government decision-makers, startups, and big tech to share the latest developments and ideas in this rapidly evolving field.

[AusMedtech Conference 2025](#)

Wednesday 7–Thursday 8 May | Sydney, Australia

AusMedtech 2025 is being supported by host State Partner NSW Government and will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre. AusMedtech 2025 will feature a cutting-edge three-day programme, industry exhibition, Early-Stage Innovation Forum, a welcome function (6 May), conference dinner (7 May) and closing ceremony (8 May).

[APVIC 2025 \(SAVE THE DATE\)](#)

Tuesday 20–Thursday 22 May | Brisbane, Australia

Asia Pacific Vaccine Immunotherapy Congress (APVIC) will provide opportunities for Early Career Researchers to present their research and connect with world leaders in the area of Immunotherapy and

Vaccine development. In addition to clinicians and scientists, invited Federal and State governments and the biopharma sector will attend.

[BIO2025](#)

Monday 16–Thursday 19 June | Boston Convention & Exhibition Center

The BIO International Convention is the largest and most comprehensive event for biotechnology, representing the full ecosystem of biotech with 20,000 industry leaders from across the globe.

Tell us about your upcoming event by sending an email to info@lsq.com.au.

See our website for more events

Grants, funding and business opportunities

[Nominations open for Prime Minister's Science Prizes](#)

Do you know someone who is making a meaningful contribution to science and innovation? Or a teacher who brings science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) to life and inspires students to pursue science? Nominate them for a Prime Minister's Science Prize! **Applications close at 5pm, Tuesday 17 December 2024.**

[SEQ Innovation Economy Fund Queensland Innovation Precincts and Places Fund: Stream 3 – Regional Precincts & places Infrastructure & Technology Program](#)

Keen to learn how to secure funding to enhance your regional innovation precinct with smart infrastructure and technology? Advance Queensland's Regional Infrastructure and Technology Program is now open for applications. Grants of up to \$3 million are available to support capital works, digital infrastructure, and plant and equipment upgrades. **Applications close 30 June 2027**

[SEQ Innovation Economy Fund](#)

The \$150 million SEQ Innovation Economy Fund will support new or improved infrastructure developments and/or acquisition of plant and equipment (that contribute to innovation focused priority industries and innovation growth sectors). Projects can receive between \$1 and \$25 million in funding, with a 50% cash contribution required. **Applications close at 11am, 13 December 2024.**

[Call for expressions of interest for Queensland delegation to BioAsia](#)

TIQ is calling for expressions of interest from Queensland biotechnology companies to join a trade mission to BioAsia 2025 in Hyderabad, India in February 2025. Places are strictly limited. Companies will be selected based on their market readiness to secure commercial outcomes. Register your interest via the link above; contact Principal Trade and Investment Advisor [Jas Sanghera](#) with any questions.

[Indigenous Media Mentoring Training](#)

The Australian Science Media Centre, in collaboration with National Indigenous Television (NITV-SBS), is encouraging Indigenous STEM researchers from around Australia to register their interest in receiving two days of free intensive media training at the Sydney SBS studios in April 2025. Thanks to funding from CSL and CSIRO there is funding available to assist with travel and/or accommodation costs, if needed.

[CSIRO Kick-Start](#)

CSIRO Kick-Start is an initiative for innovative Australian start-ups and small businesses. It provides funding support and access to CSIRO's research expertise and capabilities to help them grow and develop their businesses.

[Biomedical Translational Fund](#)

This fund provides companies with venture capital to help develop biomedical discoveries into tangible products, services and outcomes. Discoveries can be therapeutic, medical or pharmaceutical. They can be a product, process, service (including digital health services), technology or procedure. **Ongoing.**

[Business Investment Fund](#)

The Queensland Investment Corporation's Business Investment Fund's primary objectives are to achieve investment return, promote job growth and increase access to growth-stage capital in Queensland. It invests directly in the business; it is not a grant nor a loan and considers an initial investment of between \$2.5 million and \$10 million. **Ongoing.**

[CUREator+ Round 2](#)

CUREator+ is a national program focused on accelerating the research translation and commercialisation of early-stage Australian medical research and medical innovations with commercial potential. Funding of up to \$5 million is available to support preclinical, clinical and/or commercial development of therapeutics, diagnostics, medical devices and digital health technologies. **Applications close Wednesday 4 Dec.**

[Prime Minister's Prizes for Science](#)

Nominations are open for Australia's most prestigious awards for achievements in scientific research, research-based innovation and science teaching. **Applications close Tuesday 17 Dec.**

[Austrade Go Global Toolkit](#)

Single-access point for whole-of-government information and advice, providing key market information to potential exporters and those looking to export into new markets.

[Remarkable Launcher](#)

The Remarkable Launcher Pre-Accelerator Program supports innovators from the beginning of their startup journey to validate their idea or solution. This 8-week part-time program is for those founders new to the startup ecosystem or that want to innovate in disability, aging or health tech. **Applications close 21 Jan 2025.**

Our foundation supporters

Heartfelt thanks for their impactful support



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