

LSQ WEEKLY NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

INDUSTRY NEWS | UPCOMING EVENTS | BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

24 October 2024

Dear **Fractal**

We've enjoyed seeing the exciting life science news in the media this week, with *The Australian* newspaper including great Queensland companies and researchers in its list of the country's Top 100 Innovators, and the ABC talking about Griffith University world-first clinical trial to treat spinal cord injury. Media coverage like this has an important role to play in boosting the visibility of the life sciences sector and its role in driving innovation and economic growth.

As we celebrate these media highlights, it's also a great time to acknowledge the recent announcement of new Fellows to the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences. [Four Queenslanders were recognised as Fellows](#), along with two people from industry. Their election is a prestigious recognition of their contributions to advancing health and medical research.

As well as congratulating the new AAHMS Fellows, we'd also like to extend a warm welcome to two key sector appointees, Chris Peck, who has been named CEO of RNA, and Luke Cornish, who has joined Sanofi as Head of Corporate Affairs and Public Affairs Lead.

There's plenty to celebrate about our vibrant sector so, if you're in Melbourne next week for AusBiotech '24, do join us for **Networking Drinks** at the end of Day 1 (see details below).

Keep an eye on our LinkedIn page for updates on what our members are doing at the conference, where we're looking forward to meeting with industry representatives to discuss how we can continue to support and strengthen Queensland's life sciences ecosystem. Please contact [Ryan Parlett](#) or [Sally Dillon](#) to catch up for a coffee, or arrange a conversation through the partnering platform.

We look forward to working with you to support the sector.

The LSQ team

Sector congratulations

Congratulations to the LSQ members who were recognised by *The Australian* newspaper as some of the country's [Top 100 Innovators](#). It's exciting to see the biomedical sector, and those who invest in their research, translation and commercialisation work, getting the kudos they deserve. You can read about their achievements in Sector news below.

We also want to celebrate the achievements of our community members:

- Scott Bell, TRI CEO, who has been named a [Fellow of the Australian Academy for Health and Medical Sciences](#), along with three other Queenslanders.
- Institute for Biomedicine and Glycomics Principal Research Leader [Professor Sally-Ann Poulsen](#) has been awarded The Royal Australian Chemical Institute Margaret Sheil Leadership Award 2024.
- University of Queensland researcher [Dr Arutha Kulasinghe](#), who is based at the Translational Research Institute, has been awarded a \$100,000 Ramaciotti Health Investment grant for his AtlasHNC: Precision Medicine Initiative for Head and Neck Cancer project.

- The late Dr Iris Depaz has been recognised with an Australian Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering Fellowship.
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Sector news

[Using mRNA to tackle ultra-rare mitochondrial disease](#)

The University of Queensland's AIBN group leader, Dr Seth Cheetham, and University of Cambridge Neurologist, Dr Jelle van den Ameele, will be attempting to develop and evaluate a novel mRNA-based gene therapy for Mitochondrial Neuro-Gastro-Intestinal Encephalomyopathy with a grant from The Lily Foundation.

[World-first clinical trial for treating spinal cord injury](#)

Griffith University researchers are about to launch a human trial to treat spinal cord injury by transplanting cells from the noses of paralysed patients into the damaged area. The first part of the trial will test the cell bridges' safety, but the scientists hope to also assess the therapy's effectiveness as the study continues.

[LSQ members named among Australia's Top 100 Innovators](#)

Notable honorees are Farzaneh Ahmadi, founder of Laronix, for developing a bionic voice box for laryngectomy patients; Professor John Fraser, Associate Professor Kristy Short, and Dr Arutha Kulasinghe for their groundbreaking cancer research at UQ; and Dr Daniel Timms for inventing the BiVACOR Total Artificial Heart. Other innovators recognised in the list were Vaxxas CEO David Hoey, pioneering needle-free vaccine delivery, and Dr Michelle Deaker, Founding Partner and Managing Director of OneVentures, supporting healthcare and technology sector companies.

[New report on Radioligand Therapy \(RLT\) published](#)

Evohealth has published *Bench to Bedside: The Promise of RLT*, an evidence-based independent report analysing the potential advantages of RLT as a precision medicine for Australians with cancer.

[New guidance on artificial intelligence \(AI\) privacy obligations](#)

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) has published new guidelines for businesses that clearly articulate how Australian privacy law applies to artificial intelligence (AI) and set out the regulator's expectations.

[Queensland Drug Discovery Alliance \(QDDA\) launches](#)

Therapeutic Innovation Australia (TIA) has brought together three of its Queensland-based small molecule translational research facilities to support a pipeline of novel medicines by helping to bridge the early stages of development.

[Federal funds for Cancer Research](#)

The Australian Government has announced \$22M in funding for the Cancer Clinical Trials program to advance cancer research across Australia.

QUEENSLAND BIOTECH NETWORKING COCKTAILS

WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER 7:30–9:30PM

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
29 SOUTH WHARF PROMENADE
MELBOURNE
(EXIT FROM DOORS 5&6 OF MCEC)

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Join us for networking drinks in Melbourne at the end of Day 1 of AusBiotech '24. No need to register – just turn up at [The General Assembly](#), overlooking the Yarra River, right outside the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

After a busy first day of conferencing, we hope you'll enjoy the relaxed atmosphere at this inviting riverside venue, perfect for unwinding and continuing your networking over drinks. Following the formal welcome function hosted by AusBiotech, please head to The General Assembly through Doors 5 & 6 from Plenary 1.

LSQ and partner events

[Mater Research Seminar: Stem cell biology and neuroimmunology](#)

Monday 28 October | TRI, Brisbane

Dr Kylie Alexander will present Endogenous glucocorticoids promote neurogenic heterotopic ossification after spinal cord injury. Dr Andrew Swayne will present Non-pharma multiple sclerosis treatment and the National Autoimmune Encephalitis Consortium.

[Core Facility Professional Development Conference](#)

Monday 28–Tuesday 29 October | UQ, Brisbane

A conference for professionals from all scientific disciplines working in core research facilities.

[AusBiotech '24](#)

Wednesday 30 October–Friday 1 November | Melbourne

The program includes pre-conference tours, workshops and the Aus BioInvest 2024 conference on Tuesday 29 October, and a clinical trials dinner as well as the conference gala dinner.

[STEMM Strolls](#)

Friday 1 November | Sunshine Coast

This event, hosted by Women in STEMM Australia and Sponsored by Inspiring Australia (Qld) and Merck, aims to bring STEMM students and professionals together in regional areas.

[Research Translation in Chronic Kidney Disease](#)

Wednesday 6 November | TRI

End-of-year event for consumers, researchers and health professionals, featuring experts in kidney disease. Includes the National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce and Professor Adeera Levin, a consultant nephrologist from Canada.

[BrisJAMS event: Careers Beyond Academia](#)

Wednesday 6 November | Sound Garden, Fortitude Valley

A Joint Academic Microbiology Seminar, with Dr Carrie Hillyard, Dr Elisa Bayraktarov, Dr Maciej Trzaskowski and Dr Paula Smith-Brown.

[5th National HREC Conference](#)

Wednesday 27–Friday 29 November | Online

Free and virtual, this national conference on human research ethics spans three full days.

[Brisbane Cancer Conference](#)

Thursday 28–Friday 29 November | Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

The largest annual cancer conference in Queensland, for all cancer care and research specialties, including medics, nurses, allied health professionals, advocates and industry partners.

[Multi-Omics 2024](#)

Sunday 1–Tuesday 3 December | Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

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 UQ).

[3rd Annual National Health & Innovation Precinct Summit](#)

Monday 2–Wednesday 4 December | Gold Coast

Asia-Pacific's newest innovation hub, the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct, is excited to welcome precinct and district leaders from across the country to the three-day event, with a Discovery Day held right here in our Precinct lined up to kick-start the event.

[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.

[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 which connects global industry leaders, emerging fast-growth companies, innovative technology creators and investment community members.

[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.

[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.

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

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.**

TIA's Pipeline Accelerator 2024–25 Round 1

A voucher-style scheme that subsidises the cost of access to a wide range of advanced capabilities. TIA partners with Phenomics Australia and the National Deuterium Facility (NDF) to expand the portfolio of services and expertise enabling medical research discovery and translation. This scheme aims to support therapeutic development projects by providing up to \$50,000 with at least 50% matching funding (co-investment) by the applicant. **Applications close on Thursday 31 October.**

TIA's Technical Feasibility Assessments (TFAs) 2024–25 Round 1

The TFAs will provide researchers with much-needed direction for initiating translational research, building knowledge of the process and requirements and improving early-stage decisions. **Applications close on Thursday 31 October.**

2025 Women in Leadership Awards

The 2025 Women in Leadership Awards Celebration aims to inspire and encourage nominations from those based in Melbourne, Victoria and interstate. BioMelbourne Network's Women in Leadership Awards are open to anyone employed in the Australian health-tech sector.

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 on Wednesday 4th December.**

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.

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