



February 2026

Dear LSQ members and friends,

Often, we open our newsletter with “we’ve hit the ground running” or “it’s been a busy month in the sector” and while both are true, February genuinely felt like *the* month for all things LSQ Collaborative.

We kicked off with our first **Networking Welcome Breakfast** of the year, generously hosted by Foundation Partners **McCullough Robertson**. The room was packed as we enjoyed delicious breakfast morsals, fresh fruit and coffee and welcomed warmly by Partner, Corporate Advisory **Reece Walker** (celebrating a centenary this year! McCullough Robertson – not Reece!), and heard an excellent sector roundup from Partner **Naomi Omundsmann**, highlighting 2025 successes and 2026 insights.

Our very own **Dr Kym Baker** shared LSQ’s strategic priorities, unveiled a packed 2026 LSQ calendar, showcased expanded industry partnerships, and reflected on last year’s momentum including major wins for our member companies on the global stage.

The following week, we partnered with ISPE to deliver a two-day conference at TRI on **Contamination Control & Quality Risk Management**. More than 100 delegates joined regulators, industry leaders and international experts for practical insights and real-world application. The conference was supported by exhibitors from **PSC Biotech, MMRC, Allied Scientific, BioMerieux, Charles River, Cytiva, Flowtech, GMProtect, Gemu Australia, LAF Technologies, Opira and PQE Australia**. The conference concluded with a precinct tour of **TRI, TFS** and **ENTRI** and we thank everyone involved to bring this together.

Last Friday, we were once again at capacity (with a waitlist) at **QIMR Berghofer**, partnering with the **Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning** and **Herston Health Precinct** for our annual Women in BIO & Health Industry Forum. Built on open and honest discussion, this gathering of inspirational women showed what collaboration really looks like! It was encouraging to see the ecosystem all together in one room - industry, research, government and academia sharing ideas and listening to each other. A strong sense of working toward the same goal, creating real momentum for Queensland’s life sciences community.

[McCullough Robertson 2026 Welcome Breakfast](#)



ISPE Conference on Contamination Control & Quality Risk Management



Women in BIO & Health Industry Forum



Congratulations Nova Leo!

Formerly an LSQ intern, Nova graduated with a Bachelor of Biotechnology, completing an Extended Major in Molecular and Microbial Biotechnology - what an achievement. She's now rolling straight into her Honours year with the UQ School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences, continuing to build her expertise in the molecular biosciences.

We're so proud to be a small rung on her ladder to success and we are delighted that Nova is now a valued part-time member of the team, bringing her scientific know-how and energy with her.

Here is Nova supported by Fathya, also a recent UQ graduate and part-time LSQ team member! We love seeing our emerging talent thrive and supporting each other.



United Nations

International Day of Women and Girls in Science, 11 February

“ We must ensure that every girl can imagine a future in STEM, and that every woman can thrive in her scientific career.
– UN Secretary-General António Guterres



Stay tuned for the March Newsletter – and more details on the **BCEC Bursary Event** and **LSQ's 15th Year Celebration**. Big year ahead!

Best regards,
THE LSQ TEAM



LSQ and Partner Events



Queensland Exporter Conference

Thursday 12 March | 9.00am-4.00pm | Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

The Queensland Exporter Conference is a full-day event for Queensland businesses seeking to expand internationally. Attendees will gain practical insights from industry leaders, experienced exporters, and Trade Commissioners, with sessions designed to support first-time exporters, market expansion, and scaling operations. The conference offers sector-focused content, market intelligence, and opportunities for one-on-one advice to help businesses grow their global footprint. [Read more and register here](#)



BCEC partners with Life Sciences Queensland to launch legacy bursary for next-generation Bio Innovation Leaders

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) has announced a new 30th Birthday initiative in partnership with Life Sciences Queensland Ltd (LSQ) to support Queensland

and Australia's research and commercial uptake in across health, biomedical and agritech bio-innovation. [Read more here](#)



**INNOVATION
CHALLENGE**

BRISBANE

23 MARCH 2026 | 9AM - 4PM

 **SQ STUDY
QUEENSLAND**

 **Campus Consultancy**

 **QUEENSLAND
MUSEUM**
World
Science
Festival
Brisbane

Study Queensland Innovation Challenge

Monday 23 March | 9.00am-4.00pm | Queensland Museum, Brisbane

LSQ will be participating as one of the organisations in the Study Queensland Innovation Challenge as part of the World Science Festival program. Come join students from interdisciplinary backgrounds to tackle the question: *How can Queensland's science organisations showcase the impact of their work to the world?* Students will collaborate with government and industry partners to co-design creative, practical solutions to real organisational needs, guided by an expert facilitator. [Register here](#)

See our website for more events

New and Renewing Members

A big thank you to all for your ongoing support - we're thrilled to have you as part of the LSQ community! Also acknowledging intermediate new members **Morgan Donaghy and Bronwyn Adams**.

Renewing Members:



Renewing Foundation Supporters:



Member and Sector News and Events

Tell us your news and upcoming events by sending an email to info@lsq.com.au.

AusBiotech & Proto Axiom Launch National Life Sciences Partnership

The collaboration aims to streamline the journey from early-stage research to commercial growth, including pitch competitions, flagship forums, and targeted programs like women's health initiatives. By aligning investor engagement and industry events, the partnership seeks to accelerate innovation and scale promising ventures across the country.

[Read More](#)

World-First PaedNEO-VAX Childhood Cancer Vaccine Trial Launched

A world-first clinical trial called PaedNEO-VAX will test personalised mRNA vaccines for children with aggressive brain cancers, bringing together Southern RNA, The University of Queensland's Frazer Institute and Providence Therapeutics across eight Australian hospitals. [Read More](#)

Vaxxas awarded a European Union tender to advance Europe's influenza preparedness

Vaxxas, in partnership with SK bioscience and IDT Biologika has secured a European Union EU4Health tender to support the development of next-generation influenza vaccines. This European initiative builds on significant momentum for Vaxxas, with initial funding advancing a Phase I study of Vaxxas' HD-MAP technology with SK bioscience's seasonal influenza vaccine. [Read more](#)

MTP Connect Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) Information Webinar

MTP Connect is providing up to \$1 million to help eligible Australian start-ups, spin-outs and SMEs develop innovative preventative, diagnostic, therapeutic and/or disease management devices for cardiovascular disease and the complications of diabetes (type 1 and type 2). Find out more about the new TTRA Devices Round 2 Investment opportunity by joining the Information Session Webinar on March 4th. [Read more](#)

2026 Event Date Claimers



[BIO Korea 2026:](#)

Bio-Korea is South Korea's premier international biotechnology and bio-health convention, bringing together global industry leaders, researchers, investors and companies for exhibitions, business partnering and conferences. The 2026 Bio-Korea International Convention will be held **28–30 April 2026** at the **COEX Convention & Exhibition Centre in Seoul, South Korea**, serving as a key platform for innovation, collaboration and market expansion across the biotech and health sectors.



[AusMedtech 2026](#)

AusMedtech is Australia's leading medtech conference, bringing together innovators, researchers, clinicians, investors and government partners to explore the opportunities and challenges shaping the future of medtech.

AusBiotech is excited to welcome the community at **Crown Towers in Perth, Western Australia** from **19 to 21 May 2026** for three days of insights, collaboration and conversation that moves the sector forward.

Be part of the ideas, connections and momentum shaping the next chapter of Australian medtech!

[Register here](#) by **27 March 2026** and save up to \$450 with our discounted **Early-Bird rate**.



[BIO International Convention San Diego](#)

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.

Whether you work at a public pharmaceutical company, biotech startup, academia, non-profit organization, or government agency; or you work as a researcher, business development professional or investor, BIO is where you'll make valuable connections and build relationships.

BIO International Convention will be held **22-25 June 2026** in **San Diego California**.



[AusBiotech International Conference 2026](#)

The AusBiotech International Conference is Australia's largest biotechnology conference and the flagship event of Australia's biggest week in biotech, convening the entire

ecosystem and connecting Australian expertise with local and global partnerships.

This year, we will head up the coast as the the AusBiotech International Conference will take place on the Gold Coast from **20 to 23 October 2026**, hosted at the **Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre**.



[Protein Australia 2026](#)

Protein Australia is the premier national meeting on protein science and technology, hosted by the University of Queensland's Protein Expression Facility (PEF) and National Biologics Facility (NBF). The event will showcase cutting-edge research in protein engineering, veterinary science, and bioproduct translation, featuring global academic speakers.

Connect with colleagues from across Australia and beyond at Protein Australia 2026, hosted at the **Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre** from **16 to 18 August 2026**. Submit your expression of interest [here](#)

A free, student-focused **Pre-conference Workshop** will be held **16 August 9:00am–12pm** to build early-stage bioproduction knowledge and network ahead of the main event. [Register your interest here](#)

A post-event **Professional Upskilling Masterclass** designed for both industry and academic conference attendees will be held on **19 August 9am–5:00pm** to deliver foundational insights across the rapidly evolving landscape of biomanufacturing, translation pathways, and product development. [Register your interest here](#)

Grants, funding and business opportunities

[MTP Connect Targeted Translation Research Accelerator \(TTRA\)](#)

MTPConnect is delivering a new \$28.5 million investment for TTRA Drugs and Devices for MRFF, injecting much-needed funding and support for Australian small to medium enterprises (SMEs), and which builds on the legacy of inaugural research accelerator

program. Information Session Webinar will be held on **4 March**. Applications close **30 March**. [Read more >>](#)

[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. [Read more >>](#)

[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. [Read more >>](#)

[Lord Mayor's Convention Trailblazer Grant](#)

Brisbane business and research pioneers can apply for up to \$5,000 in funding to attend a leading international conference. The grant empowers professionals to build global networks, broaden industry knowledge and gain recognition for work in Brisbane by attending an international conference in their field. Applications close **February 24**.

[Read more >>](#)

[TIQ Market Accelerator Program](#)

The Market Accelerator program offers up to \$30,000 of matched funding to emerging, new-to-export and growing and experienced exporters to respond to global opportunities and expand into new export markets. The funding will help your organisation to accelerate growth, build resilience and leverage off investment opportunities that may arise from the project. Applications Close **March 4**. [Read more >>](#)

[2026 TRI Translation Fellowship](#)

Unlock 12 months of expert training, personalised 1:1 support and up to \$2,000 in professional development funding with the 2026 TRI Translation Fellowship. Open to mid-career researchers based at TRI and researcher-clinicians from TRI partner hospitals. Applications close **March 13**. The Fellowships are funded by the TRI Foundation via a grant from Equity Partners. [Read more >>](#)

[Dust Diseases Board \(DDB\) Grants and Awards](#)

Providing \$3.5 million in funding to support innovative research and strengthen emerging and clinical talent focused on the causes, prevention, and management of dust diseases.

[Read more >>](#)

[NHMRC: Childhood Mental Health](#)

The National Health and Medical Research Council is inviting applications to support research translating evidence-based prevention and treatment strategies into practice to improve mental health outcomes for children and young people.

Applications close **March 25**. [Read more >>](#)

[MRFF: Frontier Medical Research](#)

This grant opportunity offers funding to support medical research and medical innovation programs of research that deliver a 'moonshot' by creating a treatment for a currently serious and incurable health condition, through a series of linked projects. The program of research can propose to develop novel health technologies and/or re-purpose existing health technologies in a novel way. Applications close **March 25**. [Read more >>](#)

[MRFF: Clinical Trials Activity](#)

The Medical Research Future Fund Clinical Trials Activity Initiative (administered by NHMRC) provides funding to support high-quality clinical trials across a range of health areas. Applications close **1 April**. [Read more >>](#)

[Discovery Early Career Researcher Award \(DECRA\)](#)

The DECRA scheme provides focused research support for early career researchers in both teaching and research, and research-only positions. It provides funding for three-year

DECRA's, providing a researcher with salary and on-costs, and up to \$50,000 per year in project costs. Expressions of interest close **13 April**. [Read more >>](#)

For NHMRC and MRFF grant opportunities visit [GrantConnect](#)

Our foundation supporters and partners

Heartfelt thanks for their impactful support



Life Sciences Queensland Ltd, 37 Kent Street, Woolloongabba, QLD 4102, Australia, info@lsq.com.au

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