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THE BRIDGE PROGRAM

TRANSFERRING SKILLS ON THE COMMERCIALISATION
OF PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH

VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM 2021

21 OCTOBER - 22 OCTOBER 2021

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BRIDGE PROGRAM SYMPOSIUM

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2-DAY VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

Join Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/bridge-symposium-zoom> **Passcode:** Bridge

Date: Thursday 21 October 2021 **Timezone:** Brisbane, AEST

DAY ONE - DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	CHAIR
	9:00 - 9:15	Welcome to The Bridge Program	Dan Grant, MTPConnect	Lyn Griffiths, QUT
	9:15 - 9:30	Outline of the Symposium Program	Lyn Griffiths, QUT	
	9:30 - 10:00	PRESENTATION How to Stand Out when Working with Global Biopharma	Jessica Droge, Amgen	David Thomson Amgen
	10:00 - 10:30	PRESENTATION The Journey to an Investigational Drug (IND)	Ed Lobenhofer, Amgen	
	10:30 - 11:00	PANEL Interactive Q&A Panel Discussion	Ed Lobenhofer, Jessica Droge, Amgen	
BREAK	11:00 - 11:15	MORNING TEA		
	11:15 - 11:45	PRESENTATION IP Lifecycle: Overview of IP and Commercialisation Strategies	Brendan Nugent, Spruson & Ferguson	Stuart Englund, Janssen
	11:45 - 12:15	CASE STUDY Responding to COVID-19 and the mRNA vaccine development	Trent Munro, UQ	
	12:15 - 12:45	PANEL Collaborative Translation	Kathy Connell, J&J; Brendan Nugent, Spruson & Ferguson; Trent Munro, UQ	
CLOSE	12:45 - 13:00	DAY ONE CLOSE	Lyn Griffiths, QUT	
	13:00 - 13:30	COLLABORATION ACTIVITY Group Zoom sessions to work on presentations https://qut.zoom.us/j/86092363148?pwd=TTR2VUIYanpEQkE2Nzk3YVRqOFRQUT09		

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Join Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/bridge-symposium-zoom> **Passcode:** Bridge

Date: Friday 22 October 2021 **Timezone:** Brisbane, AEST

DAY TWO - APPROACH TO MARKETS

	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	CHAIR
	9:00 - 9:15	Recap of Day 1 and Overview of Day 2	Lyn Griffiths, QUT	
	9:15 - 9:45	PRESENTATION Bridging Early Successes to Commercialisation & Personal Journey	Anand Gautam, Pfizer	Laura Issa, AbbVie
	9:45 - 10:15	PRESENTATION Getting to Clinical Proof of Concept for Global Commercialisation	Elizabeth Kowaluk, AbbVie	
	10:15 - 10:45	PANEL Interactive Q&A Panel Discussion	Anand Gautam, Pfizer Elizabeth Kowaluk, AbbVie	
BREAK	10:45 - 11:00	MORNING TEA		
	11:00 - 11:30	CASE STUDY Implicit Bioscience	Garry Redlich Implicit Bioscience	Erica Kneipp, ANU
	11:30 - 12:15	PANEL Funding for Early Stage Commercialisation - How are VC Funds Being Spent?	Gos Schepers, Brandon Capital; Sarah Meibusch, One Ventures; Siro Perez, IP Group	
	12:15 - 12:45	PRESENTATION Biotech Blueprint	Lorraine Chiroiu AusBiotech	Lyn Griffiths, QUT
CLOSE	12:45 - 13:00	SYMPOSIUM CLOSE	Lyn Griffiths, QUT	
	13:00 - 13:30	COLLABORATION ACTIVITY Group Zoom sessions to work on presentations https://qut.zoom.us/j/86092363148?pwd=TTR2VUIYanpEQkE2Nzk3YVRqOFRQUT09		

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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LORRAINE CHIROIU

CEO and Managing Director, AusBiotech

Lorraine Chiroiu is the CEO and Managing Director of AusBiotech and has worked as a dedicated advocate for the biotechnology sector for over a decade. She works closely with public policy impacting the life sciences sector at state and Federal levels, including economic development, tax incentives, patent protection, medical research and its commercialisation. She has recently been appointed Chair of the CSIRO Manufacturing Business Unit Advisory Committee and a member of the NSW Government Trade and Industry Advisory Committee; she sits on the International Council of Biotechnology Associations, the Federal Government's Clinical Trials Collaborative Forum, the Therapeutic Goods Administration Consultative Committee and the Global Talent Scheme (GTS) Start-up Advisory Panel.



KATHY CONNELL

Senior Director External Innovation Partnering (ANZ), Johnson & Johnson Innovation

Kathy Connell is responsible for implementing the Johnson & Johnson external partnerships and growth strategy across ANZ. She has a clinical, commercial and legal background of more than 25 years spanning the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, academia and hospital industries. Kathy has led Innovation and Investment for Janssen ANZ, and held business development roles at Sanofi for the ANZ and Asia Pacific regions. Kathy is a leader in advocating for diversity and inclusion in the life sciences sector. She co-founded Medicines Australia's Pharma Australia Inclusion Group, is the International Ambassador for Johnson & Johnson's WISTEM2D Scholars' program, and has been recognised with accolades including a Women in Leadership Award by the BioMelbourne Network.



JESSICA DROGE

Vice President of Business Development, Amgen

Jessica Droge is Vice President of Business Development at Amgen, where she leads the search and evaluation and business intelligence efforts for all drug therapeutics and technologies. Her group identifies and reviews over 2500 external opportunities per year in support of all licensing, collaboration, and acquisition deals. Jessica brings over 25 years of drug development experience to her role, with expertise in both small and large molecules as well as medical devices. Prior to being in Business Development, she led the clinical development activities required to support global scientific, regulatory, and commercial strategies across multiple therapeutic areas in the settings of academic, start-up, and large companies.



ANAND GAUTAM

Executive Director & Emerging Science Lead (Asia & Asia Pacific), Pfizer

Anand Gautam has over 25 years of R&D leadership experience in inflammation and autoimmune diseases with a focus on cancer. He has developed innovation strategies for international biotech and pharmaceutical companies, and has over 12 years of immunology research experience gained in prestigious research centres globally. Anand is excited about novel science and its potential for translation into medicine. His goal is to help convert meaningful scientific discoveries into real innovation, changing people's lives with new medicine. After eight years at Novo Nordisk in Denmark, he joined Pfizer in 2017 where he continues to fulfill this ambition as Executive Director & Emerging Science Lead (Asia & Asia Pacific).

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DAN GRANT

CEO and Managing Director, MTPConnect

Dr Dan Grant has spent more than 25 years in senior roles in the pharmaceutical, higher education and medical research sectors. Prior to joining MTPConnect, Dr Grant was the inaugural Pro Vice Chancellor for Industry Engagement at La Trobe University where he had oversight of the university's innovation, commercialisation and industry engagement activities. He was also the Senior Director and Head of Pfizer's External Research and Development Innovation group for ANZ/Singapore and their head of open innovation. Dan also sits on the Expert Advisory Panel for the MRFF Stem Cell Mission.

He has a PhD in Cardiovascular Physiology and an MBA.



LYN GRIFFITHS

Director, QUT Centre for Genomics and Personalised Health and the Bridge and BridgeTech Programs.

Distinguished Professor Lyn Griffiths is Director of the Genomics and Personalised Health Research Centre at QUT. A respected molecular geneticist with more than 28 years' experience, Prof Griffiths has brought a translational focus to medical research to increase QUT's influence and its impact on human health. She is Director of the nationwide and industry-supported Bridge and BridgeTech programs, which provide commercialisation training for the pharmaceutical and medical devices industries. Prof Griffiths' genetics research has led to diagnostic breakthroughs for several neurogenetic disorders, including familial migraine, ataxia, epilepsy, and hereditary stroke. Her research has appeared in more than 350 peer-reviewed international journals and she has obtained significant competitive funding to support her research team.



ELIZABETH KOWALUK

Senior Director, Search & Evaluation, AbbVie

Dr Elizabeth Kowaluk is Senior Director, Search & Evaluation at AbbVie, a global research-driven biopharmaceutical company committed to developing innovative advanced therapies to address today's health issues. Her team drives the identification and assessment of partnering and investment opportunities. Liz is responsible for search and evaluation in specialty therapeutic areas, as well as in artificial intelligence and digital platforms. Previously at AbbVie/Abbott, Liz had leadership responsibilities in pharmaceutical discovery, portfolio and decision analysis, and corporate strategy. She holds a PhD in pharmaceuticals, with postdoctoral experience in pharmaceuticals and pharmacology.



ED LOBENHOFER

Director Nonclinical Safety Science, Amgen

Ed Lobenhofer joined the Translational Safety and Bioanalytical Sciences Department at Amgen in 2008. He works directly on Amgen's pipeline as a toxicologist supporting molecules across all stages of drug development. Ed also leads a team of scientists developing nonclinical safety packages for both small and large molecules to advance meaningful therapeutics into the clinic. Prior to Amgen, Ed's scientific career focused on the application of molecular biology and genomics to identify biomarkers of disease as well as the field of toxicology.

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SARAH MEIBUSCH

Principal, OneVentures

As the Principal OneVentures, Sarah Meibusch brings over 18 years of global life science business development and management experience from the human healthcare industry and the Brisbane biotechnology ecosystem. Her previous roles included scouting for Shire Pharmaceuticals, a global specialty pharmaceutical company (LON: SHP). Sarah sought technologies for Shire across Australasia and played a key role in sourcing the \$300M Fibrotech deal announced in 2015. Sarah has a strong operational understanding of the pharmaceutical and life science industries gained through senior management roles at the Progen Pharmaceuticals, The University of Queensland's QAAFI institute, Beef CRC and Pyxis Genomics.



PROFESSOR TRENT MUNRO

Senior Group Leader at the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, University of Queensland. Director of the National Biologics Facility and Centre for Biopharmaceutical Innovation.

Prof Trent Munro's research is focused on the development, engineering and production of Biologics (complex, protein-based therapeutics) using mammalian cell culture systems. Prof Munro is also Program Director of the CEPI funded Rapid Response Vaccine pipeline and led the UQ team developing a clinical stage vaccine candidate for COVID-19. Prior to this, he was Executive Director of Process Development at Amgen.



BRENDAN NUGENT

Of Counsel, Spruson & Ferguson

Brendan Nugent has almost 30 years' experience as an IP professional. Prior to his current role he was a partner and held a management role at a major Australian firm. With technical qualifications in chemistry and biotechnology, Brendan assists local and international clients in the drafting and prosecution of patent applications. His interest in technology commercialisation grew through working with his clients, and he became an active investor in start-up companies through the Brisbane Angels group. Brendan lectured at the Queensland University of Technology in patent law and is involved in a research project on the economics of the patent system.



SIRO PEREZ

Head of Life Sciences (ANZ), IP Group plc

Dr Siro Perez leads the Life Sciences team of investment company IP Group plc (LSE:IPO, £1.2bn NAV) in Australia, investing in spin-out companies from top universities nationally and in New Zealand. Previously, he co-founded Molecular Warehouse, and mHealth medical diagnostics platform. He has led a successful investment career, including investing in biotech at one of the world's leading hedge funds (\$14B AuM) and at Nestle's Corporate Venture Fund (\$1.5B AuM). He worked as Project Leader at The Boston Consulting Group and led a group in drug development at Novartis in Switzerland. Siro holds a Master of Finance and a PhD in Molecular Biology.

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GARRY REDLICH

CEO and Managing Director, Implicit Bioscience.

Garry Redlich has led two successful biotech companies that have brought two drugs into advanced clinical development and one to global regulatory approval. He is currently CEO of Implicit Bioscience, which is pioneering drug development of an immunotherapy in neurology, cardiology and ophthalmology.

Over the past 30 years Mr Redlich has directed companies in the ICT, aerospace and advanced materials industries, and has negotiated with government and commercial clients in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and America. He has completed several terms as an adviser to the Australian and Queensland governments on science, national security and arts policies.



GOSLIK SCHEPERS

Senior Investment Manager, Queensland, Brandon Capital Partners

Dr Goslik Schepers joined Brandon Capital Partners in 2018 and has over 15 years' experience in commercialisation and business development in industry and research commercialisation. Previously, Goslik was the GM of Business Development at Queensland's largest medical research institute, QIMR Berghofer, where he managed a team in business development, commercialisation and pre-seed investment. In addition to academic research commercialisation at QIMR Berghofer, Oxford University and the University of Queensland, Goslik also worked as VP Business Development at Alchemia Limited, Australia, and Summit PLC, United Kingdom for over 10 years combined.

CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

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Thank you to our program consortium for participating and chairing sessions.



DARIO DOTLIC

Associate Director, Strategic Alliances at Yuhan ANZ

Dario Dotlic is responsible for identifying and growing regional collaboration and investment opportunities in the development of innovative medicines targeting solid tumours, metabolic diseases, and degenerative central nervous system disorders. Dario's previous roles in the life sciences industry include sectors ranging from basic research at a UK university, to clinical research and business development at major contract research organisations in Australia, commercialisation of medical products in Spain, and government-led investment attraction activities in his home state of South Australia.



ANNE-MAREE ENGLUND

Head of Strategic Policy Implementation, Medicines Australia

Anne-Maree is passionate about the potential of innovative technologies to improve health outcomes. An engineer by trade, she also has a masters in public policy, and combines a thorough knowledge of product development with a strong understanding of the broader health and innovation policy landscape. She started her career at the medical device innovator Cochlear, has been the Operations Manager at health IT startup Humanetix, and also spent several years as Policy Manager at pharmaceutical company MSD. She is currently Head of Strategic Policy Implementation at Medicines Australia.



STUART ENGLUND

Senior Manager, Corporate & Government Affairs, Janssen-Cilag

Stuart Englund is the Senior Manager, Corporate & Government Affairs for Janssen Australia, the pharmaceutical arm of the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies in Australia.

Stuart has worked in the pharmaceutical sector for Janssen and Eli Lilly, as a third-party lobbyist, as a commercial solicitor at Minter Ellison and as an adviser to the Minister for Roads & Transport in the State Government.



LEE FARRAND

CEO, Yuhan ANZ

Dr Lee Farrand is the CEO of Yuhan ANZ, the Australia and New Zealand investment and partnership office for Yuhan Corporation, one of South Korea's largest pharmaceutical companies. Yuhan Corporation has full spectrum drug development capabilities, with around 30 drugs under development. Yuhan ANZ is focused on building relationships with research institutions and biotech companies to invest in and co-develop early therapeutic ideas in cancer, metabolic diseases and central nervous system disorders.

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LAURA ISSA

Business Development Search and Evaluation Lead (ANZ), AbbVie

Dr Laura Issa is responsible for implementing the business development and external innovation partnerships strategy across Australia and New Zealand for AbbVie Inc., a global specialty biopharmaceutical company. She engages with stakeholders, entrepreneurs, scientists and investors across the biopharma and medtech innovation ecosystem to establish early-stage collaborative research partnerships, licensing opportunities and venture investments that align with AbbVie's areas of interest, covering immunology, oncology, neuroscience, women's health and virology. Laura partners with stakeholders to enable the innovation process, in ways that prime the pipeline and ensure they create lasting impact for the Australian economy and for patients.



ERICA KNEIPP

Head of Research Strategy, College of Health and Medicine, Australia National University

Erica Kneipp's experience spans all levels of government, the private and not-for-profit health sectors in Australia. She is currently working to enhance the Australian National University's medicine, population health and psychology research from discovery to translation and commercialisation. Erica has supported national portfolios and ministers, and was instrumental in establishing the Medical Research Future Fund and Biomedical Translation Fund. Previously she led the George Institute for Global Health's researcher-policy programs on renal health and what is now a national aged and community care provider, Feros Care. Erica also spent a decade with WA Health, designing and implementing public-private partnerships in healthcare in remote north western Australia.



BRENDAN NUGENT

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Brendan Nugent has almost 30 years' experience as an IP professional. Prior to his current role he was a partner and held a management role at a major Australian firm. With technical qualifications in chemistry and biotechnology, Brendan assists local and international clients in the drafting and prosecution of patent applications. His interest in technology commercialisation grew through working with his clients, and he became an active investor in start-up companies through the Brisbane Angels group. Brendan lectured at the Queensland University of Technology in patent law and is involved in a research project on the economics of the patent system.

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ROB SCOTT

Managing Director, Australia Asia Technology Incubator

Rob Scott is the Managing Director of China BlueSky Partners and Australia Asia Technology Incubator and Accelerator (AATI). AATI has offices in Shanghai and Melbourne and helps Australian life sciences and medtech companies engage better with Asia. Rob has 20+ years of experience in commercialising life science companies in Australia and Asia. His past roles include representing China for AusBiotech (2017-2019). He was also the Executive Director of the Australia China Business Council, and the State Leader (Queensland) for EY's China Business Group.



LISA SELBIE

Adjunct Lecturer, Advanced Academic Program in Biotechnology, UNSW

Dr Lisa Selbie is currently working with industry experts to develop graduate courses and training on the commercialisation of biotechnology in the Australian and Asian region. She also works with Ausbiotech, Australia's peak biotechnology industry association, and is a member of the NSW Ausbiotech Committee, supporting information and advocacy for organisations doing business in the global life sciences industry. Dr Selbie is a non-executive Director and Chair of the Research Advisory Committee for the not-for-profit HeartKids Inc.



MARTIN SNOKE

Corporate and Public Affairs Lead, Roche Products, Roche.

Martin Snoke contributes to partnerships that shape the policy environment, leading to better outcomes for patients. Building on his experience in the Department of Health, Medicines Australia and a PhD in Health Science, his current role focuses on developing research and evidence, collaborating with external partners, and advocating for policy priorities for medicines and emerging health technologies.



DAVID THOMSON


Senior Manager, Policy and Advocacy, Amgen Australia

David Thomson works across cardiovascular, osteoporosis and oncology healthcare and pharmaceuticals policy, and patient relations. He is an active member of Medicines Australia, is a member on the Policy Scanning Working Group and the Oncology Industry Taskforce, and AmCham's Innovation Committee. Prior to joining the pharmaceutical sector David worked for the Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, concentrating on innovation, venture capital and industry policy. He worked on both the National Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda and the National Innovation and Science Agenda.



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Learn more at mtpconnect.org.au