

Queensland Immunology Networking Symposium

Sky Room, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Center, 23 – 24 October 2025

THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER

10.00am-10.10am Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

SESSION 1
10.10am-11.50am **Cancer, Vaccines, and Immunotherapy**
Chairs: A/Prof Danielle Stanisic & Dr Ismail Sebina

Sponsored by Millennium Science



10.10am-10.25am **Prof Jose Villadangos – Peter Doherty Institute, The University of Melbourne**
Topic: Function and Regulation of Antigen Presenting Cells and Molecules

10.25am-10.40am **Dr Mehruz Zaman – Institute for Biomedicine and Glycomics, Griffith University**
Topic: mRNA Delivery Systems for Mucosal Immunity

10.40am-10.55am **A/Prof Jody Peters – School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences, The University of Queensland**
Topic: Advancing ISVac chimeric vaccines for the veterinary field

10.55am-11.10am **Dr Guangzu Zhao – James Cook University**
Topic: Peptide Nanoparticle Platforms for Next-Generation Vaccine Development

11.10am-11.25am **A/Prof Joy Wolfram – School of Chemical Engineering & Australian Institute for Bioengineering & Nanotechnology, The University of Queensland**
Topic: Unlocking immune evasion in breast cancer: extracellular vesicle glycans meet bad cholesterol

11.25am-11.50am Questions and Discussion

11:50am-12.50pm Lunch

SESSION 2
12.50pm-2.30pm **Systems Immunology and Precision Modelling: From Molecules to Mechanisms**
Chairs: Prof Sumaira Hasnain & Dr Michael Nissen

Sponsored by BASE



12:50pm-1.05pm **Prof Kirsten Spann– Centre for Immunology and Infection Control, Queensland University of Technology**
Topic: Biomarkers of high virus production from nasal epithelial cells

1.05pm-1.20pm **A/Prof Luis Pedro Coelho – School of Biomedical Sciences, Queensland University of Technology**
Topic: The potential of the global microbiome as a source of novel antibiotics

1.20pm-1.35pm **Prof Loic Yengo – Institute for Molecular Bioscience, The University of Queensland**
Topic: Leveraging the polygenicity of complex traits to improve disease classification

1.35pm-1.50pm **Dr Adrienne Jenner – School of Mathematical Sciences, Queensland University of Technology**
Topic: In silico immunology: a case study of virtual clinical trials in cancer

1.50pm-2.05pm **Dr Amanda Oliver – QIMR Berghofer**
Topic: Decoding mucosal immunity: from single cells to microenvironments

2.05pm-2.30pm Questions and Discussion

2.30pm-3.00pm Afternoon Tea

THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER (CONTINUED)

PANEL DISCUSSION
3.00pm-4.15pm

Sustainable funding and novel science in an era of unparalleled uncertainty

Chair: Prof Gabrielle Belz

Sponsored by QUT CIIC



**Centre for
Immunology
and Infection
Control**

Dr Celia Webby - Health Translation, Queensland

Prof Jose Villadangos - Peter Doherty Institute, The University of Melbourne

Prof Allison Petit - Mater Research Institute, The University of Queensland

Prof Kate Schroder - IMB, The University of Queensland

4.15pm-4.30pm

Travel Award Presentation

5.00pm-6.30pm

Networking Event

The Plough Inn, South Brisbane, QLD

Sponsored by ASI



6.30pm-9.00pm

Symposium Dinner

The Plough Inn, South Brisbane, QLD

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FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER

10.00am-10.10am Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

SESSION 3
10.10am-11.50am **Infection and Immunity**
Chairs: A/Prof Andreas Kupz & Dr Jessica Engel

Sponsored by Miltenyi Biotec



10.10am-10.25am **Dr Jessica Rooke – Institute of Molecular Biosciences, The University of Queensland**
Topic: Interaction with host lipids mediates Salmonella virulence

10.25am-10.40am **Dr Christopher Day – Institute for Biomedicine and Glycomics, Griffith University**
Topic: Targeting the essential Plasmodium falciparum sialic acid binding protein PfCyRPA for prevention and treatment of malaria

10.40am-10.55am **Prof Katharina Ronacher – Mater Research Institute, The University of Queensland**
Topic: Host Metabolic Determinants of Infection Susceptibility: Pathways to Novel Therapeutics

10.55am-11.10am **Prof Christian Engwerda – QIMR Berghofer**
Topic: Regulatory mechanisms that shape anti-parasitic CD4+ T cell responses

11.10am-11.25am **Dr Mark Allenby – School of Chemical Engineering, The University of Queensland**
Topic: Engineering hematopoietic and microvascular culture models of tissue growth and disease

11.25am-11.50am Questions and Discussion

11.50am-11.55am **Platinum Sponsor Feature Video - Miltenyi Biotec**

11:55am-12.50pm Lunch

SESSION 4
12.50pm-2.30pm **Allergy, Autoimmunity and Organ-Specific Disease**
Chairs: Dr Larisa Labzin & Dr James Curson

Sponsored by QIAGEN



12:50pm-1.05pm **Prof Matt Sweet – Institute of Molecular Biosciences, The University of Queensland**
Topic: Manipulating macrophage metabolism for anti-infective and anti-inflammatory design

1.05pm-1.20pm **A/Prof Kate Gartlan – QIMR Berghofer**
Topic: The transcription factor Bhlhe40 promotes alloreactive CD8+ T cell differentiation from TCF-1+ effector progenitors in Graft-vs-Host Disease

1.20pm-1.35pm **Dr Saeideh Hajighasemi – School of Biomedical Sciences, Queensland University of Technology**
Topic: Novel Pollen Aerosolization System for Studying Inflammation in Differentiated Airway Epithelia from Patients with Allergic Rhinitis and Asthma

1.35pm-1.50pm **Dr Simon Foster – QIMR Berghofer**
Topic: Inflammation-induced fibroblast signalling & cardiac dysfunction.

1.50pm-2.05pm **A/Prof Severine Navarro – QIMR Berghofer**
Topic: Cefazolin versus placebo for surgical antibiotic prophylaxis in low-risk caesarean delivery: impact on breastmilk microbiome composition and infant allergy susceptibility

2.05pm-2.30pm Questions and Discussion

2.30pm-3.00pm *Afternoon Tea*

FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER (CONTINUED)

SESSION 5
3.00pm-4.40pm **Inflammation and Neuroinflammation**
Chairs: Prof Matthew Sweet & Dr Léanie Kleynhans

*Sponsored by Proteintech
(United Bioresearch)*



3.00pm-3.15pm **A/Prof Julia Pagan – School of Biomedical Sciences, The University of Queensland**
Topic: Suppression of mitophagy by the FBXL4-PPTC7 axis

3.15pm-3.30pm **Dr Hana Starobova – Institute for Molecular Bioscience, The University of Queensland**
Topic: Mechanistic insights into neuroinflammatory processes driving paclitaxel-combination therapy-induced neuropathy

3.30pm-3.45pm **Dr Alain Wuethrich – Australian Institute for Bioengineering & Nanotechnology, The University of Queensland**
Topic: Nanotechnologies for Digital Immunoprofiling of Inflammation

3.45pm-4.00pm **Dr Snehlata Kumari – Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**
Topic: Innate immunity and signalling pathways in skin inflammation

4.00pm-4.15pm **Dr Sam Nayler – QIMR Berghofer**
Topic: Metabolic reprogramming following cytokine storm in human microglia-containing brain organoids

4.15pm-4.40pm Questions and Discussion

4.40pm-5.00pm **Close Meeting and Thank You**