

Queensland Immunology Networking Symposium

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, 7 – 8 October 2026

WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER

10:00am-10:10am Welcome

KEYNOTE 10:10am-10:40am

Prof Shalin Naik - Walter and Eliza Hall Institute
Next Generation DC1 Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Solid Cancers

SESSION 1 10:40am-12:40pm

Immune Regulation Across Tissues

Sponsored by Miltenyi Biotec



10:40am-10:55am

A/Prof Gareth Walker - University of Queensland & QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute
The Biopsy and Beyond: Mapping Mucosal Immunity in Ulcerative Colitis

10:55am-11:10am

Prof Nigel McMillan – Institute for Biomedicine and Glycomics, Griffith University
Delivery of Nucleic Acid Therapies to the Immune System. Current State and Future Opportunities.

11:10am-11:25am

Dr Adaeze Ekwe – Queensland University of Technology
Preserving Ocular Privilege: Mapping Stromal Cell-State Transitions During Ex vivo Expansion

11:25am-11:40am

A/Prof Mariusz Skwarczynski - School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences, University of Queensland
Antigen-Adjuvant Discovery, Delivery, and Distribution

11:40am-12:10pm

Questions and Discussion

12:10pm-1:10pm

Lunch

SESSION 2 1:10pm-3:05pm

Infection, Vaccines & Emerging Pathogens

Sponsored by Pfizer Australia



1:10pm-1:20pm

Pfizer Presentation

1:20pm-1:35pm

A/Prof Benn Sartorius – Frazer Institute, University of Queensland
From Ecology to Immunity: Mapping Japanese Encephalitis Risk and Vaccination Priorities in Australia

1:35pm-1:50pm

Dr Wilson Nguyen – QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute
Defining the Neuropathology of Emerging Orthobunyaviruses

1:50pm-2:05pm

Dr Ariel Isaacs - School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences, University of Queensland
Broad Spectrum Vaccines and Therapeutics for Zoonotic Bat-Borne Viruses

2:05pm-2:20pm

Dr Natalee Newton – School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences, University of Queensland
Ancestral Orthoflavivirus Vaccines for Broad Protection Against Multiple Encephalitic Orthoflaviviruses

2:20pm-2:35pm

A/Prof Danielle Stanisc - Institute for Biomedicine and Glycomics, Griffith University
A Whole Organism Vaccine Platform to Target Parasites of Medical and Veterinary Importance

2:35pm-3:05pm

Questions and Discussion

3:05pm-3:35pm

Afternoon Tea

WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER (CONTINUED)

PANEL DISCUSSION 3:35pm-4:50pm

Invisible Science, Essential Impact: Telling the Immunology Story

How can researchers improve public and government understanding of immunology while maintaining trust, nuance and scientific credibility?

Panel:

Prof Shalin Naik

Walter and Eliza Hall Institute

Prof Alex Loukas

Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine, James Cook University

Prof John Hooper

Mater Research Institute

Dr Nancy Cloake

QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute

4:50pm-5:00pm

Day 1 Close

5:15pm-6:30pm

Networking Event

Pig 'N' Whistle South Bank (3/133 Grey St, South Brisbane QLD 4101)

Sponsored by ASI QLD Branch



6:30pm-9:00pm

Symposium Dinner

Balmoral Room, Pig 'N' Whistle South Bank (3/133 Grey St, South Brisbane QLD 4101)

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THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER

10:00am-10:10am Welcome

SESSION 3 10:10am-12:10pm

Immunometabolism, Neuroinflammation & Cell Fate

Sponsored by Millennium Science
and 10x Genomics



- 10:10am-10:25am **A/Prof Katharine (Kate) Irvine** – Mater Research Institute
Adoptive Transfer of Wild-Type Bone Marrow Cells Mitigates Age-Dependent Neuropathology in Microglia-Deficient Mice
- 10:25am-10:40am **Dr Harindra Sathkumara** – Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine, James Cook University
Mucosal rBCG Drives Safe and Effective Immunity Against TB in Immunocompromised Hosts
- 10:40am-10:55am **Prof Marc Ruitenberg** – Mater Research Institute
Inflammatory Signatures and Host Factors Driving Recovery from Spinal Cord Injury
- 10:55am-11:10am **Dr Julie Wixey** – Frazer Institute, University of Queensland
Exploring Mechanisms of Brain Injury and Treatment Options in Fetal Growth Restriction
- 11:10am-11:25am **Dr James Curson** – Institute for Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland
Leveraging Immunometabolism for Anti-Infective and Anti-Inflammatory Design
- 11:25am-11:50am Questions and Discussion

11:50am-12:10pm Travel Award Presentation & QIRC Opportunities

12:10pm-1:10pm Lunch

SESSION 4 1:10pm-2:55pm

Immunotherapy & Precision Medicine

Sponsored by United Bioresearch



- 1:10pm-1:25pm **Dr Dharmesh Bhuvra** – Frazer Institute, University of Queensland
Computational Models to Study the Tumour Immune Microenvironment in NSCLC
- 1:25pm-1:40pm **Dr Paulo Martins** – QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute
Allogeneic EphA3-CAR T Cell Therapy
- 1:40pm-1:55pm **A/Prof Sonia Henriques** – Queensland University of Technology
Defense Peptides to Fight Drug Resistance
- 1:55pm-2:10pm **Dr Kylie Alexander** – Mater Research Institute
Endogenous Glucocorticoids Promote Neurogenic Heterotopic Ossification After Spinal Cord Injury
- 2:10pm-2:25pm **Dr Melissa Reichelt** – School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Queensland
The Heart as an Unintended Target of Anti-HER2 Antibody-Mediated ADCC
- 2:25pm-2:55pm Questions and Discussion
- 2:55pm-3:25pm Afternoon Tea

THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER (CONTINUED)

SESSION 5
3:25pm-4:55pm

Barrier Immunity, Microbiome & Mucosal Systems

Sponsored by QIAGEN



3:25pm-3:40pm	Prof Alex Loukas – Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine, James Cook University <i>From Worms to Drugs: Harnessing Hookworm Immunology to Treat Inflammatory Disease</i>
3:40pm-3:55pm	Dr Edwige Roy – Frazer Institute, University of Queensland <i>Transcriptional Rewiring of the Skin Exposed to Chronic Ultraviolet Radiation is Maintained During Progression to Skin Cancer</i>
3:55pm-4:10pm	A/Prof Elise Pelzer – Queensland University of Technology <i>Maternal Allergy, Microbial Inheritance, and Offspring Health</i>
4:10pm-4:25pm	Dr Manasa Mellacheruvu - Institute for Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland <i>Molecular Mechanisms for NLRP3 Inflammasome Localisation and Activation</i>
4:25pm-4:50pm	Questions and Discussion
4:50pm-5:00pm	Close Meeting and Thank You