



# Women in Leadership Awards 2021



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Women Health Innovators Recognised - Supporting material

*Embargoed until 11 am AEST Wednesday, 12 May 2021*

This information supports the attached media release.

**The 2021 awardees are:**

**Distinguished Leadership Award – Dr Jenny Petering, Of Counsel, FB Rice**

- Through her enthusiasm for innovation and mentoring, Jenny has made lasting contributions to the biotechnology industry. An inspiring role model, she has had a positive impact to the advancement of women in the sector by creating networks, mentoring forums, and investing in female entrepreneurs. Jenny sits on the IMNIS Expert Advisory Panel, the Springboard Life Sciences Executive Committee, and various commercialisation committees for research institutes. She is also a member of Scale Angels, an investment group supporting early-stage female founders with funding, advice and mentoring.
- As a Senior Fellow in the Melbourne Law Masters at the University of Melbourne, Jenny teaches a subject on patents. She has led and educated generations of patent attorneys at many of levels, having held teaching roles at the University of Melbourne, and Monash University.
- Jenny is a trusted advisor with extensive experience in managing global patent portfolios in the biotechnology sector. She has a broad range of clients, including research institutes, large corporates, and start-ups. Jenny is a leader in applying IP law to new technology for clients in an ever-changing environment. Seen not just as a service provider but as an integral part of her clients' teams, Jenny instills trust and respect in these relationships, and applies a cohesive approach to maximise her clients' IP potential.

**Inspiring Leadership Award – Jennifer Herz, Managing Director, Biointelect Pty Ltd**

- Jennifer Herz and her partner Karl Herz are founders and Managing Directors, respectively, of Biointelect and Bioelect.
- Their vision was to build a strategic life science commercialisation company that could leverage their international experience and address commercialisation gaps in the Australian ecosystem, while identifying new assets for unmet needs in Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Region.
- In 2018, the first novel molecule against malaria in over two decades was approved by the TGA and FDA for prevention of malaria. This was achieved with a

collaboration of Australian providers working in partnership with 60 Degrees Pharmaceuticals and the US Army.

- In 2020, Novavax commenced the first COVID-19 vaccine trial to start in the Southern Hemisphere with the support of Nucleus Network and 360biolabs. Novavax is a long-standing client of Biointelect and this relationship resulted in Bioelect being appointed Sponsor for the Australian and New Zealand markets. Novavax has entered into agreements to supply 51 million doses to Australia and 10.7 million doses to New Zealand.
- The Biointelect and Bioelect teams are very proud to play a role in responding to the pandemic.

**Emerging Leadership Award** – Dr Hannah Kirk, NHMRC Early Career Research Fellow, Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health, Monash University

- Over the last five years, Dr Hannah Kirk has worked in academia and held executive roles in the digital health and medical technology sector.
- In her current role at Monash University, Hannah drives several large-scale projects that develop and evaluate digital interventions to improve cognition, behaviour, academic and health outcomes in children and adolescents.
- Hannah is an emerging global leader within the field of digital health research and is the co-inventor of a patented attention intervention for children with developmental disorders, which is an approved Class 1 Medical Device (FDA and TGA).
- Collectively, her work has helped shape public discourse about the use of innovative digital technology in supporting positive mental health and development in the youngest members of our society.
- Hannah is passionate about research translation and uniting academia and industry to produce innovative evidence-based tools that have direct benefits for the community. She is a strong advocate for advancing gender equity in academia and industry and promoting STEM careers for girls.

**Board of Directors Award** – Associate Professor Margie Danchin, Research Group Leader and Clinician Scientist, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Consultant Paediatrician, Department of General Medicine, Royal Children's Hospital, Associate Professor and David Bickart Clinician Scientist Fellow, Department of Paediatrics, University of Melbourne

- Margie leads a research program within MCRI's COVID-19 initiative around vaccine uptake, focussed on education, communication and building vaccine confidence. The initiative has engaged with different priority and community groups via a series of virtual 'Town Halls' and government at both a state and national level.
- Margie is currently running the Victorian COVID-19 Vaccine Preparedness Study, with over 5000 survey and 40 qualitative interview respondents to date, to understand peoples' attitudes and concerns around COVID vaccines, factors that will influence vaccine acceptance and the information needs and preferred communication channels for different groups. This work will be used to tailor effective communication strategies and target vaccine information in partnership with the Victorian Government.
- Margie, through her leadership position at COSSI and MCRI, is leading the COVID-19 vaccine confidence training program for health care providers, industry groups and community and faith leaders from diverse communities, including recent migrants and refugees and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It focuses on building "vaccine champions" in communities and strengthening community engagement to help people overcome practical barriers to vaccination and to address questions and concerns within communities. It also provides practical vaccine communication tips to assist healthcare providers to have more effective

conversations with people who have questions about the COVID-19 vaccines. This culturally safe and sensitive training will ensure those groups receive the most relevant and important information to them, maximising vaccine uptake and preventing disease.

- Margie is an outstanding leader. She is passionate about improving lives of individuals, families, and the community. She is an outstanding communicator and highly respected for her warmth, integrity, and decision-making skills. Her ability to inspire others within this rapidly changing environment with multiple stakeholders is very impressive.

### **About the Women in Leadership Awards**

The BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Awards were launched in 2015 to acknowledge and celebrate women who, at different stages of their careers, have made exceptional contributions to advancing the biotechnology, medical technology and pharmaceutical sector, whose leadership and commitment to driving change and impact in the Health Industry and to inspire more women to pursue leadership roles.

### **About BioMelbourne Network**

BioMelbourne Network's mission is to foster the development of an advanced, innovation driven and sustainable health industry. As a for-purpose, industry led membership association, we encompass biotechnology, medical technology, pharmaceuticals and health innovation companies in the state of Victoria.

We connect business, research, finance, health and government to support and promote the sector's growth and facilitate the development and commercialisation of new drugs, devices, diagnostics and digital health technologies in Victoria. Since 2001, we have championed an environment that enables Victorian organisations to innovate, commercialise and improve the future of healthcare both locally and internationally.

### **Contact**

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