

27 July BioForum – Speaker Bios

Dr Kurt Stoeckli

President, NDA Advisory Board (UK)



Kurt is a seasoned healthcare executive with industry experience and track record in R&D of biopharmaceuticals. Immunologist and chemist by training, he has held positions of increasing responsibilities (global TA head, CSO), both in large pharmaceutical companies (Novartis, SANOFI) and in biotech. As global TA head of immunology and head of the biologics division at SANOFI, he succeeded in advancing several innovative medicines from research to market, as a result of internal research, or in collaboration with biotech partners. He has been involved in the development of dupilumab (DUPIXENT).

In April 2020 he joined the NDA group, a global development and regulatory consultancy, as the president of NDA's advisory board, a distinguished expert panel of ex-regulators and former industry executives. In this role, Kurt sets the strategy to further develop capabilities and activities of NDA's advisory services.

Kurt brings extensive business acumen and accomplishments, ranging from pre-clinical, clinical stages to the submission and approval of assets; he is familiar with scientific, medical, ethical, technical, regulatory and commercial success factors in life science.

Dr Joanne Boag

Chief Executive Officer, Oncology One



Dr Joanne Boag has more than 15 years-experience working in the life sciences sector developing health and medical research products and services.

Prior to joining Oncology One in November 2020, Joanne was Director of Business Development at a commercial stage digital health company. In this role, she was responsible for driving execution of the company's business partnering strategy and leading the implementation of key business partnering projects, including supporting all aspects of upstream business development and leading downstream service delivery.

Previously, Joanne has worked at an ASX-listed diagnostic company and medical research institutions, where she led successful outcomes in research innovation and commercialisation, raising significant funding through equity financing and grants, facilitated collaborations with industry and academic partners and was responsible for the strategic management of intellectual property portfolios.

Joanne is a Registered Australian Patent and Trade Mark Attorney and has a Bachelor of Science with Honours from Murdoch University and a PhD in molecular biology from the University of Western Australia.

Dr Brad Walsh

Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director, Minomic International Ltd



Dr Brad Walsh is Chief Executive Officer and an Executive Director of Minomic International Ltd, a Sydney-based commercialization stage in vitro diagnostic company specialising in cancer detection. He founded Minomic to bring to market an innovative test called MiCheck®, that gives a risk score for a patient having aggressive prostate cancer. The test has specificity that is twice that of its only competitor meaning less unnecessary biopsies.

Dr Walsh has led Minomic's scientific and business development, raising A\$27 million and bringing the company to a point at which MiCheck® is ready to launch in the US as an LDT and has a marketing team in place to commence the rollout. Additionally, the test has recently been launched in Australia. Dr Walsh has also developed a pipeline of potential new diagnostics for bladder and pancreatic cancer.

Dr Walsh's career in biotechnology began with a PhD in protein chemistry. Over the following years he led research groups in government agencies, universities and hospitals and was a key part of the establishment of a major national research facility, APAF, before forming Minomic in 2007.

He continues to be active in research collaborations and academic supervision and was a joint recipient of one of Australia's most prestigious science awards, a Eureka Prize, for Interdisciplinary Research in 2015. More recently Dr Walsh won first prize against a field of international competitors at the 2018 Innovation & Entrepreneurship Competition for Overseas High-Level Talents in Hangzhou, China.

He has co-authored over 100 peer reviewed papers and book chapters and seven patents. He is also a mentor for the IMNIS Program.

Dr Patricia Vietheer

Director, R&D Strategy & Planning, Biointelect



Patricia Vietheer has over 18 years of scientific experience in the Life Sciences industry. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree with First Class Honours from University of Queensland and a PhD in Microbiology at Monash University. She also holds an MBA majoring in Strategy & Planning at Deakin University. In 2015, Patricia completed the Molecules to Medicine Internship on Commercialization.

A specialist in infectious diseases, molecular biology and viral immunology, Patricia's career began in the research laboratory working on the preclinical evaluation of a versatile vaccine platform collaborating with industry. She has since held a range of roles in research; business development, project management and program development where she has helped translate scientific ideas into public health solutions. Patricia's deep experience in early-stage preclinical R&D especially in vaccine development, technology transfer and in vivo animal studies, has been instrumental in project planning and execution often working in cross-discipline, multi-country projects driving projects towards successful outcomes.

Patricia has been a recipient of multiple awards including the NHMRC Dora Lush BioMedical Award, Australian Defence Force Prince of Wales Award and the Australian Centre for HIV & Hepatitis Virology Young Investigator's Award. She has made substantial contribution to numerous granted patents, co-authored multiple scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals and has presented at numerous national and international conferences.