



**BioMelbourne
Network**

Progressing BioIndustry

Engaging for impact to strengthen the Victorian Healthtech Industry

Annual Report 2021



**BioMelbourne
Network**
Progressing BioIndustry

20
Celebrating Twenty Years

Contents

Message from the Chair	3
Message from the CEO	4
Our Board	5
Our Team	6
Who is BioMelbourne Network?	8
Celebrating 20 Years	10
Our 2022 Strategy	12
Advocacy and Pandemic Support	15
Events and Sponsors	17
Testimonials	29

www.biomelbourne.org

Message from the Chair



“

BioMelbourne Network is heading into 2022 with a progressive and membership aligned strategy, supported by a great team.

When I wrote this message last year, I noted how much COVID-19 had changed our world and how adroitly BioMelbourne Network pivoted to provide services remotely and adapted to deliver our events virtually.

At that time, we were looking forward to 2021 being a “post-pandemic recovery” year and implementing the lessons learned. Yet here we are again – in lockdown, masked up, socially distanced and lining up for two jobs.

Looking at the bigger picture, in Victoria the pandemic has underscored the importance of Healthtech to the Victorian economy and community. Science, medicine, engineering and manufacturing are in the spotlight. Resources are being applied across the spectrum to position Victoria as a fully integrated research, manufacturing and supply ecosystem.

This year has again proven to be unprecedented and challenging, professionally and personally. We are heading into 2022 with many uncertainties and the frustrating inability to plan too far ahead. However, we have become more patient, more tenacious and more flexible in our approach.

We have developed and consolidated our strategic plan, which will continue to evolve to meet the expectations of our members. BioMelbourne Network is heading into 2022 with a progressive and membership aligned strategy, supported by a great team.

We continue to strive to have a strong and deep understanding of our members’ needs and aim to be responsive, relevant and timely to member questions and requests.

Our Board of Directors represent more than 200 years of professional experience – this is not to be underrated. I am very appreciative of the generous spirit in which our Directors give their time and skills to support the management team and members.

I would like to personally thank David Herd, Tim Oldham, Keith McLean, Amy Demediuk, Elane Zelcer and Theodora Elia-Adams for their commitment and support. As a Board, we continue to focus on the long-term sustainability of BioMelbourne Network so that we may continue to support the growth of the Victorian Healthtech Industry.

I’m grateful for the continued support that BioMelbourne Network receives from the Victorian Government in launching new initiatives and establishing reports and insights into the Victorian Healthtech Industry.

In this Annual Report, our CEO, Jeff Malone, expands on his plans for BioMelbourne Network in 2022. Despite the pandemic, our membership numbers have grown. New collaborations are adding to revenues and the management team is growing. Jeff is passionate about the sector and his enthusiasm and can-do attitude are infectious. He has set a challenging agenda for the team, moving at a cracking pace.

I am immensely proud of our Network and want to acknowledge and sincerely thank our employees, stakeholders, sponsors and supporters. I thank you, our members, for your commitment to our industry and contribution in helping to ensure that BioMelbourne Network remains dynamic and effective.

Lusia Guthrie
Chair

Message from the CEO



“

This year, maybe more than any other for BioMelbourne Network, has shown the intrinsic value of having a collaborative and supportive network that can be drawn on in times like these.

We all became unwilling tightrope walkers over this past year, thrust blindfolded out onto the highwire, holding firmly onto our respective balance poles, using our best instincts to keep ourselves upright and slowly make progress forward, step by uncertain step.

We've been mercilessly buffeted by cross winds all along the journey. Yet our industry has shown itself to be remarkably resilient, proving time and time again its ability to come together to overcome the challenges thrown our way and to succeed.

It is the very strength of the ecosystem that exists here in Victoria that has made this possible. A powerful ecosystem because of the people – people who are passionate about the work they do, who never say no to a request for help, who go out of their way to support each other and make the seemingly impossible a reality.

This year, maybe more than any other for BioMelbourne Network, has shown the intrinsic value of having a collaborative and supportive network that can be drawn on in times like these. We've served as a catalyst for issues that are important to you, our members, by offering advocacy, training and upskilling. Our organisation has kept you informed and helped you to collaborate and connect. BioMelbourne Network is not just a staff of seven, we are the hundreds of companies and thousands of individuals who make up the Victorian Healthtech Industry.

We all miss the ability to get together, the in-person networking, the events and the serendipity of making just the right connection when you least expect it.

Still, here we stand, having held only two in-person events in 2021 – still stronger than ever and knowing that we've made a real impact. We are also confident that with our new strategy we will continue to provide value to you in the future.

In this year's Annual Report, we highlight “engaging for impact to strengthen the Healthtech Industry in Victoria.” Engaging starts with listening and understanding and ends with action. Our work over the past year engaging with the sector has not only been to support it through this difficult time, but also to develop a strategy that will serve as our guide in the coming years.

Although now set, the initiatives being delivered through our new strategy (see page 12) will continue to evolve. As we provide ongoing opportunities to get involved and become better informed about the work we are doing on your behalf, we will be on the lookout for the next opportunities and initiatives that we can deliver. I'd like to thank all our members for their support this year. I'd also like to thank the Victorian Government for their ongoing support of our events program and new strategic initiatives.

We look forward to working with our members to learn about the issues and opportunities that are important to you so we can develop the initiatives of tomorrow.

Jeff Malone
Chief Executive Officer

Our Board



Lusia Guthrie, Chair

Lusia has over 35 years' experience in the pharmaceutical and bioscience industries. She is a Non-Executive Director of 4DMedical (ASX:4DX), Chair of the Australian Lung Health Initiative, Chair of Neo-Bionica and Independent

Director at WearOptimo. She is a member of Industry Advisory Committees for the Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute, the Australian Institute for Machine Learning and Swinburne Manufacturing Futures Research Institute.



Dr Elane Zelcer, Deputy Chair

Elane is Deputy Chair of BioMelbourne Network. She is a leader in the Healthtech (biotech, MedTech, digital health) sector with more than 25 years' experience working with and advising start-up and early-stage companies,

university spinouts and research teams with guidance for capital raising and commercialisation as well as decision-making, risk management and governance. Much of this activity has involved the intersection between business and the research sector.



Amy Demediuk, Secretary/Public Officer

Amy is Associate General Counsel, APAC, Global R&D and Corporate Development at CSL Limited, a leading global biotechnology company. In addition to leading a dedicated team of

lawyers supporting CSL's operations, Amy is passionate about Victoria's biotech industry and currently serves as BioMelbourne Network's Company Secretary and Public Officer.



Theodora Elia-Adams, Treasurer

Theodora holds a Bachelor of Commerce and Master of Taxation from the University

of Melbourne and is a Chartered Accountant and member of the AICD. Theodora is an experienced board member and former Ernst & Young Partner, who brings valuable skills in governance, quality assurance, risk management, tax, and financial management.



David Herd, Director

David Herd has worked in the pharmaceutical industry for over 30 years, a period which has seen the industry

environment significantly change. He has been at the forefront of understanding, translating and strategically advising how to adjust to regulatory and legislative changes, ensuring that companies are able to access the market efficiently and serve their patients. He has held a number of Industry Association and Advisory roles representing the industry, including within Medicines Australia.



Dr Tim Oldham, Director

Tim is the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of AdAlta Ltd. Prior to this he was most

recently the Executive Leader at Tijan Ventures. Previous executive roles span more than 15 years and include life sciences business development, alliance management and sales and marketing experience in Europe, Asia, and Australia. He is currently also a Non-executive Director of Acrux Ltd.



Dr Keith McLean, Director

Keith has a Ph.D. (Microbiology) from the University of Aberdeen. In July 2020, he retired following a 30-year

career in CSIRO where he held research and senior management positions including as Director of Manufacturing and Program Director for Biomedical Manufacturing. Keith is a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) and a Fellow, Biomaterials Science and Engineering.

Our Team



Jeff Malone, Chief Executive Officer

Jeff Malone has more than 30 years' experience in business, export market development, product

translation and design, commercialisation and manufacturing. Before joining BioMelbourne Network in July 2020, he led the largest contract medical device manufacturing facility in Australia. Jeff also held senior leadership roles in two of Victoria's leading design and development firms. He has a reputation for bringing stakeholders together to build commercial networks, broker innovation and advocate on behalf of the Healthtech Industry.



Vicky Jones, Operations Manager

Vicky joined BioMelbourne Network in 2014 after relocating from

Malaysia. She has more than 18 years' experience in event management, business development, marketing and client relations. While in Malaysia, she worked as the Executive Director of the British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce and as Assistant Project Director for the BMW Malaysian Open a WTA international tennis tournament.



Emma Donnelly, Strategic Project Manager

Emma recently joined BioMelbourne Network and brings more than 20 years of science

communication, engagement and strategy experience to our organisation. She has worked for the State Government, universities and not-for-profits. She has a passion for promoting engagement in science and supporting the Healthtech sector to achieve this goal. Her engagement programs have won the Premier's Science Awards and a Eureka Prize. Emma holds a Bachelor of Science, Post Graduate Diploma in Science and a Diploma from the University of Champagne-Ardenne.



Nicole Pitcher, Office Manager

Nicole joined BioMelbourne Network in 2003 and is the longest-serving staff member in our

organisation. Her meticulous attention to detail, coordination of office management and relationship with members contributes to the ongoing success of BioMelbourne Network's operations.



Jo O'Brien, Events & Projects Coordinator

Jo joined BioMelbourne Network in 2017 after a 12-year-long career as an underground resource geologist, working across Australia and abroad. Originally from New Zealand, Jo holds a Bachelor

of Science from the University of Auckland, and a Diploma of Event Management from the College of Event Management, Melbourne. With a passion for science and corporate events, her career transition from outback Australia to Melbourne led Jo to her current role as Events and Projects Coordinator with BioMelbourne Network.



James Masters, Communications Officer

James joined BioMelbourne Network in mid 2021. Originally from Perth, Western Australia he holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Curtin University, where he majored in marketing and advertising.

He brings a wealth of marketing and communications experience from his time working in the Australian, Canadian and the United Kingdom health and education sectors. Before joining BioMelbourne Network, James was Communications and Marketing Manager at the Australian Medical Association.



Anastasia Daniels, Assistant Events Coordinator

Anastasia joined BioMelbourne Network in mid 2021. She is delighted to be a part of the team and has put her decade of experience and her Bachelor of Business with an events specialisation to good

use. Anastasia also has a Diploma in Business Administration. She gained experience in coordinating a wide variety of events, including art festivals, sporting and charity events.

“

In all the years, this was among the most glowing reports I have ever had from an intern about the host and the host organisation. Thank you for providing such a wonderful experience and amazing training.

Professor Ramesh Rajan,
Professor of Physiology, Monash University

Our Interns

In 2020–2021, we were fortunate to work with some passionate and capable biomedical students who joined the BioMelbourne Network team as interns. Thanks to the following interns for their incredible help.

Sharandeep Kaur Puwar,
Swinburne University of Technology,
Master of Science – MS, Biotechnology

Kousthubha R S Madhusudan,
Monash University, Master of
Biomedical and Health Science

Xiangyuan (Max) Peng,
Monash University, Master of
Biomedical and Health Science

Jordan Lawrence,
Deakin University, Biomedical Science



Who is BioMelbourne Network?

Our members are experts in their respective Healthtech fields.

This diverse group comprises people who are early-career researchers to others who are company executives. Our member organisations come in all sizes, from the smallest start-ups to the largest multinational corporations. BioMelbourne Network represents universities, researchers, manufacturers and government departments. Our organisation also supports the services sector, including those involved in commercialisation, product design and development and the intellectual property and legal sectors.



BIOMELBOURNE NETWORK LIFE MEMBERS

The Honourable John Brumby AO

Associate Professor Stella Clark AM

Michelle Gallaher

Dr Ashley Bates

Andrew Macdonald

Professor David de Kretser AC

Tim Murphy

Professor David Penington AC

Dr John Raff

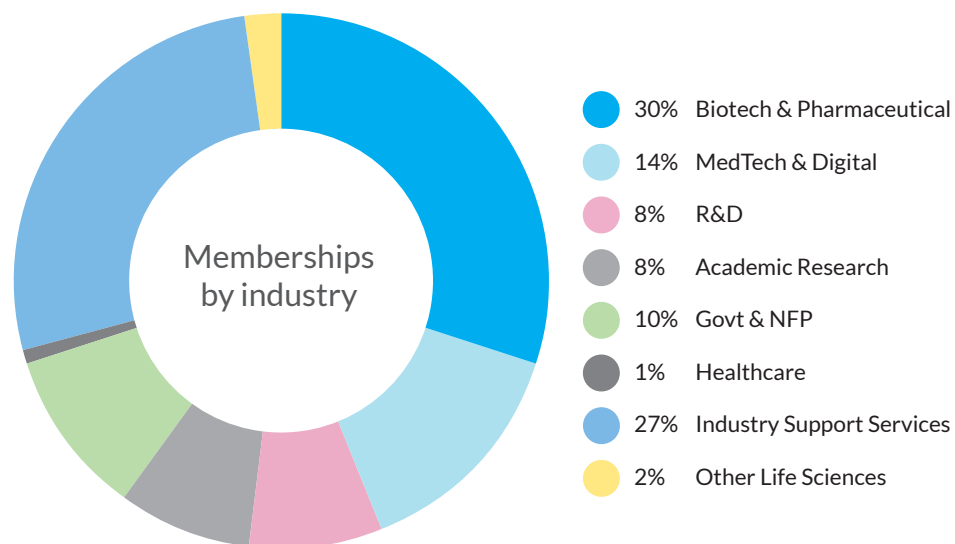
Janine Kirk AO

“

The introductions and support BioMelbourne Network has provided Hydrix have proven invaluable to us as we move into 2021.

Peter R. Lewis AM,
EVP, Corporate Development, Hydrix

BIOMELBOURNE NETWORK MEMBERS



Number of member organisations

204

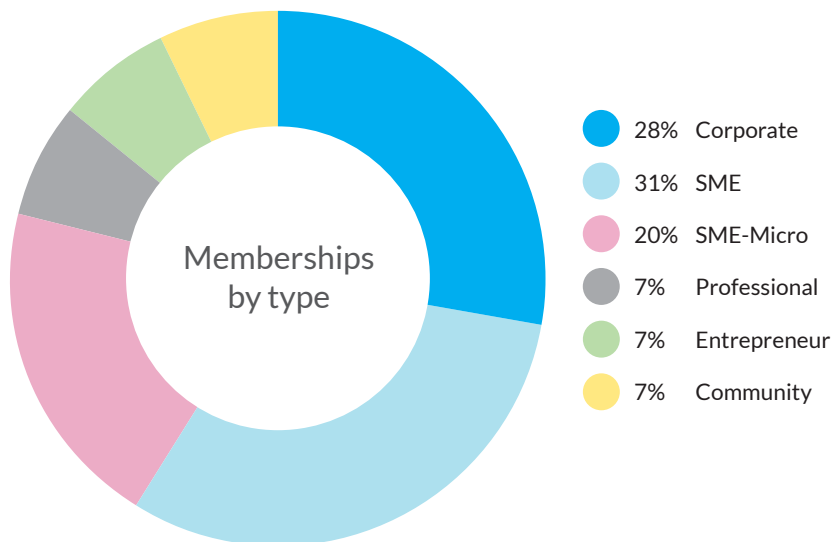
STATISTICS

Individuals within member organisations

3,926

Membership increase over the year

5%



OUR STORY

Established in February 2001, BioMelbourne Network was created to address an important connectivity gap in the Victorian biotechnology ecosystem to allow us to leverage our evolving expertise. While Victoria was already the leading biotechnology research hub in Australia at that time, the connectivity gap meant that organisations in the sector lacked the ability to translate research into real commercial product development opportunities.

BioMelbourne Network is Australia's first state-based Healthtech Industry-led membership body, an organisation playing an important role in confirming Victoria's leadership position as Australia's biotechnology capital.

Over the past two decades we have:

- developed relationships with international industry associations around the world
- hosted hundreds of events, providing access to members, key stakeholders and decision makers, supporting local and international industry intelligence and fostering valuable networking opportunities
- provided thousands of direct B2B introductions to member organisations
- obtained industry intelligence regarding service requirements and revenue raising opportunities for the sector
- delivered programs to develop local talent and provide pathways to upskill
- led or participated in numerous advocacy projects in areas such as stem cell legislation, Research and Development Tax Incentive reform and the development of the State and Federal biotechnology policy and programs to support the sector's growth.

“

The confidence we had back in 2001 was well placed. I am very proud, and I know the Victorian Government is very proud of what BioMelbourne Network have achieved over this period.

The Honourable John Brumby AO,
Chancellor of La Trobe University,
former Premier of Victoria

Celebrating 20 Years of BioMelbourne Network



“

BioMelbourne Network plays an integral role in Victoria, bringing together industry, research, and government to drive collaboration and growth across the health sector.

Associate Professor Dominic Wall,
Chief Scientific Officer, Cell Therapies

OUR STORY (cont.)

During the last 20 years, the Victorian Healthtech Industry has developed and matured into the globally recognised, thriving ecosystem we have today. BioMelbourne Network continues to evolve and adapt to the needs of the industry. Our organisation provides the support the ecosystem requires in today's environment as we develop the initiatives that will help lead the industry towards a stronger future.

The 20-year evolution of the Victorian Healthtech Industry and the case study on BioMelbourne Network is detailed in the 2021 report from the Victorian Government *Creating a Healthy Future: The impact of Victorian Government investment in health and medical research*.



**BioMelbourne
Network**
Progressing BioIndustry

20
Celebrating Twenty Years

Our 2022 Strategy

Our new 3-year strategy has been developed to ensure we are responding to our members' needs, now and into the future.

OUR PURPOSE

To foster and grow an innovative, globally competitive Healthtech Industry in Victoria.

OUR VISION

Drive Victoria's Healthtech Industry to be a leading global hub for research, innovation, commercialisation, and manufacturing. The Healthtech Industry is a key sustainable driver of the economy, of employment and value-added growth within Victoria.



5 Strategic Priorities

BIOMELBOURNE NETWORK MISSION

5 key strategies to deliver
on our purpose and vision.



1

DATA AND INSIGHTS

Be the go-to source for the Healthtech Industry and Victorian Government for data and insights on sector potential, priorities and needs



2

IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES

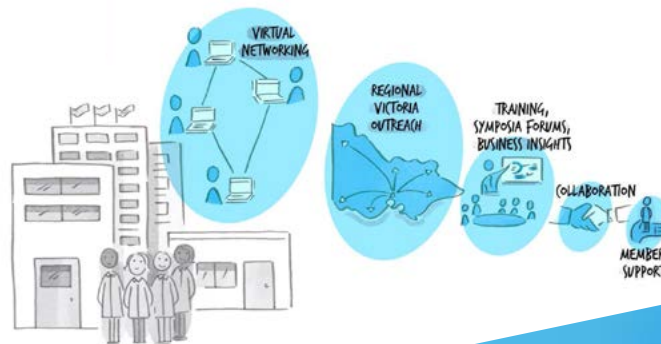
Work with the Healthtech Industry to identify and prioritise strategic projects and initiatives that support industry transformation and strengthening of the local innovation ecosystem



3

ADVOCACY

Be the peak body for the Victorian Healthtech Industry to build and maintain a supportive policy, regulatory and investment environment



4

HEALTHTECH INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Deliver fee paying and sponsored initiatives that improve, strengthen, and enhance the Healthtech Industry aligned with our data, and industry engagement



5

SECTOR PROMOTION

Be a gateway for global markets, helping to build awareness of the Victorian Healthtech Industry domestically and overseas

Advocacy and Pandemic Support

“

Fundamental to realising the Victorian Government's vision for the sector, is the continued cooperation and engagement with industry – the BioMelbourne Network played a critical role during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and remains an important partner for us in identifying future challenges and opportunities.

Connie Crisafi,
Executive Director, Innovation and Medical Research,
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

BIOMELBOURNE DELIVERS SYMPOSIUM ON GLOBAL HEALTHTECH ADVANCEMENTS FOR COVID-19

Leading experts from global organisations at the forefront of policy and innovation presented their perspectives on the latest Healthtech advances for COVID-19 at a BioMelbourne Network event.

The 175 local participants were given a much-needed update and inside views from organisations such as the WHO, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), the Australian Government and pharmaceutical and biotech companies.

Jeff Malone, BioMelbourne Network CEO said the information discussed was from a wholly scientific research and technical perspective that was not available in any other context for our local Healthtech ecosystem.

“We are always looking for ways to supply our industry with high-quality information and were so pleased these high-level experts saw the value in sharing their insights with our community.”

CEPI Chair Jane Halton, epidemiologist Professor Mary-Louise McLaws from the WHO and Professor John Skerritt from the Australian Department of Health were among the global leaders who discussed potential solutions for complex challenges in manufacturing, supply chains and worldwide distribution caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pandemic Response Support Activities

Over the past year, BioMelbourne Network team has undertaken a number of activities in support of the Healthtech Industry as it dealt with the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting lockdowns.

Key support activities include:

- Participation in the Victorian Government's Innovation Taskforce
- Sector surveys seeking to understand the impact of the lockdowns on the industry
- Supporting the development of PPE and hand sanitisers
- Supporting local medical device and pharmaceutical manufacturing
- Participation in Industry Roundtables with the Victorian Government on pandemic impact and economic recovery

BioMelbourne Network
also presented the
following events:



Events and Sponsorship

“ BioMelbourne events give me the connection and unfiltered insights into the breadth of what’s going on in the field beyond academic research. There’s a buzz and people really look forward to these events.

Professor Sally McArthur,
Swinburne University of Technology

HOW WE BUILD OUR PROGRAM

BioMelbourne Network’s annual program of events include multi-day global masterclasses, webinars and seminars, full-day conferences, information sessions as well as peer-to-peer events specifically for Non-Executive Directors, CFOs, and CEOs. These are designed to provide insights and updates to the Healthtech Industry as well as provide opportunities for members to showcase their capabilities.

These events cover key issues and provide information across the many sectors the network represents, including academia and research, commercialisation and business, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, medical technology, digital health and more. BioMelbourne Network also provides opportunities for attendees to engage with peers to share knowledge at a number of roundtables and industry engagement functions.

The inspiration for our events comes from extensive consultation with stakeholders including members, collaborative partners and the Victorian Government. The production of these events is only possible through the participation of these stakeholders, who donate their time and expertise to support the strengthening of the ecosystem. Now more than ever, BioMelbourne Network can leverage its position to attract high-quality international subject matter experts to contribute to our events.

The sponsorship we receive from our members, the Victorian Government and other collaborative partners allows us to produce these events on your behalf, while simultaneously raising awareness of some of the great organisations that support us through the process.

This past year has seen an even greater shift to online platforms. While it has resulted in the loss of precious face to face networking opportunities, we have gained the ability to serve a broader audience from around the state, the country and the world.

The BioMelbourne Network team would like to thank our members, and the collaborative partners and individuals who made this past year’s events so successful.

We appreciate and value all input from members. Please continue to engage with us and share your thoughts and ideas for future events.



PREMIER SPONSORS



MAJOR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



BioMelbourne Network would like to thank the following sponsors for supporting us throughout the year and making our events and other activities possible.

Allens

Burnet Institute

Davies Collison Cave

Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources

EY

MedTech Innovator Asia Pacific

Phillips Ormonde Fitzpatrick

Prime Accounting and Business
Advisory Pty Ltd

SeerPharma Pty Ltd

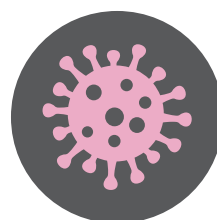
The Royal Society of Victoria



**BioMelbourne
Network**
Progressing BioIndustry

Event Statistics

Event attendees in
a pandemic year



2,794

Number of
events **27**
(26 run
online)



Number of
companies
represented
at our **events**



648

Number of
speakers **103**

Number of
**international
speakers**



16

51%



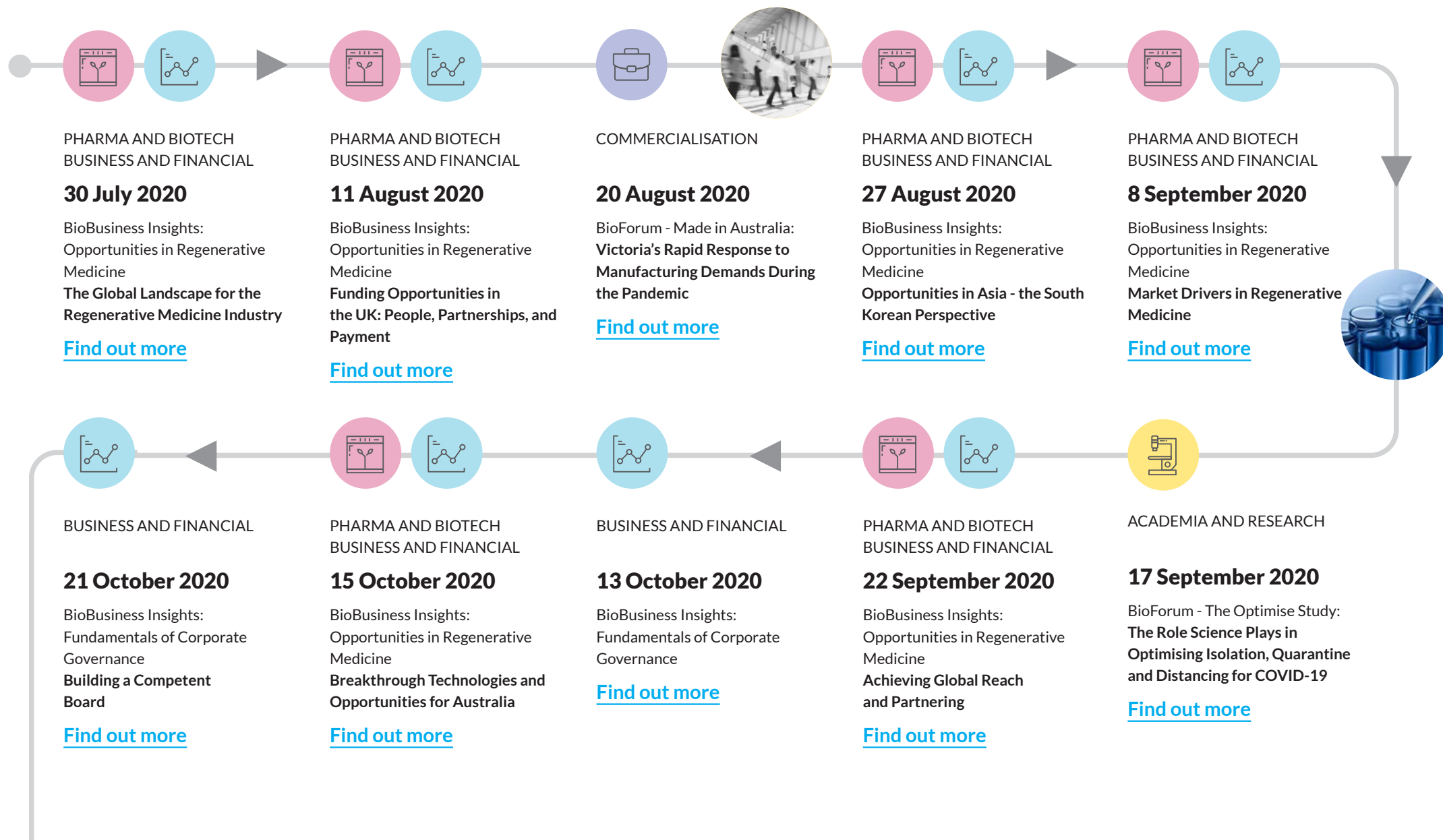
**female
speakers**

Average
number of
**attendees
per event**



104

Event timeline



Event timeline



BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL

22 October 2020

What does the Budget mean for you? A KPMG update for BioMelbourne Network members

[Find out more](#)



PHARMA AND BIOTECH
ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH

5 November 2020

BioSymposium - COVID-19: A Global Progress Update

[Find out more](#)



BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL

6 November 2020

Information Session and Discussion with IFAM (International Freight Assistance Mechanism)

[Find out more](#)



BIOMELBOURNE NETWORK
AGM

11 November 2020

2020 BioMelbourne Network Annual General Meeting and Networking Event

[Find out more](#)



18 November 2020

Leading during times of crisis: 2021 Women in Leadership Awards Launch Event

[Find out more](#)



BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL

4 February 2021

Hot or Not: Paving a path for 2021

[Find out more](#)



MEDTECH AND HEALTH IT

21 January 2021

MedTech Innovator Asia Pacific LIVE Information Session

[Find out more](#)



MEDTECH AND HEALTH IT
BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL

1 December 2020

BioForum - Getting Your Ducks in a Row: Preparing for Meaningful Engagement with Industry

[Find out more](#)



COMMERCIALISATION
ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH



BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL

26 November 2020

BioBusiness Insights: Fundamentals of Corporate Governance Achieving Functional Efficacy

[Find out more](#)

Event timeline



COMMERCIALISATION

16 March 2021

BioBriefing - Strengthening
Sovereign Capabilities: **Advanced
Manufacturing for Australian
BioPharma**

[Find out more](#)



CEO, CFO, NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROUNDTABLES

18 March 2021

Driving Innovation for Economic
Prosperity in Victoria: **CEO Lunch
with Russel Howcroft**



BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL

27 April 2021

Creating a Healthy Future:
Government Investment into
Health and Medical Research

[Find out more](#)



MEDTECH AND HEALTH IT

29 April 2021

BioSymposium - Devices +
Diagnostics: **Navigating our New
World**

[Find out more](#)



12 May 2021

2021 BioMelbourne Network
Women in Leadership Awards
Ceremony

[Find out more](#)



MEDTECH AND HEALTH IT

23 June 2021

BioForum - AI-driven Medical
Technology: **Device, Data or
Service?**

[Find out more](#)



CEO, CFO, NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROUNDTABLES

25 May 2021

2021 CFO Lunch



CEO, CFO, NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROUNDTABLES

14 May 2021

Non-Executive Director Event -
Trust and Integrity in Life Sciences



Events in focus

OPPORTUNITIES IN REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

In collaboration with CCRM Australia, BioMelbourne Network brought together international commercialisation experts to share knowledge from the field of regenerative medicine across 6 sessions.

CEO Silvio Tiziani said CCRM Australia was proud to partner with BioMelbourne Network to develop and present the *BioBusiness Insights Series: Opportunities in Regenerative Medicine*.



“The real highlights of this series were the innovative solutions that some of our very good local people working in this sector were able to demonstrate and the record levels of investment in this sector, both in Australia and internationally.”

BioMelbourne Network Operations Manager Vicky Jones said the Network treated the challenges thrown up by the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to increase the reach of these events.

“This was the first series of events where we’d moved the whole thing online. Of course, moving it online gave us the scope to present views from all over the world and we were excited to present perspectives to more than 643 attendees from nine different countries.”

“

Delivered in the middle of a pandemic, this was an important series to shine a bright light on the regenerative medicine sector, both locally and globally.

Silvio Tiziani,
CEO, CCRM Australia

Events in focus

FUNDAMENTALS OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Strengthening the sector through corporate knowledge sharing In a series of three webinars, BioMelbourne Network was excited to provide a platform for industry experts to share their insights of corporate governance specific to the Healthtech Industry.

Presented in collaboration with EY Australia, the webinars were targeted at researchers, engineers, executives from start-up companies and anyone who was interested in board membership.

CEO Jeff Malone said a core value of BioMelbourne Network is to strengthen the Healthtech ecosystem and he hoped raising the understanding of corporate governance would stimulate emerging talent to consider formal training with other organisations.

“We have deep insights into the needs of the Healthtech Industry and we are able to invite the best people as well as fantastic members who volunteer to give their time and expertise to share their knowledge on a range of topics with others.”

Jo O'Brien, BioMelbourne Events and Projects Coordinator, said while the initial intent was to attract a targeted audience, the popular sessions expanded to more than 394 participants ranging from people interested in exploring board membership to experienced attendees who were already sitting on multiple boards.

“Many experienced board directors attended, and the feedback was that the sessions were really valuable to them to brush up on corporate knowledge specific to Healthtech so they could apply that knowledge to their existing roles.”

BioBusiness Insights – Fundamentals of Corporate Governance

A series of three webinars in October and November 2020. Read more about the events and speakers from the following sessions:



Events in focus

“

There are many successful and clever women to celebrate – brilliant in their chosen fields, making such an enormous contribution to a sector that is so integral to the prosperity of Victoria, in both economic and in broader terms too.

Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC,
Governor of Victoria



Above: The Honourable Jane Garrett, Jennifer Herz, Associate Professor Margie Danchin, Dr Hannah Kirk, Dr Jenny Petering, Jeff Malone

2021 BioMelbourne Network Women In Leadership Awards

2021 BioMelbourne Network Women In Leadership Awards

Our **award
winners**



BioMelbourne Network Board of Directors Award

Associate Professor Margie Danchin
Research Group Leader and
Clinician Scientist,
Murdoch Children's Research Institute



Inspiring Leadership Award

Jennifer Herz
Managing Director, Biointelect



Distinguished Leadership Award

Dr Jenny Petering
Of Counsel, FB Rice



Emerging Leadership Award

Dr Hannah Kirk
NHMRC Early Career Research Fellow,
Turner Institute for Brain and
Mental Health, Monash University

BioMelbourne Network:

Leading the way in supporting women in the Healthtech sector



For more than a decade, BioMelbourne Network has led the way in strengthening our sector through acknowledging talented women, first with the Connecting Women Lunches and later with the BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Awards.

Since 2015, the BioMelbourne Women in Leadership Awards has had a growing impact in raising awareness and showcasing the amazing leadership in our local Healthtech Industry.

The 2021 awards attracted the highest number of nominations in its history, a sign of the enthusiasm for this annual event and an illustration of the capability of the leaders in the sector.

This year, we were fortunate to hold the awards ceremony in person between lockdowns and the event was also simulcast online, an innovation emerging from the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also the first BioMelbourne Network event to feature an Auslan interpreter.

Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria, opened the ceremony and The Honourable Jane Garrett presented the awards and was part of the celebrations.

BioMelbourne Network CEO Jeff Malone said the COVID-19 pandemic has really shone a spotlight on the life sciences and the Healthtech sector and this has allowed women to shine as leaders.

“Women who already played a leading role in Victoria’s health technology sector stepped up their efforts in 2020 when the global pandemic emerged. We are thrilled to recognise four outstanding women whose achievements over the past year have been simply remarkable.”

To mark this extraordinary time in history, a new award was added to the 2021 schedule to acknowledge the work of a leader during the COVID pandemic. Associate Professor Margie Danchin was the recipient of the inaugural BioMelbourne Network Board of Directors Award.

“It has been an incredibly challenging past 12 months for us all living through our first global pandemic and I think it’s allowed women in particular to come forward and shine in science,” Associate Professor Danchin said.

Distinguished Leadership Awardee Dr Jenny Petering said she had always been a fan of BioMelbourne Network.

“People say that great things can come from networks, and I’ve watched with huge admiration over time what this particular network has done to fuel the growth of our industry, not just here in Victoria, but throughout the country.”

The recipient of the Inspiring Leadership Award, Jennifer Herz highlighted some of the industry changes brought about by the pandemic.

“Despite the terrible toll of the pandemic, it’s been a really amazing time to work in life science commercialisation, in particular because there’s been a lot of people united around a common purpose and all the barriers that we often see have fallen away.”

A major focus for the BioMelbourne Network is to inspire and encourage the next generation of leaders and in doing so, strengthen the sector for everyone.

Emerging Leadership Awardee Dr Hannah Kirk also acknowledged the platform to celebrate women in leadership in the health sector.

Jeff Malone said while the 2021 award ceremony was a showcase for another crop of inspiring leaders at the cutting-edge of their fields, the future is bright.

“I can’t wait to see how our Healthtech sector evolves in this time of incredible change and how future stars will rise to the challenges and opportunities to lead the way.”



“

It’s so important to see women leading and succeeding in the healthtech industry. These awards are a meaningful way to honour the exceptional women who are forging their own paths, in turn, encouraging more women to tread in their footsteps.

The Honourable Jaala Pulford,
Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy

“

The women involved in our medical research and our health research are world-class, exceptional, and we are celebrating them here today.

The Honourable Jane Garrett,
Parliamentary Secretary for Jobs

David Anderson,

Associate Professor and Deputy Director, Burnet Institute

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR COMMERCIALISATION OPPORTUNITIES

A key Melbourne researcher and innovator said networking with scientists and entrepreneurs through BioMelbourne Network events was a core element leading to the establishment of 360biolabs, a partnership between Innoviron Ltd and the Burnet Institute. The company has recently achieved a highly successful sale.

Associate Professor David Anderson, Deputy Director of the Burnet Institute, said the people who founded 360biolabs knew each other well in part through BioMelbourne Network events, something that is not always possible in a strictly research environment.

“Most of our research institutes and universities don’t have many people with experience in commercialisation of research,

especially in fields specific to the needs of individual research projects. BioMelbourne Network helps to fill that gap.”

“BioMelbourne Network literally networks you with people. You get to know people and you can reach out for advice or have casual conversations over coffee. I put a great deal of weight on the advice and connections you get in those conversations.”

He said before the COVID-19 pandemic, the breakfast events were regular and gave a sense of community. They were something he looked forward to and rarely missed.

“It was great knowing you were in a city with like-minded people, and you weren’t trying to do things in complete isolation.”

“

People tend to be very forthright at BioMelbourne Network events and it’s important to hear very personal perspectives on success stories and failures. You don’t hear about that stuff otherwise.

Anna Schulze,

Director of Public Policy, CSL Ltd

ADVOCATING FOR AN AUSTRALIAN PATENT BOX

During 2020, BioMelbourne Network joined forces with a policy coalition of MedTech and biotech companies and industry associations to advocate for the Australian Government to introduce a patent box style tax incentive.

Patent boxes are intended to encourage the onshore commercialisation and manufacturing of homegrown medical research.

Ms Anna Schulze, Director of Public Policy at CSL said the industry coalition successfully argued that a patent box would help the Government to support local advanced manufacturing and domestic capability in critical medical and biotech products.

“In May 2021, many years of sector advocacy came to fruition with the Federal Government’s announcement of their intention to introduce a patent box for the MedTech and biotech sectors,” she said.

“BioMelbourne Network was a valued and proactive member of a unified advocacy coalition and we look forward to continuing to work with them as detailed design of the patent box parameters continues.”

Ms Schulze said the patent box incentive introduces a policy initiative focussed on the revenue-generating phase of the medical research value chain.

“While there is still much work to be done on the detailed design the patent box incentive should help to counter the offshoring of Australian intellectual property and loss of long-term highly paid, highly skilled jobs and tax revenue.”

Professor Sally McArthur,
Swinburne University of Technology

SHARING KNOWLEDGE TO CREATE RESULTS FOR ACADEMIA

A leading biomedical engineer and medical device expert has partnered with BioMelbourne Network to launch a major manufacturing initiative.

Professor Sally McArthur of Swinburne University of Technology, and a CSIRO Science Leader, said “MedTechVic is a program exploring how digital skills in manufacturing can change the delivery of medical devices and pharmaceutical products.”

“We’re really interested and want to use the industry network insights that we get through BioMelbourne Network. That’s why they’re the partner of choice for us to reach into and be heard by industry partners, large and small.”

Sally said being in an academic environment meant information and voices were always filtered through an academic research lens.

“BioMelbourne Network is an industry-focussed organisation that’s equally welcoming to academics but with the focus on industry. As an academic, that gives me the ability to hear the voice of industry all the time.”

Sally said people in academia need the industry contacts available through the BioMelbourne Network team, especially when they have questions that can’t be answered in a university context.

“The questions about training, opportunities, the early-stage conversations and the trends. Speaking with people in the industry really helps me understand the vibrancy of the community very quickly. I find that super exciting.”

Josh Meyer,
CEO, Avatar Brokers

“

The level of engagement that BioMelbourne Network has with its members is unique. The management team are highly engaged and thoughtful about new initiatives to support the industry in Victoria.

BUILDING STRONG BUSINESS FOUNDATIONS THROUGH COLLABORATION

An insurance brokerage firm has been able to craft its business around its ability to both collaborate and give back to the community, through membership of BioMelbourne Network. Josh Meyer, CEO of Avatar Brokers, said membership has always been a key component of its business as a specialist service provider to the life science sector.

“BioMelbourne Network offers us multiple avenues to work with key stakeholders in the industry. We can readily increase our industry knowledge and apply that to our business. The network connections that

BioMelbourne Network facilitates are a key value-add for our firm.”

Avatar has been a member and sponsor since 2004. It is recognised by BioMelbourne Network as a leading services provider to the sector and will always accept a request for assistance from the membership.

“As a business, it’s huge for our brand. Our relationship carries weight when we have discussions with clients or prospects. BioMelbourne Network’s endorsement validates our position in the life sciences sector.”



**BioMelbourne
Network**
Progressing BioIndustry



Celebrating Twenty Years

BioMelbourne Network would like to thank Blue Vapours and Scribbler Inc.
for their assistance in the production of this document.

www.biomelbourne.org