

2022

BioMelbourne Network

# Women in Leadership

## AWARDS CEREMONY



THURSDAY 5 MAY, 2022



@biomelb #biomelbwomen

BIOMELBOURNE NETWORK



Women in  
Leadership  
Awards 2022

*Ceremony sponsored by*





## About the awards

**The BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Awards** were launched in 2015 to recognise and champion women, at different stages of their careers, who have made outstanding contributions to advancing the biotechnology, medical technology, and pharmaceutical sector, and inspire more women to pursue leadership roles.

The Awards recognise women who work in or support the healthtech industry - as executives, management, R&D practitioners, suppliers, service providers and other roles engaged with the sector.

*Today's awardees join an esteemed group of dynamic women who have made outstanding contributions to the healthtech industry.*

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*BioMelbourne Network is a not-for-profit membership association for organisations engaged in biotechnology, medical technology, pharmaceuticals and health innovation in the State of Victoria.*

*Playing a critical role in connecting clinicians, researchers, finance and industry, BioMelbourne Network supports and promotes the growth of the sector's infrastructure and facilitates the development and commercialisation of new drugs, devices, diagnostics and digital health technologies here in Melbourne.*

### **DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD**

2021 - Jenny Petering  
2020 - Andrea Douglas  
2019 - Anna Lavelle  
2018 - Kathy Connell  
2017 - Sue MacLeman  
2016 - Jackie Fairley  
2015 - Elaine Saunders

### **INSPIRING LEADERSHIP AWARD**

2021 - Jennifer Herz  
2020 - Bronwyn Le Grice  
2019 - Clara Gaff  
2018 - Amanda Caples  
2017 - Kerry Hegarty  
2016 - Sally McArthur

### **EMERGING LEADERSHIP AWARD**

2021 - Hannah Kirk  
2020 - Ewa Douroux  
2019 - Evelyn Chan  
2018 - Grace Lethlean  
2017 - Elizabeth Williams  
2016 - Jacqueline Savage  
2015 - Megan Baldwin

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS AWARD**

2021 - Margie Danchin  
*Recognition for Leadership and Impact during the pandemic*



*It may be necessary to encounter the defeats,  
so you can know who you are, what you can rise  
from, and how you can still come out of it."*

– Maya Angelou (Author & Poet)

**Leadership and learning go hand in hand. Facing challenges and overcoming obstacles can make a good leader great, and a strong leader stronger.** The journey to outstanding leadership is all about stepping up, managing risk and achieving success, despite inevitable defeats and roadblocks along the way. The past two years have certainly demonstrated this, not only in the workplace but across all aspects of life.

Today, BioMelbourne Network is honoured to celebrate three extraordinary leaders from across the healthtech industry. Their leadership journeys reflect their ability to have meaningful and lasting impact on the sector, while highlighting their strength and determination to overcome the many challenges presented over recent years. Their stories are inspiring, motivating and compelling. We hope that in sharing the accomplishments of our Awardees, we will in turn motivate and empower the next generation of outstanding leaders.

The BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Awards highlight the achievements of women across different stages of their careers, from those recently appointed to leadership roles to those in more senior positions. The nominations received this year reflect a depth of talent and fortitude that is truly remarkable. Selecting the final Awardees from so many deserving applicants has indeed been a challenge.

For the first time in BioMelbourne Network history, we opened the Awards to women from both member and non-member organisations. In doing so, we aimed to amplify the visibility of female leaders across the wider sector and promote an enriched culture of inclusivity and diversity.

Our 2022 Awardees are not only leaders in their respective fields, but also role models for progressive leadership and equality. I would like to express my gratitude to all those who nominated this year. In doing so, you have raised the profile of many exceptional women and we look forward to following their achievements in the years ahead.

These Awards would not be possible without the support of our judges and short-listing committee. We thank them for dedicating their valuable time to reviewing and selecting the final Awardees from so many worthy candidates.

Our sincere thanks to The Honourable Jaala Pulford, Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy for presenting the Awards and being part of today's celebrations. This ceremony would not be possible without the continued support of the State Government of Victoria. We are grateful for their commitment not only to the sector, but to championing women in healthtech today, and into the future.

**Jeff Malone**  
CEO, BioMelbourne Network



# 2022 Distinguished Leadership Award

## IMPACT FOR INDUSTRY

### This award celebrates a leader who:

- has held a senior position of leadership (C-level executive, GM, Board Director, Chair)
- has significant experience within the health industry sector, 10-15+ years
- has shown leadership and vision resulting in meaningful industry impact
- demonstrates outstanding leadership qualities, such as integrity and initiative, mentoring and giving back, dedication and determination, resilience and risk taking, and passion for innovation that has impact.

### Our 2022 recipient is **Dr Emma Ball**



Dr Emma Ball is Head of Illumina for Startups Australia, a local expansion of the global company creation and growth engine of US genomics company, Illumina (NASDAQ: ILMN). Emma is responsible for supporting founders and building the ecosystem of entrepreneurs and investors to create, launch and grow

genomics and omics start-ups in Australia.

As part of the role, Emma is Entrepreneur in Residence for The Advanced Genomics Collaboration (TAGC), a partnership between Illumina and the University of Melbourne. The TAGC aims to improve patient outcomes by increasing genomics innovation and its translation and adoption into the health system.

Prior to joining Illumina, Emma was at biotherapeutics and vaccines company, CSL Limited (ASX: CSL) for 15 years, most recently as Global Head of Search & Evaluation and Director Strategy & Business Development. Previous roles at CSL include corporate strategy, commercial development, R&D program management and alliance management. Before CSL, Emma worked in project management in small biotech businesses, both ASX-listed (Prima Biomed, now Immutep) and private (Prostate Diagnostics).

Beyond her role at Illumina, Emma is Non-Executive Director at Startup Shakeup Ltd. She is a mentor for Industry Mentoring Network in STEM (IMNIS) and a member of Springboard Enterprises (SBE) Australia's Life Sciences Council, the AusBiotech Victorian state committee, and several angel investor groups.

Emma trained as a molecular biologist and gained her PhD in medicine (research) from the University of Melbourne, followed by postdoctoral studies in oncology and endocrinology at Monash University. She holds an MBA from RMIT University and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) and the Wade Institute's Venture Capital Catalyst program.

*"As a passionate advocate for Australia's vibrant biotech industry, I am thrilled to receive this prestigious award. I thank BioMelbourne Network for acknowledging the contributions of the many fabulous women working in this field and I am honoured to be included and acknowledged. There has never been a better time to be working in Australian biotech and I look forward to contributing to the ongoing success of our sector."*

- Dr Emma Ball

 @DrEmmaBall  
@illumina  
#IlluminaForStartups





# 2022 Inspiring Leadership Award

## MAKING IT HAPPEN

### This award celebrates a leader who:

- has played a pivotal leadership role in delivering a project, partnership, or collaborative initiative within the last 5-10 years
- through this project or initiative has delivered meaningful outcomes and positive change in the health industry
- has demonstrated valuable leadership skills such as collaboration, communication, team building, transformation, innovation, change management, dedication and passion for innovation that has impact.

### Our 2022 recipient is **George Kenley**



George Kenley studied at the University of Melbourne and completed degrees in Geomatic Engineering, Planning and Design, and Property and Construction. She then joined top tier construction company, Lend Lease, and spent 10 years working across iconic projects including the Royal Children's

Hospital in Parkville, the new Bendigo Hospital, and the new Monash Children's Hospital.

Shifting her focus from the construction of hospitals and large-scale healthcare infrastructure, George co-founded Seer in 2017. Seer is reimagining how and where people undergo long-term brain, heart, and respiratory monitoring for faster paths to diagnoses and better patient outcomes.

Seer's solutions include an at-home epilepsy monitoring system and wearable medical devices, mobile apps for tracking and forecasting seizures, and cloud technology that translates big data into useful medical insights.

George has a deep understanding of the constraints in the health sector and was eager to influence transformative change. Her organisational and project management expertise contributed to Seer's successful launch and rapid growth.

As Chief Operations Officer, George is responsible for maintaining Seer's execution and alignment with its overall business strategy. She has played a key role in expanding the number of Seer Medical clinics around Australia and contributed to Seer gaining regulatory approval for its award-winning, patented technology.

*"Seer exists to empower people to take greater control of their health. We believe technology has the power to democratise healthcare and to open access to life-saving diagnosis and leading medical care, no matter where you live. It's an honour to be recognised with this award and for the impact we are having on the lives of people living with epilepsy."*

- George Kenley

 @SeerMedical







# 2022 Emerging Leadership Award

## MOVER AND SHAKER

### This award celebrates a leader who:

- has taken on a career challenge, career move or career change within the last 2-4 years that has high potential for industry impact
- exhibits leadership qualities such as strategic risk-taking, embracing innovation, entrepreneurship, and an appetite for driving change
- is a rising star, who, regardless of age, is seen as a mover and shaker with high potential for future success in the industry.

### Our 2022 recipient is Associate Professor Lauren Ayton



Associate Professor Lauren Ayton has been passionate about vision loss since her older brother lost his sight due to a brain injury when she was a child. Lauren trained as an optometrist and has worked in a range of clinical environments, including Africa and Sri Lanka. She completed her PhD in 2009 in paediatric

optometry, followed by postdoctoral research on traumatic brain injury.

In 2010, Lauren joined the Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA), where she became Clinical Team Leader of the Bionic Vision Australia program, a large consortium developing a vision prosthesis, or 'bionic eye', to help restore useful vision in people living with blindness.

A research collaboration with Harvard University led to a 2017 offer to become Director of Clinical and Regulatory Affairs at Bionic Eye Technologies, a New York-based start-up. This experience increased Lauren's interest in research translation, innovation, and commercialisation. She forged strong relationships with US partners.

In 2019, a Driving Research Momentum Fellowship saw Lauren return to the University of Melbourne. She now holds a joint position between the Departments of Surgery (Ophthalmology) and Optometry and Vision Sciences, and CERA, which is based at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.

Lauren's research focuses on the progression of inherited retinal diseases (IRDs), the most common cause of legal blindness in working-aged Australians. She runs projects across a wide spectrum, including imaging and functional studies of people with IRDs, clinical trials of emerging treatments and low vision devices, and qualitative studies investigating the quality of life of people with IRDs.

Lauren also leads the SPARK Melbourne research accelerator and is active in Victoria's innovation ecosystem. She is a passionate science communicator, and can be heard on 3RRR's Sunday science show, Einstein A Go-Go.

*"I am deeply honoured to receive this award, which reflects the fantastic team around me and the wonderful research opportunities I have been afforded. I am passionate about the impact that medical research can have on the lives of patients and their loved ones and look forward to continuing the fight to stop blindness."*

- Associate Professor  
Lauren Ayton

 @DrLaurenAyton  
@EyeResearchAus  
@UniMelbDOVS  
@UniMelbMDHS



BIOMELBOURNE NETWORK

# Connecting Women Lunch

FRIDAY 13 MAY, 2022



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# Championing women in biotech

Women are making outstanding contributions across Victoria's biotech sector.

The Victorian Government is proud to support women to pursue careers in the biotech sector. We hope the BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Awards will continue to inspire future leaders in this exciting and evolving sector.

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