

Strengthening and transforming the Victorian ecosystem

Annual Report 2023



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www.biomelbourne.org

BioMelbourne Network respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the unceded lands and waters of Victoria, the Bunurong, Eastern Maar, Gunaikurnai, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung peoples, on which BioMelbourne Network lives and works. We pay respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge the significant contribution that they and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have made and continue to make to the research and knowledge systems that inform our community and our sector.



Message from the Chair



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The Board and I are committed to continuing to make a positive difference, ensuring that our Network is dynamic, effective and successful.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our members for entrusting me with the continued honour of holding the Office of Chair of the Board through 2023 and into 2024.

This year, my focus is on those who have provided insights, advice and feedback to BioMelbourne Network. Through your engagement, you are **strengthening and transforming the Victorian ecosystem** and helping us add value to the sectors we serve.

I wish to acknowledge and sincerely thank our Board of Directors for sharing their significant professional experience and time so freely.

Many thanks to Elane Zelcer (Deputy Chair), Stefanie Mackenzie in her inaugural year as Secretary and Public Officer, Theodora Elia-Adams (Treasurer), and directors Tim Oldham, Keith McLean and Andrew Wear for your commitment and support. As a Board, we continue to focus on executing our 2021 strategy as well as developing our future strategic direction. Through these activities, we can deliver long-term sustainable outcomes for our Network and identify how we can best support the growth and transformation of the Victorian healthtech industry.

From a business perspective, it's critical that the Board and the management team ensures the integrity of BioMelbourne Network. We continue to support its evolution across the sectors we serve and represent, whilst also supporting and understanding our employees and members, and aligning with the needs and expectations of our evolving governance environment.

On behalf of the Board and our members, I wish to thank our amazing BioMelbourne Network team and our CEO Jeff Malone, who have managed and executed high-quality activities. Congratulations on a successful year of financial growth and excellent member-focussed service delivery.

In this Annual Report, Jeff provides an overview of his team's activities and achievements through 2023 and expands on his plans for BioMelbourne Network in 2024. Our success is demonstrated through the growth in membership numbers, new collaborations and partnerships, and positive feedback from our community who have attended our meetings, symposia and networking events. Jeff's leadership, passion and connectivity with our sector, coupled with his enthusiasm and can-do attitude, are strong attributes that allow him to set a strong foundation and ambitious agenda for his team who continue to deliver at pace.

I am delighted that BioMelbourne Network continues to deliver against its purpose of fostering and growing an innovative, globally competitive healthtech industry in Victoria through a well-defined and focussed strategy. We are increasing connectivity across our sector through our membership and working with state bodies and key stakeholders, advising them on the development and growth opportunities within our ecosystem to encourage strengthening and transformation.

Message from the Chair

As Chair, and on behalf of our members, I'm grateful for the continued support that BioMelbourne Network receives from the Victorian Government to launch new initiatives and provide insights into the Victorian healthtech industry. On behalf of the Board and management team, I thank all our partners and sponsors for their financial and intellectual contributions invested within our Network.

Through innovative science and technologies, including advanced manufacturing, the sector is providing new employment opportunities and value and benefit to the broader community. We are witnessing the growing emphasis on mRNA enabling technologies in Victoria through research investment, manufacturing commitment and financial support, which will build our knowledge and workforce skills, and maximise mRNA's impact on our health and economy.

The Board and I are immensely proud of our Network and acknowledge and sincerely thank our members, employees, stakeholders, sponsors and supporters. We are committed to continuing to make a positive difference, ensuring that our Network is dynamic, effective and successful.

David Herd
Chair



Left to right: David Herd (BioMelbourne Network Chair), Associate Professor Misty Jenkins AO (WEHI) and Jeff Malone (BioMelbourne Network CEO) at the 2023 Connecting Women Lunch.

Message from the CEO



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Wilam is making a difference, increasing engagement and leading to high-quality discussions in local, national and specialised communities. And now you'll also find industry events in one place.

BioMelbourne Network is pleased to report that our position as the peak body in Victoria for the healthtech industry continues to strengthen and grow.

We are two years into our [three-year strategy](#) which launched in August 2021. Our 2023 Annual Report details the deliverables over the past year against all five strategic initiatives. We delivered trade missions and a seven-part podcast series with Global Victoria to promote our sector overseas, assessed manufacturers for readiness for Industry 4.0 and developed a sold-out lecture series in collaboration with mRNA Victoria.

Our strategy also reflects the fact that while BioMelbourne Network is the Victorian state peak body the ecosystem we represent is an open, borderless community. Therefore, we cannot strengthen the Victorian ecosystem without also supporting broader connectivity and engagement nationally.

Through our [Wilam Life Sciences Industry Community](#) and [BioResource Hub](#) platforms, the Victorian and greater Australian ecosystems are becoming better connected, more engaged and informed, and more accessible to others anywhere on the planet.

It's exciting to see this increased sector interconnectivity through the new tools, capabilities and opportunities that we simply didn't have before.

We are delighted that Wilam is making a difference, increasing engagement and leading to high-quality discussions in local, national and specialised communities. And now you'll also find industry events published in one place. Anecdotally, state and national bodies, key sector stakeholders and partnering organisations are telling us that they believe this year will be a transformative one for the sector in Australia.

As we look ahead to 2024, my team and I will work with the Board and membership to understand where BioMelbourne Network needs to invest to enable the sector to continue building the required skills and knowledge that shape a supportive and constructive environment.

As always, we recognise and thank everyone who has helped us this year. It's only through the support of our members, sponsors and partners that we can continue to grow and strengthen the Victorian healthtech industry, delivering innovation and economic opportunity. A very special thanks to the Victorian Government and the remarkable people we've worked with, for your ongoing support of our events program, strategic initiatives and the sector more broadly.

Jeff Malone
Chief Executive Officer

Our Board



David Herd
Chair

David has worked in the pharmaceutical industry for over 30 years, a period which has seen the industry environment and science significantly change. He has been at

the forefront of understanding, translating and strategically advising how to adjust to regulatory, policy, political and legislative changes, ensuring that companies can access the market efficiently and serve their patients. David has held various industry association and advisory roles, including recently as a member of the National Medicines Policy Expert Review Committee.



Dr Elane Zelcer
Deputy Chair

Elane is a Director of BioConsult Pty Ltd and AllergyPal Pty Ltd. She has more than 25 years' experience in healthtech, including director, executive management, consulting

and academic roles. She has worked with and advised SMEs, multinational companies, universities, CRCs and Australian and State Government committees. Elane provides guidance on strategic decision-making, risk management, governance, capital raising and commercialisation. She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Stefanie MacKenzie
Secretary/Public Officer

(Nov 2022 – present)

Stefanie is CSL Limited's Senior Legal Counsel supporting commercial operations in Australia and New Zealand. She joined CSL after an

extensive period in private legal practice at Maddocks, advising public and private sector clients on corporate and regulatory governance, corporate structuring, intellectual property commercialisation, technology and procurement. Prior to her admission as a lawyer, Stefanie was involved in the health and education industries in business management, and as a university lecturer in the Faculty of Health and Biomedicine at Victoria University.



Amy Demediuk
Former Secretary/Public Officer
(Retired Nov 2022)

Amy is CSL Limited's General Counsel, Global R&D and Strategy. Amy leads a global legal team supporting CSL's enterprise-wide R&D, strategy and

business development groups. She has previously worked in intellectual property commercialisation and private corporate legal practice. Amy holds a Bachelor of Laws and Masters of IP Law from the University of Melbourne, and a Graduate Diploma in Applied Corporate Governance from the Governance Institute.



Theodora Elia-Adams
Treasurer

Theodora is the Director of Elia Adams Advisory. She is an experienced board member and former Ernst & Young Partner, who brings valuable skills in governance, quality assurance, risk

management, tax and financial management. Theodora holds a Bachelor of Commerce and Master of Taxation from the University of Melbourne and is a Chartered Accountant and member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Dr Keith McLean
Director

In July 2020, Keith retired as CSIRO Director of Manufacturing, a position he held since 2014. At CSIRO, Keith led 350+ scientists and engineers, developing solutions for high-tech

Australian manufacturing in biomedical, chemical and fibre, metals, and innovative manufacturing, with a focus on Australian and global companies. He has a PhD in industrial microbiology from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

Our Board



Dr Tim Oldham
Director

Tim is the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of AdAlta Ltd. Previous executive roles span more than 20 years of life sciences business development, alliance management

and sales and marketing experience in Europe, Asia and Australia. Previously, he was Executive Leader at Tijan Ventures, CEO/MD of Cell Therapies Pty Ltd, President of Asia Pacific for Hospira Inc. and has held various leadership roles with Mayne Pharma. Tim is currently also a Non-Executive Director at Acrux Ltd.



Andrew Wear
Director

Andrew is a senior Australian public servant and author, with extensive experience working for Australian and State governments. He is currently City Economist

and Director of Economic Development and International at the City of Melbourne and was previously Director of Innovation at the Victorian Government Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. Andrew has degrees in politics, law, economics and public policy, and is a graduate of the Senior Executive Fellows program at Harvard Kennedy School. He is a Victorian Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration Australia and a Graduate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

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Our members are the core of BioMelbourne Network. Your interests serve as the compass for shaping our strategic decisions, advocating for key priorities and launching relevant and impactful initiatives.

Dr Elane Zelcer

Deputy Chair,
BioMelbourne Network Board

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 2020, he led the largest contract medical device manufacturing facility in Australia. Jeff has held senior leadership roles in two of Victoria's leading design and development firms and 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, Vicky worked as the Executive Director of the British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce and Assistant Project Director for the BMW Malaysian Open, a WTA international tennis tournament.



Nicole Pitcher
Office Manager

Nicole joined BioMelbourne Network in 2003 and has the distinction of being our organisation's longest serving staff member. Her unparalleled focus on precision, adept

management of office activities, and nurturing of member relationships all play a pivotal role in the ongoing success of our operations.



Vicki Burkitt
Communications Manager

Vicki joined BioMelbourne Network in 2022 and has diverse experience as a medical researcher, freelance science and medical writer, science communicator at

Monash University, and contractor with Victorian and local Government, University of Melbourne and not-for-profits. She is delighted to be science communicating again and sharing the latest news on our digital channels, including Wilam. Vicki holds a Bachelor of Applied Science from Swinburne University of Technology and a Public Relations Certificate from RMIT University.



Jo O'Brien
Events and Projects Manager

Jo joined BioMelbourne Network in 2017 after a 12-year-long career as an underground resource geologist, working across Australia and abroad. Holding a Bachelor of Science from the

University of Auckland, and Diplomas in Project Management and Event Management, Jo blends her scientific background with a passion for corporate events and the Australian life sciences sector. As Events and Projects Manager, she drives high-impact events and programs, supporting BioMelbourne Network's strategic objectives and delivering value to start-ups and the wider life sciences ecosystem.



Jess Balk
Digital Platform Manager

Jess joined BioMelbourne Network in 2021 after earning a Master of Biomedical and Health Sciences at Monash University. She has worked across communications and strategic

projects before her current position as Digital Platform Manager. In this role, Jess has contributed to the digital transformation of BioMelbourne Network through the launch and management of both Wilam and the BioResource Hub.

Our Team



Juliet Brereton
Events Coordinator

Juliet Brereton joined BioMelbourne Network in 2022 and brings with her over 20 years' experience organising events. She has predominantly worked with not-for-profit associations in the medical and science sectors to bring to life their conferences. She holds a Bachelor of Business (Asia-Pacific).



Paige Tocci
Communication Officer

Paige joined BioMelbourne Network in 2022 after completing her Diploma of Communications at Deakin College. She crafts communication strategies to elevate the BioMelbourne Network brand and uses her flair for graphic design to engage with members and foster connections.



Anne Duncan
Community Engagement Lead
(Until Dec 2022)

Anne worked with BioMelbourne Network as community engagement lead throughout the launch and initial months of Wilam.



Emma Donnelly
Strategic Project Manager
(Until Oct 2022)

Emma brought her experience in science communication and engagement to BioMelbourne Network. She resigned in October 2022 to grow her own business, Comm-It.

“

I'm so proud of my team who have successfully implemented our transformational activities, a terrific achievement

Jeff Malone

CEO,
BioMelbourne Network

About BioMelbourne Network



BioMelbourne Network is the peak body in the Victorian healthtech industry, driving engagement and growth through local and international networks. We are actively fostering and growing an innovative, globally competitive sector, transforming our Network and supporting broader connectivity and engagement in Victoria, Australia and internationally. We are facilitating this through our Wilam Life Sciences Industry Community and BioResource Hub platforms.

Our members are diverse and experts in their respective fields, from early-career researchers to company executives and experienced directors, and start-ups through to large multinational corporations. We represent universities, researchers, manufacturers, government departments and all aspects of the services sector, from product design to clinical trials, manufacturing and commercialisation.

We are committed to maximising our value to the ecosystem through the delivery of our three-year strategic plan.



[See our member directory](#)

BioMelbourne Network Life Members

Professor David de Kretser AC

Professor David Penington AC
(deceased 6/1/23)

Dr John Raff

Mr Tim Murphy

Janine Kirk AO

Dr Ashley Bates

Andrew Macdonald

Michelle Gallaher

Associate Professor Stella Clark AM

The Honourable John Brumby AO

Andrew Carter

Alun Needham

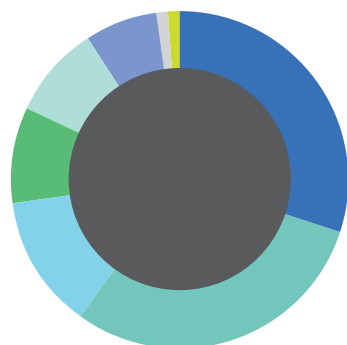
Luisa Guthrie*

Dr Amanda Caples*

*Life memberships were awarded in November 2022

BioMelbourne Network Members

Members by Industry



- 30% Biotech and Pharmaceutical
- 30% Industry Support Services
- 13% Medtech and Digital
- 9% Government and NFP
- 9% R&D Services
- 7% Academic Research
- 1% Healthcare
- 1% Other Life Sciences

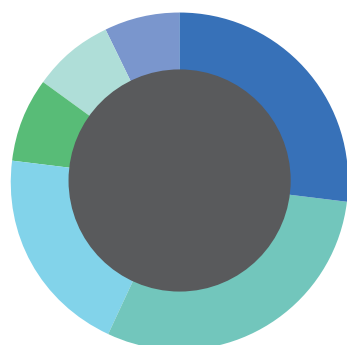
Number of member organisations

225

Number of members within those organisations

4,712

Members by Type



- 27% Corporate
- 30% SME
- 20% SME-Micro
- 8% Professional
- 8% Entrepreneur
- 7% Community

“

BioMelbourne Network members across the Victorian healthtech industry help us serve the ecosystem here; we thank you for your support.

Jeff Malone

CEO,

BioMelbourne Network

Strategic Priorities

BioMelbourne Network launched our current three-year strategy in August 2021.

Here is an overview of some of our key initiatives, what we have accomplished and insights into our ongoing and future priorities.



Strategic Priorities

Strategies One, Two and Three

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 working groups and advisory panels 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.

	1. DATA AND INSIGHTS	2. IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES	3. ADVOCACY
Wilam Public Policy and Advocacy Community	✓	✓	✓
Australian Medtech Manufacturing Centre (AMMC) Collaboration		✓	✓
2023 mRNA Lecture Series		✓	✓
Clinical Trials Action Plan – Steering Committee	✓	✓	✓
Manufacturing Industry Skills Alliance – IBSA Collaboration		✓	✓
Secure Stable Funding for the TGA		✓	✓
NRF – Letter of support with Research Australia			✓
Parkville Precinct – Haymarket Roundabout Review			✓
Global Vic/ Invest Vic International Investment Strategy Support	✓	✓	✓
National Science Priorities Consultation – Kathy Foley	✓	✓	✓
CSIRO Non-Animal Model Strategy Development	✓	✓	✓


[Read the Insider Report](#)

Strategic Priorities



AMMC Collaboration

BioMelbourne Network continues our close collaboration with the Australian Medtech Manufacturing Centre (AMMC) as one of their primary ecosystem partners. The alignment of our strategic priorities creates a robust foundation for fostering collaboration.

Seed funding for the Wilam Life Sciences Industry Community, made possible through a visionary Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions grant via the AMMC, serves as a pivotal cornerstone in fortifying connections between government and industry throughout Victoria and Australia. It also enables us to connect our sector with peers globally.

Within this framework, we have harnessed the platform's potential by managing working groups and setting up member-managed sub-communities.

Our aim is to empower voices within industry to address issues, both substantial and nuanced, that matter most to them and you. Through Wilam, we gather sector insights, plan events that address community needs, and advocate on behalf of the sector on issues of paramount importance.

As ecosystem partners, our involvement extends to various AMMC initiatives aimed at strengthening the sector. We actively participate in working groups, advisory panels, workshops and international

collaborations, many of which have featured in our event programs.

Our partnership with AMMC has led to the development of a six-part seminar series which advocates for the growth of Victorian medtech manufacturing. Event themes include the local manufacturing landscape and health procurement policy, with a focus on strengthening local procurement practices.

Looking ahead, this collaborative relationship with AMMC and the Victorian Government will continue beyond the fiscal year and drive our collective efforts towards a brighter future. Together, we remain committed to fostering innovation and growth in the healthtech and life sciences sectors.

Follow the links below to view the first two Medtech Manufacturing Series seminars on BioResource Hub:

[2023-03-28 | 2023AMMC1 | 1/4 | Leaders at the Forefront: Charting the Course for Victorian Medtech Manufacturing](#)

[2023-06-21 | 2023AMMC1 | 2/4 | Supplying to Health: The Changing Nature of Health Procurement in Victoria](#)



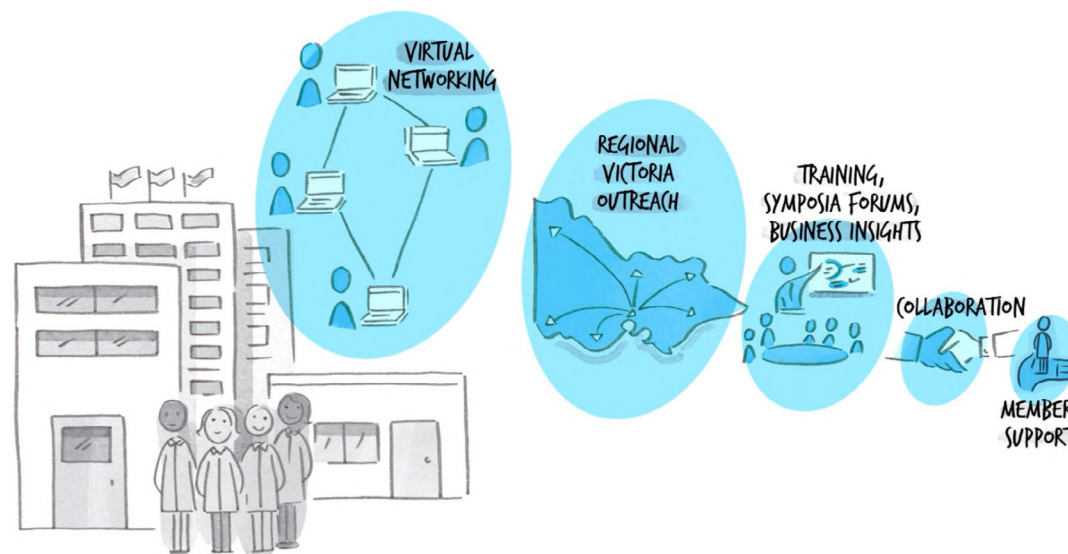
[Read about AMMC](#)

Strategic Priorities

Strategy Four

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.



Industry Events and Training	BioForum, BioSymposium, BioBusiness Insights	Global Masterclasses	Women In Leadership Awards	Connecting Women Lunch	Tailored Member Events
Grow Breadth and Depth of the Network	Focused Membership Drive	Outreach across Victoria	Improved Support for Early-Mid Career Researchers		
Improved BioMelbourne Network Infrastructure	BioResource Hub	Wilam Life Sciences Industry Community			
Identify and Fill Training Gaps	Swinburne Industry 4.0 Readiness Assessment	Continuous Improvement Community of Practice			
Develop, Maintain and Leverage Collaborative Industry Association Relationships	State and National Industry Collaboration Campaign				


[Read the Insider Report](#)

Strategic Priorities

Wilam Life Sciences Industry Community

As a key part of our digital transformation, BioMelbourne Network launched the Wilam Life Sciences Industry Community in November 2022. Wilam means “home” in Woi-wurrung language of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional owners of the lands on which we are based.

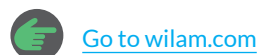
Wilam is a dedicated online community platform that leverages new technology to build community and increase connectivity across the sector in Australia.

It includes specialised forums, a fully searchable directory, consolidated events calendar, and a comprehensive search function to find current and historical content.

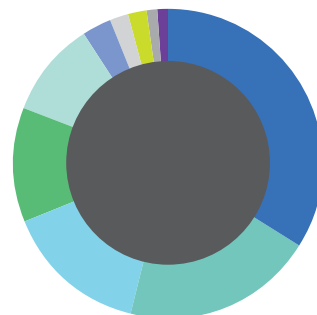
BioMelbourne Network received seed funding from the Victorian Government, through the Australian Medtech Manufacturing Centre (AMMC), to build Wilam.

Going forward, BioMelbourne Network is working with supporting partner organisations to ensure sustainability of the platform as a free-access resource for the life sciences ecosystem. Foundation Partners supporting Wilam are CAI, CSIRO, IQVIA and Moderna.

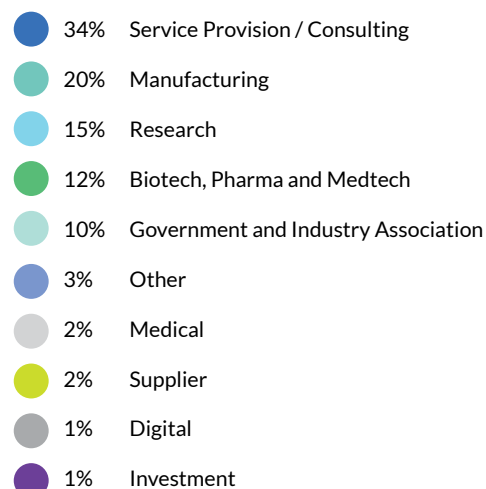
Register, sign up and watch our promotional video



[Go to wilam.com](https://www.wilam.com)



Organisations on Wilam by Sector



>418

Organisations represented on Wilam

>2,047

Contributions

>140

Life sciences events posted in calendar

>7,000

Accounts

“

It's no secret to anyone in Australia's life sciences ecosystem that we exist in a relatively fragmented environment.

Bringing us together starts with awareness and conversations, and Wilam is a brilliant initiative we desperately need. Please sign up and get involved.

Dr Andrew Carey
Program Manager,
Monash Institute of
Medical Engineering

Strategic Priorities

BioResource Hub

From March 2020 onwards, BioMelbourne Network has recorded most of our events.

To allow members of the Australian and international ecosystems to benefit from these events and learn about our industry, BioMelbourne Network has launched BioResource Hub, an online collection of our events and a living history of the life sciences sector in Victoria.

On BioResource Hub, you can watch free events and purchase paid content. Organisations can also purchase subscription packages to provide access for students, staff or clients. BioResource Hub is a great way to help you promote your organisation and the Victorian industry to overseas ecosystems.

As at August 2023, we have a library of 75 recordings. This number will continue to grow as we run 25-35 events each year.

The Victorian Government provided support to build BioResource Hub, and our Foundation Partners, Avatar and CSIRO ensure continued access to this online resource.

Register, view catalogue and watch our videos



**BioResource
Hub**

>18
Free

75
Total events,
and still
growing

**BioMelbourne Network events
in one place.**

Accessible anywhere, anytime.

Watch online now.

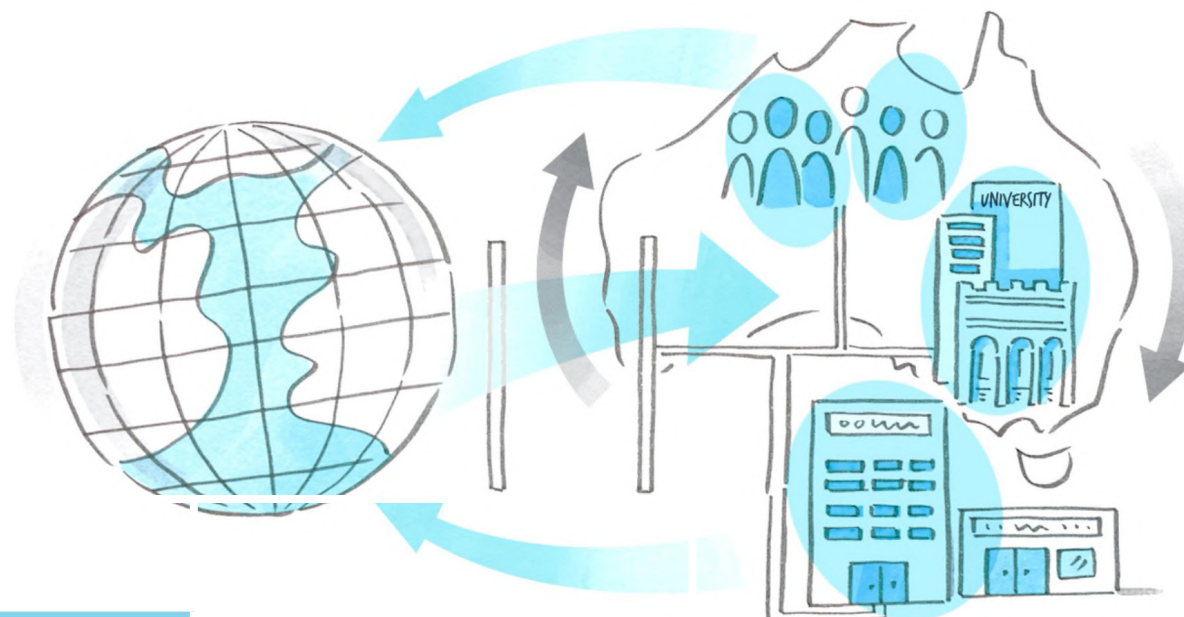


Strategic Priorities

Strategy Five

5 Sector Promotion

Be a gateway for global markets, helping to build awareness of the Victorian healthtech industry domestically and overseas.



Sector Business Development and Support		
Global Victoria – Singapore Trade Mission	Improve the Profile and Awareness of BioMelbourne Network	
Hong Kong Design Inspire Pavilion – 2nd Year	Regular updates to members and the Victorian Government on our strategy and initiatives	Promotional and Advertising Opportunities
Partner Service Agreements	Increase awareness across other ecosystems domestically and internationally	Global Victoria – Podcast Series
Tailored Member Events	Leverage BioResource Hub and Wilam communities for inbound and outbound trade missions	Advertising opportunities for member organisations



[Read the Insider Report](#)

Strategic Priorities

Partner Service Agreements

Through the delivery of our three-year strategy, BioMelbourne Network continues to broaden its value proposition to the healthtech industry in Victoria. This has enabled us to better support individuals and organisations throughout the sector, whether they are an early-career researcher, start-up, SME or part of the largest multinational corporation.

A key element of that greater value proposition is the delivery of our digital transformation strategy to “reimagine engagement”, changing how our sector connects, learns, strengthens and grows.

In November 2022, we introduced [Wilam](#), our Life Sciences Industry Community, and in August 2023 launched [BioResource Hub](#), our online library of events recordings going back to March 2020.

Through these new digital tools and additional capabilities that have been developed, BioMelbourne Network is now offering business services to partner organisations to support them in achieving their business objectives. In turn, our partner organisations help us by adding value to

the greater ecosystem through the use of Wilam and the BioResource Hub.

The supporting partners of these initiatives allow us to bring them to life and maintain them for industry, Australia-wide. The foresight and broad vision of the Victorian Government brought us seed funding, and our supporting partners keep the wheels turning for you. This reflects the alignment of our organisations to make the Australian ecosystem stronger, more engaged, more interconnected, and therefore more globally competitive in bringing Australian research to market and achieving better patient outcomes.

BioMelbourne Network offers these services exclusively to our member organisations. An outline of potential partner benefits is presented [here](#).

Partners supporting Wilam



Partners supporting BioResource Hub



Strategic Priorities

2023 mRNA Lecture Series

Tailored events are a new service to industry that enable member organisations to showcase new initiatives, while accessing our network and event management expertise. The mRNA Lecture Series, produced on behalf of mRNA Victoria, and the Medtech Manufacturing Series, produced on behalf of AMMC, are just two examples of the quality of events that we are delivering to government and industry.

Dr Renee Winzar agrees. "When we decided to host a series of seminars to inform the Victorian biotech sector about the emerging RNA ecosystem, BioMelbourne Network was the obvious partner. They understood our vision and how to make it happen," said mRNA Victoria's Senior Scientific and Policy Advisor.

"The mRNA Lecture Series events were delivered seamlessly and due to the broad reach of the network, tickets sold out hours after they went on sale. And we also had attendees travelling from interstate.

"The BioMelbourne Network team flawlessly delivered a 'fireside chat' with Professor Robert Langer, Co-Founder of Moderna and Institute Professor at MIT, video conferencing in from the US and engaging with attendees in Melbourne.

"We've had so much positive feedback that we've decided to continue the mRNA Lecture Series in 2023-2024."



[Read about mRNA Victoria](#)

Strategic Priorities



Global Victoria – Singapore Trade Mission

BioMelbourne Network partnered with Global Victoria and Invest Victoria to deliver a trade mission with the Singapore medtech ecosystem, focusing on the incredible strength of the Victorian services sector. Between September and November 2022, 33 Victorian organisations participated. We worked closely with key Singaporean sector organisations and the Singapore Government to allow all networks to learn about and connect directly with each other.

Prior to the SWITCH conference, we held two virtual BioForums. At our first event, key partners provided overviews of each country's ecosystem. At the second BioForum, organisations who regularly work between Singapore and Australia, discussed their experiences and the value of working with the Victorian services sector.

BioMelbourne Network then led a contingent of a dozen companies to the SWITCH conference on 25-28 October, in Singapore.

After the conference, we presented a final BioForum to hear directly from key Victorian sector service partners about the unique capabilities they have to offer.

As part of our activities, BioMelbourne Network developed a [trade mission website](#) with information about trade mission participants and sector partners in Singapore and Victoria to allow everyone to learn about and connect and engage with each other. This information is available for anyone to view.

We have also provided free access to our recorded trade mission BioForums on BioResource Hub, through the following links:

[2022-09-29 | 2022GVTASingTradeMission | 1/3 | Victoria and Singapore: Ecosystem Overview](#)

[2022-10-19 | 2022GVTASingTradeMission | 2/3 | Trade Mission Access and Benefit: Start-ups, Accelerators and Service Providers](#)

[2022-11-30 | 2022GVTASingTradeMission | 3/3 | An Introduction to Commercialisation Capabilities in Australia](#)



[Read about Global Victoria](#)

Events and Sponsorship

Building Our Events Program

BioMelbourne Network hosts an annual program of events, including multi-day global masterclasses, BioForums, BioSymposiums and roundtables for Non-Executive Directors, CFOs and CEOs. Attendees gain valuable insights, build their networks and showcase their skills and experience.

We address key issues and provide the latest information about academia and research, commercialisation and business, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, medical technology, digital health and more.

We develop events based on key insights: Wilam conversations and input from members, partners, industry and the Victorian Government. Without members donating their time and expertise to event planning and presenting, they wouldn't be so successful.

Our members, the Victorian Government and other partners also provide valuable sponsorship, which allows us to host relevant events for you and promote the terrific organisations that support us.

We welcome your suggestions for future events.



Events and Sponsorship

Premier Sponsors



Major Sponsors and Partners



BioMelbourne Network thanks the following sponsors for supporting us throughout the year and making our events and activities possible.

Allens

Medicines Australia

Sento Solutions

Brandon Capital

Medtech Actuator

Starpharma

Cobalt Design

Prime Accounting
and Business Advisory

Telix

FB Rice

WEHI

SeerPharma

Honan

Invest Victoria

Invetech

La Trobe University

“

It was a pleasure to sponsor the BioSymposium. The sessions were insightful and dynamic. The audience also provided excellent networking opportunities for our partners who attended.

Sue Khoo

Business Development Advisor,
FB Rice

Events and Sponsorship

Event Statistics

Total **events**

29



Total **attendees**

3,132



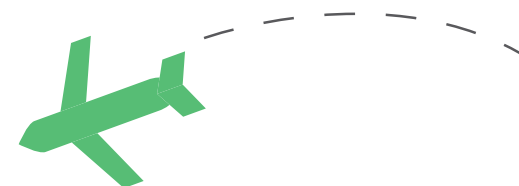
Number of **speakers**

121



Events with **international speakers**

14%



Female speakers

49%



Number of **companies** represented

624



Events and Sponsorship

Event Timeline



Events and Sponsorship



CEO, CFO, NON-EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR ROUNDTABLES

18 November 2022

Round Table Lunch
– The Emerging World
of Glycoproteomics



SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

24 November 2022

2023 Women in Leadership
Awards Launch: A Personable
Approach to Leadership

[Find out more](#)



MEDTECH AND HEALTH IT
BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL
SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

30 November 2022

Trade Mission: An Introduction
to Commercialisation
Capabilities in Australia

[Find out more](#)



MEDTECH AND HEALTH IT
PHARMA AND BIOTECH
ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH
BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL

8 December 2022

Going Green: Environment and
Sustainability in Life Sciences

[Find out more](#)



PHARMA AND BIOTECH

21 March 2023

mRNA Lecture Two – Fireside
Chat with Professor Robert
Langer, Co-Founder of Moderna,
Institute Professor at MIT

[Find out more](#)



MEDTECH AND HEALTH IT

16 March 2023

MedTech Vic Manufacturing
Continuous Improvement
Workshop – Community
of Practice: Test Drive and
Networking



BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL

14 March 2023

BioForum – Continuous
Improvement: Strategy and
Company Culture

[Find out more](#)



PHARMA AND BIOTECH

7 February 2023

mRNA Lecture One
– Introduction to the Intellectual
Property Landscape, the Product
Development Pathway and
Leveraging Existing Capabilities
in the Development of New RNA
Therapeutics

[Find out more](#)



SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

14 December 2022

AusBiotech and BioMelbourne
Network VIC End-of-Year
Function 2022

[Find out more](#)

Events and Sponsorship



CEO, CFO, NON-EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR ROUNDTABLES

21 March 2023

MedTechVic Roundtable Lunch
– Building Lived Experience
into Assistive Technology and
Product Development



MEDTECH AND HEALTH IT

28 March 2023

Seminar One – Leaders at
the Forefront: Charting the
Course for Victorian Medtech
Manufacturing

[Find out more](#)



MEDTECH AND HEALTH IT
ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH
COMMERCIALISATION

27 April 2023

BioSymposium – Point of Care Diagnostics:
Market Trends, Innovation and Opportunities

[Find out more](#)



PHARMA AND BIOTECH

2 May 2023

mRNA Lecture Three – Exploring
the Clinical Trials Landscape

[Find out more](#)



MEDTECH AND HEALTH IT

31 May 2023

Masterclass Workshop
– Concept to Creation:
The Roadmap to Medtech
Manufacturing

[Find out more](#)



MEDTECH AND HEALTH IT

30 May 2023

BioForum – Regulatory
Essentials for Medtech
Manufacturing

[Find out more](#)



SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

19 May 2023

2023 Connecting Women Lunch

[Find out more](#)



MEDTECH AND HEALTH IT

11 May 2023

MedTech Vic Manufacturing
Workshop – Lego® Serious Play®
Workshop and Networking



SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

8 May 2023

2023 BioMelbourne Network
Women in Leadership Awards
Ceremony

[Find out more](#)

Events and Sponsorship



PHARMA AND BIOTECH

6 June 2023

mRNA Lecture Four – Enabling
RNA Technology

[Find out more](#)



MEDTECH AND HEALTH IT

21 June 2023

Seminar Two – Supplying to
Health: The Changing Nature of
Health Procurement in Victoria

[Find out more](#)



PHARMA AND BIOTECH
BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL

28 June 2023

BioForum – From Hospital Beds
to Healthy Lives: The Impact of
Innovative Medicines

[Find out more](#)



Event Themes



ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH



BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL



CEO, CFO, NON-EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR ROUNDTABLES



COMMERCIALISATION



MEDTECH AND HEALTH IT



PHARMA AND BIOTECH



SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Events in Focus

Continuous Improvement

The concept of continuous improvement can be framed as "strategically aligned business improvement". This philosophy has been at the core of BioMelbourne Network's focus for the past two years, stemming from our collaboration with [Medtech Vic](#) and Swinburne University of Technology.

Starting in 2021, the Innovative Manufacturing CRC [FutureMap](#) meticulously conducted assessments on more than 80 entities in the healthtech sector. Their business diagnostic tool mapped each organisation's readiness to progress through continuous improvement and implement Industry 4.0 principles.

From these FutureMap assessments, a community of practice began to emerge, where diverse entities—ranging from medtech and pharmaceutical manufacturers to service providers and research organisations — united to support each other on their respective improvement journeys.

We plan to officially launch this community of practice in early 2024.

Our commitment to raising awareness about the value of a coordinated strategic approach is clear in our event programming. In December 2022, we hosted Going Green: Environment and Sustainability in Life Sciences, an event that underscored how organisations can effectively align their continuous improvement activities with their operational needs while also adopting environmentally responsible and sustainable practices.

In March 2023, our BioForum on Continuous Improvement: Strategy and Company Culture addressed how a good corporate strategy and culture, coupled with lean and agile practices, can result in a successful continuous improvement program. These tools and processes, which can be used by any organisation, have become a foundation of operations at BioMelbourne Network.

View these events on BioResource Hub:

[2023-03-14 | BioForum – Continuous Improvement: Strategy and Company Culture](#)

[2022-12-08 | Going Green: Environment and Sustainability in Life Sciences](#)



Events in Focus

2023 BioMelbourne Network Connecting Women Lunch



Left to right: Professor Sharon Lewin AO, Professor Susie Nilsson and Rima Darwiche, 2023 Women in Leadership Awardees.

“

Connecting Women Lunch is always a great event and the speakers were outstanding this year.

Connecting Women Lunch attendee

Events in Focus

Celebrating Women in Healthtech

On 19 May, we hosted 590 industry professionals at our premier event of the year, the 2023 BioMelbourne Network Connecting Women Lunch.

WEHI's Associate Professor Misty Jenkins AO created a huge buzz in the room with her powerful keynote speech about her science journey, gender bias and equity. She also discussed how women are held back in their lives and highlighted how male allies, flexible work arrangements and mentoring are part of the solution.

This year, all three 2023 BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Awardees joined facilitator Janine Kirk AO *On the Couch* to share their professional journeys and insights. Thank you Janine, Professor Sharon Lewin AO, Professor Susie Nilsson and Rima Darwiche for your candid comments.



Associate Professor Misty Jenkins AO, keynote speaker.

Also, our CEO Jeff Malone presented Victoria's Lead Scientist Dr Amanda Caples with a BioMelbourne Network Honorary Life Member Award for her exceptional service and longstanding support to the Victorian healthtech industry. Congratulations Amanda on this accolade.

Charity fundraising success

This year we raised a record breaking \$22,078 for our charity partner, Dreams2Live4, which grants dreams to people aged 17 years and over living with metastatic cancer, relapsed blood cancer and high-grade brain tumours.

Thanks to the generosity of attendees, they have made a difference to Dreams2Live4 dreamers, their families and friends.



Jeff Malone presents a BioMelbourne Network Honorary Life Member Award to Dr Amanda Caples.

Trending social media coverage

During the event, we posted on LinkedIn and live tweeted on X, using the hashtag #biomelbwomen.

Attendees joined in the conversation, and BioMelbourne Network was delighted to see that #biomelbwomen tracked at number 12 in Victoria and number 13 in Australia – a fantastic result.

“

Ambition: Embrace it, nurture it.

Associate Professor Misty Jenkins AO

Laboratory Head,
Division of Immunology, WEHI

Events in Focus

2023 BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Awards



Left to right: The Honourable Ben Carroll, Professor Sharon Lewin AO, Rima Darwiche, Professor Susie Nilsson, Jeff Malone and David Herd.

“

What a time to be a Melbournian and immersed in science and infectious diseases! I am honoured to receive this award, but want to highlight that science is always a team effort. I thank my mentors, my students, colleagues and collaborators. I hope our shared work will continue to advance knowledge, improve health and inspire the next generation of talented scientists. Thank you BioMelbourne Network for acknowledging my contribution to this sector.

Professor Sharon Lewin AO

Director, The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity; Director, The Cumming Global Centre for Pandemic Therapeutics; and Melbourne Laureate Professor, The University of Melbourne

Working with exceptional minds and forging partnerships across the Australian biomedical sector drives me to achieve and support others to do the same. It's an honour to be recognised with the Inspiring Leadership Award. I would like to thank everyone I work with, as well as BioMelbourne Network for recognising the wonderful work of women in our industry.

Professor Susie Nilsson

Research Director, Biomedical Manufacturing, CSIRO

I'm honoured and humbled to receive the Emerging Leadership Award, and I share it with everyone who has supported me on my journey. Thank you for recognising my service to Australian patients who otherwise could not get access to life saving treatments. I also wish to acknowledge all nominees who are equally deserving of these awards.”

Rima Darwiche

CEO and Founder, Central Pharmacy Logistics Australia

2023 BioMelbourne Network Women In Leadership Awards

Our award winners



Distinguished Leadership Award

Professor Sharon Lewin AO

Director, The Peter Doherty Institute for
Infection and Immunity; Director, The
Cumming Global Centre for Pandemic
Therapeutics; and Melbourne Laureate
Professor, The University of Melbourne



Inspiring Leadership Award

Professor Susie Nilsson

Research Director, Biomedical
Manufacturing, CSIRO



Emerging Leadership Award

Rima Darwiche

CEO and Founder,
Central Pharmacy Logistics Australia

Member Testimonials



Improving Opportunities for Women in STEM

The healthtech industry has transformed in two decades and Janine Kirk AO can bear witness to these changes and their positive impact on women.

As CEO of Committee for Melbourne who established BioMelbourne Network in 2001, and *On the Couch* facilitator at this year's Connecting Women Lunch, Janine is committed to supporting the sector and seeing talented women succeed.

"We had a fantastic panel of outstanding Women in Leadership Awardees sharing their stories," she said.

"And we now have more role models for our young STEM community to look up to and follow."

The Connecting Women Lunch has grown in leaps and bounds since 2009, when 220 people attended the first event, to 2023 when we hosted 590 guests.

"It is a very proud moment for me when I see a room full of articulate, clever, generous and inclusive women," Janine said.

"It may have taken over 20 years, but by sharing our stories of achievement today, I am confident a clear path is provided for others to follow and create their own stories of success."

Janine Kirk AO
Chair of Phoenix Australia, HousingFirst and The Melbourne Prize Trust; ARMI Ambassador and Life Member of BioMelbourne Network

Why Industry Events and Wilam Matter

BioMelbourne Network runs a diverse program of events for our membership across the life sciences industry.

Dr Alexander Gosling AM has benefitted from our offering. The Non-Executive Director and founding director of Invetech said that the networking and professional development opportunities that BioMelbourne Network creates are invaluable.

"I sit on the boards of several medtech companies, and the Non-Executive Director Lunch topics are relevant, the speakers well-informed, and the subsequent discussions add further value," he said.

"And networking with my peers at these events gives me something extra to take home."

Alexander also attends the Connecting Women Lunch when he can.

"It's a great event for meeting new people relevant to my work, catching up with old associates and learning about the significant achievements of the speakers," Alexander said.

He is also active on Wilam.

"I used Wilam to make connections with people or organisations to help me progress an issue with one of my companies, and I was delighted with the number of people who got back to me."

Dr Alexander Gosling AM
Non-Executive Director



Member Testimonials



Connecting the Australian Ecosystem through Wilam

BioMelbourne Network is ensuring that Wilam is free for users through our partnerships with key organisations who are helping us maintain this digital platform.

Enter CAI Australia, our first foundation member, and one of the largest life science consultancies in North America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

“We look forward to an exciting partnership,” said John Wrenn, CAI’s Country Manager, Australia and New Zealand.

“We’re thrilled to bring CAI’s worldwide knowledge base to support the industry’s best practices in Australia and be part of an energised and growing ecosystem that will improve quality and help patients across the country and in all the markets served by Wilam network partners.”

John, who is providing industry updates and posting events on the Wilam national events calendar, is seeing first-hand how Wilam is strengthening the Australian life science industry.

“Wilam brings direct connectivity into the healthtech ecosystem both locally and Australia wide, and Jeff Malone’s connections and willingness to help are second to none,” he said.

John Wrenn
Country Manager, Australia and
New Zealand, CAI

Creating Opportunities through Collaboration

As part of our service, BioMelbourne Network supports member organisations in various ways.

We’ve partnered with MedTechVic Hub, delivering workshops and the Continuing Professional Development program to a wide range of people.

“This has resulted in collaboration and innovation between diverse partners and new opportunities that are bearing fruit in the Victorian health, disability, design and manufacturing sectors,” said Professor Rachael McDonald, Director of MedTechVic Hub, at Swinburne University of Technology.

“Jeff Malone is also on our advisory panel, which is a great asset as we transition from start-up to sustainability. He always has suggestions that create opportunities and build capacity, often in ways we haven’t yet explored.”

Jeff also assists with the grant application and clinician training programs.

“Our clinical innovation fellowship brings together professionals throughout the Victorian health and social care ecosystem to right-skill innovation and development,” Rachael said.

“Jeff has been instrumental in promoting and supporting the fellowship – including being on the expert panels for the fellows.”

Professor Rachael McDonald
Director, MedTechVic Hub,
Swinburne University of Technology





**BioMelbourne
Network**
Progressing BioIndustry

www.biomelbourne.org



www.wilam.com

**BiResource
Hub**

[www.biomelbourne.org/
bioresourcehub](http://www.biomelbourne.org/bioresourcehub)

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