

mRNA Series Two / Lecture Two

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr Iris Depaz

Country Medical Lead & Head of Medical Vaccines, Sanofi ANZ

Managing Director, Global Translational Science Hub, Sanofi Vaccines



Dr Iris Depaz has over twenty years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry and scientific research. Iris obtained her PhD in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Queensland, Australia where she also conducted postdoctoral research and was an Associate Lecturer. She joined industry in 2007 and has worked in a variety of medical and R&D roles at local, regional and global levels in two global pharmaceutical companies including Global Medical Lead for the MMR and Varicella vaccine franchise for GSK based in Belgium and Head of Global Medical Effectiveness at Sanofi Vaccines based in France. Iris completed her EMBA with Honors at the IMD Business School in

Lausanne Switzerland in 2020.

Currently, Iris is the Country Medical Lead and Vaccines Head of Medical for Sanofi ANZ. In 2023, she was appointed as the Managing Director of the Sanofi Global Translational Science Hub based in Brisbane. Her focus is on fostering scientific collaborations, elevating scientific communication, and establishing strategic partnerships to optimize vaccines development, access and uptake. She has also led several digital health projects utilizing Natural Language Processing (AI), data analytics, blockchain technology and omnichannel solutions. Iris is also passionate about patient empowerment, improving health outcomes and equitable access.

Professor Riccardo Dolcetti

Head, Clinical and Translational Immunotherapy, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

Department of Oncology, Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre

Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Melbourne

Honorary Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Queensland



Prof. Riccardo Dolcetti is a clinician scientist with MD specialisations in Oncology and Clinical Immunology with >20y experience in translational research. He is currently the Head of Clinical and Translational Immunotherapy at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Victorian Comprehensive cancer centre and Department of Microbiology and Immunology Oncology, University of Melbourne.

The research of his lab is focused on the identification, validation and clinical exploitation of novel antigen-specific and cell-based immunotherapies and the development and clinical application of immune assays to monitor immune responses in cancer patients. He has a documented expertise in the field of colorectal, breast and brain cancers, melanoma and infection-driven tumours.

He recently co-developed a nanoparticle-based vaccination platform able to selectively deliver various types of antigens to the most potent antigen presenting cells in vivo and generate strong and specific immunity

resulting in therapeutic efficacy. He successfully administered multi-institutional research programs and projects and published >270 peer-reviewed papers with >11,000 citations.

He had the privilege to be elected President of the Italian Society for Cancer Research (2012-13). He will contribute to the project with his expertise in the exploitation and optimisation of humanised mouse models to investigate vaccine immunogenicity and therapeutic efficacy.

Associate Professor Jennifer Short

Director, Monash Centre for Advanced mRNA Medicines Manufacturing and Workforce Training



Associate Professor Jennifer Short is the Director of the Monash Centre for Advanced mRNA Medicines Manufacturing and Workforce Training, Australia's first dedicated mRNA workforce training centre. The Centre will draw on Monash's exceptional pool of biotechnology talent and expertise and work closely with industry to deliver best-practice education and training programs across the mRNA vaccines and therapeutics pipeline – from research and development, through clinical trials and approval, to production scale-up and manufacture, and beyond.

Jennifer has been an academic at Monash University since 2002, and is a behavioural neuropharmacologist and educational researcher who has published in the fields of addiction, Alzheimer's disease/blood-brain barrier, active learning and student skills development. As an education leader, Jennifer guided the development of an integrated skills-based pharmaceutical science curriculum focussed on employability outcomes, producing graduates with knowledge and skills in all facets of pharmaceutical discovery and development.

FACILITATOR

Dr Kylie Quinn

Vice-Chancellor's Research Fellow, School of Health and Biomedical Sciences, RMIT University



Dr Kylie Quinn is a Vice-Chancellor's Research Fellow and leads the Ageing and Immunotherapies Group at RMIT University. She received her PhD on Tuberculosis vaccine design from Victoria University of Wellington at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, NZ. She went on to post-doctoral positions in HIV vaccine design at the Vaccine Research Center, NIH, USA, with Dr Robert Seder and in T cell ageing at the University of Melbourne and Monash University, Melbourne, Australia with Prof Nicole La Gruta. Her research program focuses on augmenting T cell immunity during vaccination and adoptive cell therapies, particularly in older patients. With her work

on ageing and immunity, she has published in high impact journals such as the Journal of Clinical Investigations, Cell Reports and Nature Communications, received a number of awards including the John and Eileen Haddon Award (2019) and a Weary Dunlop Award (2022), and received grant funding from the Medical Research Future Fund, Rebecca L Cooper Foundation and mRNA Victoria.