

2024

BIOMELBOURNE
NETWORK

Women in Leadership AWARDS CEREMONY

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MONDAY 29 APRIL 2024

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BIOMELBOURNE NETWORK



ABOUT THE AWARDS

Shining a light on women in the healthtech industry

The BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Awards, which were launched in 2015, recognise and champion women, at different stages of their careers, who have made outstanding contributions in the healthtech sector, including pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, medical technology, digital health, academia and research, hospitals and healthcare, R&D services and industry services; and inspire more women to pursue leadership roles.

Today's awardees join an esteemed group of women who are driving change in the healthtech industry as non-executive directors, executive directors, CXOs, managers, project leads, entrepreneurs, R&D scientists, clinicians, consultants, industry service providers and other roles.

BioMelbourne Network is the peak body in the Victorian healthtech industry, driving engagement and growth in research, innovation, commercialisation and manufacturing through local and international networks. Since 2001, we are actively fostering and growing an innovative, globally competitive sector and transforming our Network as well as the broader Victorian ecosystem.

“*Today's awardees join an esteemed group of women who are driving change in the healthtech industry.*”

DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD

2023 – Sharon Lewin
2022 – Emma Ball
2021 – Jenny Petering
2020 – Andrea Douglas
2019 – Anna Lavelle
2018 – Kathy Connell
2017 – Sue MacLeman
2016 – Jackie Fairley
2015 – Elaine Saunders

INSPIRING LEADERSHIP AWARD

2023 – Susie Nilsson
2022 – George Kenley
2021 – Jennifer Herz
2020 – Bronwyn Le Grice
2019 – Clara Gaff
2018 – Amanda Caples
2017 – Kerry Hegarty
2016 – Sally McArthur

EMERGING LEADERSHIP AWARD

2023 – Rima Darwiche
2022 – Lauren Ayton
2021 – Hannah Kirk
2020 – Ewa Douroux
2019 – Evelyn Chan
2018 – Grace Lethlean
2017 – Elizabeth Williams
2016 – Jacqueline Savage
2015 – Megan Baldwin



Celebrating the achievements of women in leadership roles is an essential recognition of their outstanding contributions.”

The BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Awards honour those who have overcome obstacles and demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities in the healthtech sector. These award winners serve as inspiring role models, paving the way for future generations of aspiring leaders.

The high quality nominations that we've received for the three BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Award categories this year confirm that we can continue to be optimistic about the future of the Victorian healthtech industry. We are creating positive changes in many, many fields.

The 2024 submissions showcase exceptional candidates, their outstanding achievements and leadership – attributes that are endorsed by their peers.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to raise the profiles of extraordinary women in diverse fields. We know that it takes significant time and effort to prepare nominations and testimonials. And whether these leaders are, or are not acknowledged today with an Award, we look forward to following their achievements, career progression and positive impacts.

These Awards would not be possible without our judges and pre-screening committee. Thank you for your tireless support, reviewing nominations and selecting the final Awardees.

We hope that everyone attending our Women in Leadership Award Ceremony today will be inspired by our Awardees' experiences and insights and find new ways to help create opportunities for current and future leaders in your workplaces.

Our sincere thanks also to **Bronwyn Halfpenny, Parliamentary Secretary, Jobs and Industry**, for presenting the Awards and being part of today's celebrations. This event would not be possible without the continued support of the State Government of Victoria. We are grateful for your commitment to the sector and women in healthtech today and into the future.

David Herd

Chair, BioMelbourne Network

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 2024 recipient is Professor Mimi Tang



Professor Mimi Tang is the Director of Allergy Translation and Group Leader of Allergy Immunology at Murdoch Children's Research Institute; and Scientific Founder and CEO at Prota Therapeutics.

Mimi is a globally recognised leader in allergy and immunology, with far-reaching impact as a thought leader

and patient advocate. Her achievements reflect a rare blend of excellence in clinical practice, research expertise and entrepreneurial spirit. Mimi's pioneering work in food allergy has brought a paradigm shift in clinical management, with remission of allergy now a reality. Her scientific excellence is demonstrated through her 350+ publications, \$72 million research grant funding and ranking in the top 1% of highly cited researchers in immunology.

Mimi embraces challenges and is committed to lifelong learning in the pursuit of her goal, improving patient outcomes for children suffering food allergies. After a 30-year career in academia, she fearlessly transitioned into senior leadership roles in biotech commercialisation to pursue her vision of developing remission therapies for children with food allergies. She is the scientific founder of Prota Therapeutics, a biotechnology company that has pioneered the development of novel oral immunotherapy

treatments that induce remission of food allergy, offering hope to millions of individuals worldwide. Under her leadership, the company has raised AUD\$46 million from investors in two separate rounds of financing to develop a remission treatment for peanut allergy.

Mimi is an excellent communicator and team-builder. She knows that nothing is achieved alone and creates team environments that foster career development, collaboration and respect.

Through her relentless pursuit of excellence and unwavering dedication to advancing medical science, Mimi continues to shape the future of allergy treatment and inspire the next generation of clinician-researchers and entrepreneurs.

"Receiving this Award is a profound honour. I'm grateful for the unwavering support of my research team, colleagues, mentors across my academic and biotech roles, and the backing of investors who believed in my vision to develop a remission treatment for food allergy. Together, we can transform outcomes for patients with food allergy."

– Professor Mimi Tang

X @MCRI_for_kids



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 healthtech 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 2024 recipient is Professor Michelle McIntosh



Professor Michelle McIntosh is the Director of the Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre at Monash University; Co-Founder of the Monash Quality of Medicines Initiative; and Leader of the Inhaled Oxytocin Project.

Michelle is a pharmaceutical scientist with an international reputation in

pulmonary delivery and global health. She completed her undergraduate and PhD studies at Monash University and spent time in the US before returning to Monash to continue her research on improving access to life saving medications in low-and middle-income countries, mainly in maternal health.

Michelle played a pivotal role in the local development of a heat stable, powder formulation of oxytocin to prevent post-partum haemorrhage, which will significantly improve health outcomes for mothers globally. The inhaled oxytocin device has been recognised through multiple awards, including the Saving Lives at Birth program.

In 2017, Michelle was the driving force behind the formation of the Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre, which was established in partnership with the Victorian Government to provide bespoke research and training services for the local biotech ecosystem and stimulate collaboration. In 2023, she co-founded the

Monash Quality of Medicines Initiative, which is bringing world-leading pharmaceutical experts together to address medicines quality and better understand the prevalence and causes of substandard medicines in low-and middle-income countries.

Michelle is an inspiring leader who brings people together to support her vision. She is passionate about building inclusive, safe and supportive research and work environments. By focussing on communication, excellence, innovation, teamwork and shared ownership of outcomes, Michelle has forged engaged, loyal and committed teams across many incredible projects.

"It truly is humbling to receive this award and to be recognised among the previous recipients, incredible women who have made significant contributions to the local healthtech sector. Thank you to my wonderful colleagues for your ongoing dedication and support, and BioMelbourne Network for this honour and for your commitment to driving health innovation in Victoria."

– Professor Michelle McIntosh

 @MIPS_Australia



MONASH
University

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 2024 recipient is Dr Amanda Vrselja



Dr Amanda Vrselja is the Program Head of CUREator, Australia's national biotech incubator. Delivered by Brandon BioCatalyst, CUREator is backed by the Medical Research Future Fund and CSIRO to accelerate research translation and commercialisation outcomes by funding and nurturing

the next generation of Australian biotech and medtech start-ups and innovators.

Since joining CUREator as part of the founding team in 2021, Amanda quickly rose to her current leadership role within 9 months. She has skilfully navigated the challenges of building a national program from the ground up, overseeing its growth into Australia's leading translationally focussed biomedical incubator. Under Amanda's leadership, the CUREator team has funded and mentored over 50 biotech companies and research programs to progress towards commercialisation, driving the translation of research to grow the local ecosystem.

Previously, Amanda was a Clinical Scientist at QUE Oncology, a venture-backed clinical stage company developing treatments for women experiencing hot flashes associated with hormonal cancer therapy.

She was involved in corporate development and strategy, and managed clinical and research and development program activities, including the delivery of a global Phase 2 clinical program with over 130 patients. Amanda has a Bachelor of Science (Honours) and a PhD in Developmental Biology from Monash University.

She is passionate about research translation and commercialisation, readily connects and mentors people, and shares leadership and technical knowledge to advance others. Amanda's collaborative approach, ethical leadership and commitment to innovation translation, position her as a dynamic emerging leader in Australia's life sciences industry and venture capital environment.

"I am proud to be part of Australia's biomedical research sector, and through Brandon BioCatalyst's CUREator program, my team and I have the privilege of working with some incredible research teams to advance their promising discoveries. I am honoured to receive this award and wish to thank my mentors, colleagues and family, whose unwavering support and encouragement have inspired me."

– Dr Amanda Vrselja



Connecting Women Lunch

Friday 17 May 2024



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Supporting Women = Supporting Health Innovators

Women are building innovative solutions and technologies that shape the future of the world.

Through the BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Awards, the Victorian Government celebrates women and future leaders across the health technology sector – including those delivering innovative solutions and converting Victoria’s best ideas into products used around the world.

We are committed to supporting our local talent, because supporting them means keeping Victoria at the forefront of health innovation.

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