

Strengthening and transforming the Victorian ecosystem

Annual Report 2024



**BioMelbourne
Network**
Progressing BioIndustry

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www.biomelbourne.org

BioMelbourne Network respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the unceded lands and waters of Victoria: the Bunurong, Gunaikurnai and Wurundjeri peoples, on which the BioMelbourne Network and our Victorian members work, and as well as the lands and waters of our members further afield. 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 making a difference, ensuring that we continue to be dynamic, responsive, effective and successful.

I thank our members for entrusting me as the Chair of the BioMelbourne Network Board for another year.

In 2023-2024, the theme of strengthening and transforming the Victorian ecosystem has continued to be our focus, with our ongoing commitment to deliver innovation, and build capacity and investment in Victoria and the wider Australian economy.

We addressed organisational change with the resignation of our former CEO Jeff Malone, in March. On behalf of the Board, the BMN team and our members, I thank Jeff for the commitment, energy, innovation and connectivity he brought to his role, driving a transformative agenda and delivering a high-quality suite of services to members. He established Wilam, our community platform, enhancing and encouraging networking across our membership and ecosystem. Jeff was a strong advocate for networking, understanding members' needs and engaging and providing effective, supportive leadership to his team. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

We are delighted to welcome Karen Parr, our new CEO. Karen brings a deep understanding of membership organisations and the sectors we serve. She has quickly established an open and positive connection with her team, our members, sponsors, customers and the Victorian Government. Karen's focus will be to review the Network's strategy, strengthen members' connections and ensure our services and programs continue to support the transformation and growth of our sector.

On behalf of the Board and our members, I thank our amazing, hard-working Network team who consistently deliver high-quality events and member-focused initiatives. Congratulations also to Vicky Jones and Nicole Pitcher for their significant contributions leading and managing the Network during this transition.

Many thanks to our Board of Directors for generously sharing their talents and time so freely. The Board has also transformed this year, with five new Directors and Treasurer recruited to strengthen corporate governance, refresh our leadership and maintain continuity during the transitions. We welcome Dr Irene Kourtis, Dr Emma Ball, Professor Ian Meredith AM, Professor Vera Ignjatovic and Dr Alison Greenway to our Board. I thank Theodora Elia-Adams, who resigned in December, for her advice and contributions as Treasurer and Board Member, and Dr Tim Oldham for stepping up as acting Treasurer. My thanks also to our ongoing Directors for your commitment and support throughout the year: Dr Elane Zelcer (Deputy Chair), Stefanie Mackenzie (Secretary and Public Officer), Dr Tim Oldham, Dr Keith McLean and Andrew Wear.

Our Board continues to focus on strengthening the Network's financial position to enable delivery of future programs and priorities successfully, ensuring sustainable outcomes, growth and economic strength for our sector.

Message from the Chair

I am delighted that BioMelbourne Network continues to deliver its purpose of fostering and growing an innovative, globally competitive healthtech industry in Victoria. We are increasing connectivity across our sector and work with advocates and key stakeholders, who advise on development and growth opportunities.

Thank you to the Victorian Government, partners, sponsors and members for your continuing financial support which enables us to deliver new initiatives and provide insights and policy that shape and grow the Victorian healthtech industry.

The Board and I are immensely proud of our Network and are committed to making a difference, ensuring that we continue to be dynamic, responsive, effective and successful.

David Herd
Chair



David Herd (Chair, BioMelbourne Network) with Bronwyn Halfpenny (Parliamentary Secretary) and Dr Elane Zelcer (Deputy Chair, BioMelbourne Network) at the 2024 BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Awards Ceremony.

Message from the CEO



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My immediate priorities include crafting and leading the next era of BioMelbourne Network's strategy, and using our platforms to engage on the issues and opportunities of most importance to you.

I am delighted to deliver my first annual report as the CEO of BioMelbourne Network, a role which I was privileged to be appointed to on 1 June 2024. I aim to deliver with equal passion as my predecessors, and am committed to serving our innovative membership to build on the legacy that has propelled our thriving network to its current success.

In the final year of its three-year strategy, BioMelbourne Network achieved value across its key pillars during 2023-2024; this is outlined throughout the annual report.

As part of the Network's role in promoting the value and strengths of Victoria's life sciences community, bringing key stakeholders together, and proffering opportunities for collaboration, we met with inbound trade missions from Minnesota and Spain and hosted a roundtable for the Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area. Our thanks to Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Invest Victoria, the Victorian Government, BioNSW and Life Sciences Queensland for your support.

We delivered 27 events, with over 3,300 registered delegates, including extending the successful series of mRNA lectures and medtech manufacturing seminars with mRNA Victoria and the Australian Medtech Manufacturing Centre.

Australia's digital home for the life sciences industry, Wilam, has become firmly established, enabling the Victorian and greater Australian ecosystems to be better connected, more engaged and informed, and more accessible to others anywhere on the planet. At the heart

of the platform is community, and the year ahead will see BioMelbourne Network's investment in Wilam increased, including 'shining' the user interface to reduce barriers and make it even quicker and easier for you to engage. Read more about the platform and how it has supported connections and discussions on page 28.

Working hand-in-hand with Wilam to build Victorian and Australian capacity across the sector, BioMelbourne Network launched BioResource Hub in August 2023, its online library of event recordings. The collection of life sciences videos continues to grow as we expand our offering.

Looking forward, the team and I are committed to our members and their needs, and to listening and serving the healthtech industry to enable sustainable growth. My immediate priorities include crafting and leading the next era of BioMelbourne Network's strategy, and using our platforms – in person and online – to engage on the issues and opportunities of most importance to you. It's critical that our sector delivers a clear and aligned voice in order to create a positive and supportive policy and regulatory environment that drives investment attraction and commercialisation success.

Message from the CEO

Thank you to our members, supporters, partners and the Victorian Government for their enthusiastic commitment this past year. I look forward to working together as we embark on BioMelbourne Network's next chapter, and continue to grow and strengthen the Victorian healthtech industry, delivering innovation and economic opportunity. It is an honour to be your voice and I can enthusiastically say that the passion for what you do is reflected in the wealth of opportunity available.

Karen Parr
Chief Executive Officer



Dr Shayalini Wignarajah (mexec), Karen Parr (BioMelbourne Network CEO), Leanne Daly (Non-Executive Director), Dr Simona Carbone (Brandon Capital) and Marilyn Jones (mexec) at the 2024 Connecting Women Luncheon.

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.



Dr Elane Zelcer
Deputy Chair

Elane is a Director of BioConsult Pty Ltd and AllergyPal Pty Ltd, and a member of the La Trobe University-Breakthrough Victoria Eagle Fund Investment Committee. She has more than 28 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

As CSL Limited's Senior Legal Counsel, Stefanie supports 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.



Dr Tim Oldham
Acting Treasurer
(From January 2024)

Joining the BioMelbourne Network Board in 2018, 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.

Our Board



Dr Keith McLean
Director

Previously CSIRO Director of Manufacturing, Keith retired from the role in 2020 after six years. At CSIRO, Keith led more than 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.



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.



Theodora Elia-Adams
Treasurer
(Until December 2023)

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.

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We thank our members, sponsors, partners and the Victorian Government for their support, commitment and collaboration as BioMelbourne Network seeks to expand the social and economic contributions of our industry to Victoria and Victorians.

Dr Tim Oldham
Acting Treasurer,
BioMelbourne Network Board

Our team



Karen Parr
Chief Executive Officer
(From June 2024)

Karen brings almost 20 years' experience in science policy, strategy, communications and engagement for government and industry bodies in Australia, New Zealand and the UK. Karen is recognised for her ability to navigate complex stakeholder environments, forge trusted strategic partnerships and drive meaningful change within local, national and international environments.

She has worked extensively on public policy impacting life science companies, including opportunities and challenges traversing capital attraction, tax incentives, clinical trials, regulation and commercialisation of medical research. She established Australia's Cell and Gene Catalyst and developed and launched research reports that resulted in increased global investment in Victoria and Australia. Before joining BioMelbourne Network in June 2024, Karen was the Director of Policy and Communications at AusBiotech.



Vicky Jones
Operations Manager

Vicky has over 20 years' experience in event management, business development, marketing and client relations in the UK, Malaysia and Australia. Since joining BioMelbourne Network in 2014, she has strategically positioned the Network as a vital hub for innovation and collaboration in the life sciences industry. Previously, Vicky was Executive Director at the British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce, strengthening trade between the two countries. She also served as Assistant Project Director for the BMW Malaysian Open, a WTA international tennis tournament.



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 taking on her current role 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.



Nicole Pitcher
Office Manager

Joining BioMelbourne Network in 2003, Nicole 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

Bringing over 30 years' experience as a medical researcher, medical writer, and science communicator, Vicki has worked for Victorian and local Government, universities, research institutes and not-for-profit organisations. She has promoted BioMelbourne Network events and initiatives on our digital channels, including Wilam, and produced corporate collateral. Vicki holds a Bachelor of Applied Science from Swinburne University of Technology and a Public Relations Certificate from RMIT University.

Our team



Paige Tocci
Communications Officer

After completing her Diploma of Communications at Deakin College, Paige joined BioMelbourne Network in 2022 as an enthusiastic learner and cultivator of experience. Paige crafts communication strategies to elevate the BioMelbourne Network brand and uses her flair for graphic design to engage with members and foster connections.



Michelle Wightwick
Events Coordinator

Bringing over 20 years' experience as an events and administration professional, Michelle has worked in various roles in member associations, not-for-profits and community-based organisations across a diverse range of areas, including agriculture, evaluation, education and health services. Michelle holds a Bachelor of Business (Tourism Management) from Victoria University and a Diploma of Event Management from William Angliss Institute.



Jeff Malone
Chief Executive Officer
(Until March 2024)

Jeff Malone has more than 30 years' experience in business, export market development, product translation and design, commercialisation and manufacturing. 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.



Jo O'Brien
Events and Projects Manager
(Until March 2024)

As BioMelbourne's Events and Projects Manager, Jo drove high-impact activities, supporting BioMelbourne Network's strategic objectives and delivering value to startups and the wider life sciences ecosystem.



Juliet Brereton
Events Coordinator
(Until November 2023)

Juliet brought over 20 years' experience organising events, having predominantly worked with not-for-profit associations in the medical and science sectors to bring to life their conferences.

About BioMelbourne Network

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 have actively fostered and grown our innovative, globally competitive sector, transforming our Network and supporting broader connectivity and engagement in Victoria, Australia and internationally. BioMelbourne Network is facilitating this through the [Wilam Life Sciences Industry Community](#) and [BioResource Hub](#).

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



[See our member directory](#)

BioMelbourne Network life members

Professor David de Kretser AC

Dr John Raff

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



BioMelbourne Network Members

Members by industry



- 31% Industry support services
- 28% Biotech and pharmaceutical
- 11% Medtech and digital
- 11% R&D services
- 10% Government and NFP
- 7% Academic research
- 2% Health care and other life sciences

Members by type



- 32% SME
- 28% Corporate
- 22% SME-Micro
- 8% Community
- 5% Professional
- 5% Entrepreneur

Members within these organisations

>5,145

Member organisations

215

“

We thank our diverse membership across the development pipeline for your invaluable support, empowering us to foster Victorian growth in a globally competitive way.

Karen Parr
CEO, BioMelbourne Network

Delivering on our strategic priorities

BioMelbourne Network is in its final year of its current three-year strategy. Below is an overview of our key initiatives and accomplishments during 2023-2024.

Strategy 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
Annual member survey	✓	✓	
Wilam CSIRO Biotech R&D and Translation Community		✓	✓
Australian Medtech Manufacturing Centre (AMMC) Collaboration		✓	✓
mRNA Lecture Series 2		✓	✓
Develop, maintain and leverage collaborative industry association relationships: MOU signed between BioMelbourne Network, BioNSW and Life Sciences Queensland		✓	✓

Delivering on our strategic priorities



Annual member survey

BioMelbourne Network actively fosters a culture of constant learning and improvement. In order to serve its members and the sector on the issues that matter most to them, it undertakes an annual membership survey as well as post-event surveys.

Areas for improvement outlined in the 2023-2024 survey included: collaboration and coordination with other industry bodies, and support for R&D, pharmaceuticals and early-stage commercialisation.

Over the past year we have worked closely with BioNSW and Life Sciences Queensland to promote trade missions and provide them with their own state-based Wilam community, so their networks can also benefit from Wilam. BioMelbourne Network

announced a formal Memorandum of Understanding and partnership with both state industry associations, which will further benefit the sector. We're also meeting quarterly with all state industry bodies and AusBiotech to increase coordination and share learnings and experiences.

We welcomed a new community on Wilam for SMEs, start-ups, industry bodies, commercialisation professionals and researchers wishing to find out more about CSIRO and collaborate with them on research and translation programs. It's called CSIRO Biotech R&D and Translation, and the sector is invited to join the discussion.

Delivering on our strategic priorities



Paul Carboon (Outerspace Design), Hitesh Mehta (Nutromics), Erika Hughes (Integra Systems) and Dr Camille Shanahan (Jumar Biocubator) discussing empowering prototypes for manufacturing readiness.

AMMC collaboration

BioMelbourne Network continued its close collaboration with the Australian Medtech Manufacturing Centre (AMMC), co-developing seminars to promote the sector and to highlight the opportunities and challenges in growing medtech manufacturing and local health procurement in Victoria.

During this reporting period, BioMelbourne Network hosted four lectures on prototype development and manufacturing, value-based models in health care, innovations in cardiovascular health and opportunities for Victorian medtech manufacturers accessing local and global markets. We profiled leading product developers and medtech manufacturers, including Ego Pharmaceuticals, HealthGuard, Hydrix Medical, Integra Systems, Leica Biosystems, Nutromics, Neo-Bionica and Outerspace Design.

Key takeaways from these events included:

- There are 650 medtech-related firms here in Victoria, however, the sector is fragmented.
- Our strengths in medtech manufacturing lie in creative problem solving and engineering talent, using imagination and automation to innovate.
- Australian medtech manufacturers are developing innovative products, including implantable and monitoring devices, mobile X-ray imaging units and CT scanners, that have enormous potential locally and globally.
- There are opportunities for manufacturers to collaborate with Victorian clinicians and hospitals on clinical trials and develop products that address specific health care needs.
- There are enormous markets available to innovators in the US, Europe, China and India.
- Ego Pharmaceuticals is selling 50% of their locally-manufactured products globally and is developing a new, automated modular facility that will save resources and increase safety.



Dr Vinayak Smith (Virtus Health), Victoria Harvey (HealthGuard), Dr Deborah Cole (Australian Centre for Value-Based Health Care), Dr Rob Grenfell (Grampians Health) and Sabeen Shaikh (Crescent Strategy Consulting, Alira Health), on the screen, discussing value-based models in health care.

Delivering on our strategic priorities

mRNA Lecture Series 2

BioMelbourne Network tailors events to industry that enable member organisations to showcase new initiatives and scientific advances, while accessing our network and event management expertise. Continuing its successful approach to event series, it delivered two high-quality event programs for government and industry in 2023-2024: mRNA Lecture Series 2, on behalf of mRNA Victoria, and the Medtech Manufacturing Series, on behalf of AMMC.

Phoebe Dunn, mRNA Victoria's CEO noted, "We were very pleased to partner with BioMelbourne Network on the second lecture series."

"BioMelbourne Network organised four lectures and their excellent, solutions-oriented processes ensured that every aspect of the lectures, from pre-event planning to event-day operations, were carried out seamlessly.

"We are grateful to have such a trustworthy and reliable partner in the BioMelbourne Network team. Their high standards allowed us to focus on delivering events of high-quality and value to our audiences. We are still receiving extremely positive feedback from our audiences and speakers about the quality and relevance of the lecture series."

The four mRNA seminars addressed themes that included: mRNA platform applications; collaborating in mRNA clinical trials; preparing for the next pandemic; and regulating mRNA platforms. A stellar line-up of speakers joined from Moderna, RAGE Biotech, Sanofi ANZ, Burnet Institute, Monash University, Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute, Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, University of Melbourne, WEHI, and the Victorian Government.



Phoebe Dunn (mRNA Victoria), Jacqueline Miller (Moderna), David Herd (BioMelbourne Network Chair) with Professor Brendan Crabb AC (Burnet Institute) at the mRNA series 2 lecture – Preparing for disease X.



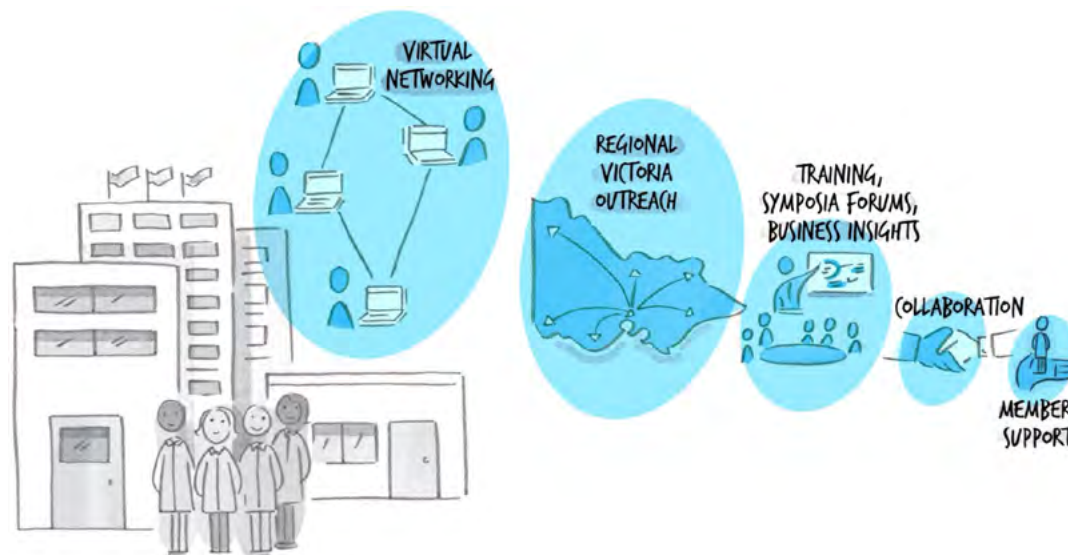
[Read about mRNA Victoria.](#)

Delivering on our 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	BioSymposium	Global masterclasses	BioForum	Women in Leadership Awards	Connecting Women Lunch	Tailored member events
Grow breadth and depth of the Network	Focused membership drive	Outreach across Victoria				
Improved BioMelbourne Network infrastructure	Wilam, Australia's online life sciences community	BioResource Hub				

Events and sponsorship

Event statistics

Total events

27



Total attendees

3,300+



Number of **unique companies** attending

520



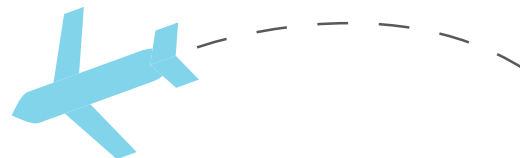
Number of **speakers**

126



Events with **international speakers**

14%



Gender diversity of speakers, **women** represented

49%



Events and sponsorship

Developing our events program

BioMelbourne Network hosts an annual program of events, including multi-day global masterclasses, one-day conferences, webinars and seminars, information sessions, and exclusive roundtables for Non-Executive Directors and C-suite.

By bringing the ecosystem together through our events platforms, Members and speakers have a forum to share their skills and experience, and delegates gain valuable insights and – critically – connections.

We're grateful to our stakeholders who donate their time and expertise to these leading events, as we promote the world-class capabilities present in Victoria, and to our members and the Victorian Government that provide valuable sponsorship, enabling us to host events that are relevant for you.

We thank everyone who has contributed to the success of our events program and welcome your suggestions for future events.



Events and sponsorship

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

Premier sponsors



Major sponsors and partners

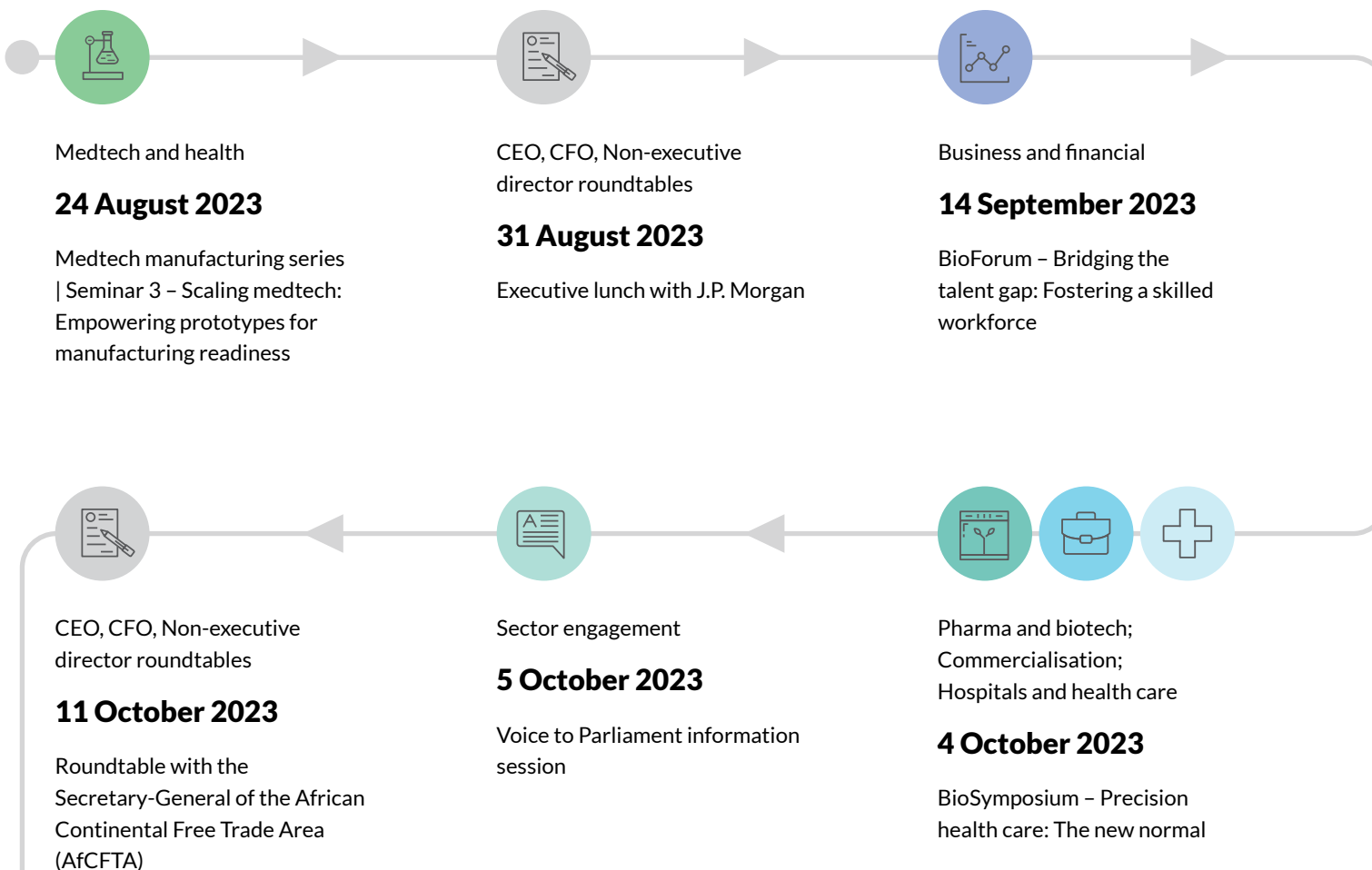


Event sponsors



Events and sponsorship

Event timeline



Event themes

-  Academia and research
-  Business and financial
-  CEO, CFO, Non-executive director roundtables
-  Commercialisation
-  Medtech and health
-  Pharma and biotech
-  Sector engagement
-  Hospitals and healthcare

Events and sponsorship



CEO, CFO, Non-executive
director roundtables

25 October 2023

Online roundtable – Lithuanian
and Australian biotech
ecosystems



Pharma and biotech;
Academia and research

10 November 2023

mRNA lecture series 2 | Lecture
one – The RNA platform: The
breadth of possibility beyond
mRNA



Pharma and biotech;
Commercialisation

14 November 2023

BioForum – A clinical approach
to Europe



Pharma and biotech;
Commercialisation

15 November 2023

Biopharma masterclass –
Unlocking Europe: Operational
priorities for EU market entry



Medtech and health

5 December 2023

Medtech manufacturing
series | Seminar 4 – Exploring
value-based models in health
care



Sector engagement

28 November 2023

2024 Women in Leadership
Awards launch: Shifting focus to
the great retention



Sector engagement

23 November 2023

2023 BioMelbourne Network
annual general meeting and
networking event



Pharma and biotech;
Commercialisation;
Hospitals and health care

21 November 2023

BioForum – New frontiers:
Rethinking antimicrobial
resistance

Events and sponsorship



Sector engagement

13 December 2023

BioMelbourne Network,
AusBiotech, and ARCS VIC
end-of-year function 2023



Pharma and biotech;
Academia and research

20 February 2024

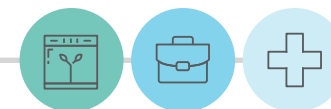
mRNA lecture series 2 | Lecture
two - mRNA clinical trials:
Enhancing research-clinician
collaboration to accelerate
patient outcomes



Pharma and biotech;
Commercialisation

29 February 2024

BioForum – Advancing
non-animal models in biomedical
research



Pharma and biotech;
Commercialisation;
Hospitals and health care

18 March 2024

BioSymposium – Crossing the
rubicon in AI decision-making: A
clinical dilemma



Medtech and health

8 May 2024

Medtech manufacturing
series | Seminar 6 – Medtech
manufacturing series wrap-up:
Shaping the future



Sector engagement

29 April 2024

2024 BioMelbourne Network Women
in Leadership Awards ceremony



Medtech and health;
Hospitals and health care

16 April 2024

Medtech manufacturing series
| Seminar 5 – Innovations in
cardiovascular health: Bridging
technology and care



Pharma and biotech;
Academia and research;

11 April 2024

mRNA Lecture Series 2 | Lecture
three – Preparing for disease X

Events and sponsorship



Sector engagement

17 May 2024

Connecting women lunch



Pharma and biotech;
Academia and research

28 May 2024

mRNA lecture series 2 | Lecture four – Regulation of the mRNA platform, opportunities and challenges



Pharma and biotech;
Commercialisation

18 June 2024

BioForum – Journey from Australia to global pharmaceutical markets: leveraging European engagement



Pharma and biotech;
Commercialisation

18 – 21 June 2024

Biopharma masterclass – Bridging discovery to clinical: A roadmap for European market success



Pharma and biotech;
Commercialisation

27 June 2024

BioForum – AI-driven drug discovery: Accelerating innovation

Events in focus

2024 BioMelbourne Network Connecting Women Lunch

The energy in the room during this year's Connecting Women Lunch was palpable, particularly so given the record-breaking two hours within which the event had sold out. We were blown away by the almost 600 industry professionals attending our premier event that applauds the successes of Australian women in the healthtech industry and maximises opportunities to network and connect with colleagues in an inclusive space.

Krystal Barter, Humanise Health, shared her heartfelt and personal story with Renza Scibilia, author and diabetes advocate at JDRF International, about surviving breast and ovarian cancer, highlighting the transformative power and importance of accessing genomic screening to make informed decisions for cancer prevention.

Our three 2024 BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Awardees followed 'on the couch' where they discussed their leadership journeys, challenging the status quo, and 'knowing your professional impact'. Thank you Professor Mimi Tang, Professor Michelle McIntosh and Dr Amanda Vrselja for your insights and candid comments.

#BioMelbWomen

Fundraising for breast and ovarian cancer research

Inspired by Krystal's personal experiences, this year's health-focussed charity was the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre's kConFab Foundation which collects and shares specimens and data from families with a strong history of breast and breast/ovarian cancer with researchers working on ethically approved research projects. Due to the generosity of our Luncheon delegates, more than \$7,600 was raised.

Our 2024 sponsors

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our 2024 sponsors. Thank you.

Premier sponsor



Supporting sponsors



Major sponsors



Signature sponsors



Events in focus



Speakers Renza Scibilia, JDRF International, and Krystal Barter, Humanise Health; with MC Bernadette Murdoch, CSL



Awardees: Professor Mimi Tang, Professor Michelle McIntosh and Dr Amanda Vrselja.

“

This year's balance between formal and informal settings - speeches versus networking - was excellent.

Connecting Women Lunch Attendee

The new format to accommodate more opportunities for networking is great.

Connecting Women Lunch Attendee

Events in focus

A roadmap for European market success: opening the door to global business partnerships

BioMelbourne Network's Masterclass program provides capability building platforms with access to local and international expertise.

To support Australian companies navigating the crucial transition between discovery research to commercial product and wishing to enter the European market, we partnered with international consultancy Serum Life Science Europe GmbH (SLS Europe), in collaboration with Accelagen, to consider market entry planning and regulatory and approval processes.

The four-day program consisted of a BioForum (panel discussion with networking), an intimate one full-day workshop to deep-dive into the learning gaps, and a follow-on opportunity for one-on-one advisory sessions.

The Masterclass programs appeal to professionals from start-ups, early to mid-stage companies who are developing, or looking to develop in the future, with an intent to engage globally.

Dr Leander Grode, Managing Director of Serum Life Science Europe GmbH, reflected: "Having the opportunity to lead the BioMelbourne Network Masterclass was an invaluable experience for SLS Europe."

"The workshop and advisory sessions gave us a unique opportunity to engage deeply with Melbourne's dynamic biotech community and witness their groundbreaking innovations firsthand.

"The connections we formed have already opened doors to exciting new business opportunities and partnerships with Victorian and Australian companies, reinforcing the global impact of these collaborations."



Dr Merve Kilinc, SLS Europe GmbH; Karen Parr, BioMelbourne Network; Greg Plunkett, Accelagen Pty Ltd; Dr Leander Grode and Dr Marcus May, SLS Europe GmbH

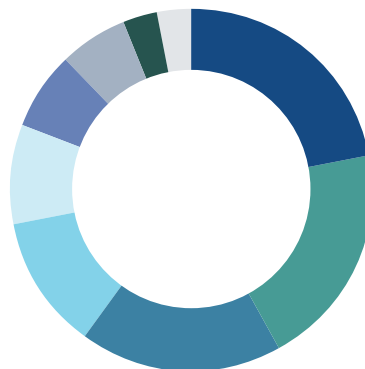
Delivering on our strategic priorities

Wilam life sciences industry community

Wilam, an initiative of BioMelbourne Network, is a dedicated online community for life sciences across Australia. Wilam includes discussion boards, a searchable directory, consolidated events calendar and comprehensive search function to find current and historical content.

In 2023-2024, significant growth and community engagement was seen on Wilam, with increases in active users (50%), number of contributions (88%), organisations represented (83%) and events published in the calendar (157%) compared to the previous year. It's terrific to see Wilam gaining traction since its launch in November 2022, enabling information sharing and connection within our sector.

To ensure sustainability of the platform as a free-access resource for the life sciences ecosystem, Wilam is supported by industry partners. Thank you to our 2023-2024 foundation partners: CAI, CSIRO, IQVIA and Moderna.



Organisations on Wilam by sector

- 22% Industry support services
- 20% Biotherapeutics, medtech and digital
- 18% Research
- 12% Other
- 9% Manufacturing
- 7% Clinicians and healthcare
- 6% Supply
- 3% Government and industry association
- 3% Investment



Member testimonials



Creating opportunities on Wilam

Wilam - a digital, one-stop spot for all things life sciences - is enabling experts from across Australia's biotech, pharma and medtech sectors, to ask questions, discover events, access resources, find people and form meaningful connections.

Brad Nicholson agrees. "Wilam has been an invaluable tool to connect us with key industry players, enabling us to collaborate with companies that can benefit from our specialised biological temperature-sensitive packaging and transport services," says the Managing Director of DG Air.

"The platform's seamless interface and networking opportunities have significantly expanded our reach and impact.

"We highly recommend Wilam to any business looking to build meaningful partnerships within their industry."

Brad Nicholson
Managing Director,
DG Air

Wilam invaluable for collaboration and relationship-building

BioMelbourne Network is grateful for the support of industry partners who help us maintain Wilam, engage on the platform, and ensure it remains accessible to users.

Enter IQVIA Australia and New Zealand, a Wilam foundation member and global clinical research organisation that provides integrated services, from strategic drug development planning through to early-phase clinical trials in Australia.

"Wilam as a stakeholder engagement and digital networking tool has proven to be invaluable for enhancing communication, collaboration and relationship-building across our local community and international ecosystem," says business development leader Gouri Betigeri.

"The ability to categorise content and themes of interest, allows each interest group to receive timely and relevant information on events and pressing issues across academia, industry and government."

Gouri Betigeri
Business Development,
IQVIA Australia and New Zealand



Delivering on our strategic priorities

BioResource Hub

The BioResource Hub was launched in August 2023 and is our online collection of capability building resources featuring and celebrating inspiring and influential sector leaders.

The library contains four years of event recordings covering topics across the development pipeline, including biotech and pharma, medtech and health, hospital and healthcare, business and finance, and commercialisation.

These free and pay-per-view videos were initially hosted on a peer-to-peer learning platform.

In the second half of 2024, BioResource Hub has moved digital neighbourhoods, now residing on Wilam, a digital platform with communities at its heart. The team continue to build resources for the sector, and as part of its commitment to constant improvement, will be reviewing opportunities to increase and improve the Hub even more.

Thank you to the following organisations for investing in the upskilling of our sector, and who help to make BioResource Hub possible:

- The [Victorian Government](#) who supported us to build the initial platform.
- [Avatar](#) and [CSIRO](#), our partners who ensured access to this online resource in 2023-2024.

 [Head to the BioResource Hub](#)

**BioResource
Hub**

25
Free

95
Total events,
and still
growing

**BioMelbourne Network's hybrid events
in one place.**

Accessible anywhere, anytime.

Watch online now.



Delivering on our 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	Improve the profile and awareness of BioMelbourne Network	Promotion and advertising opportunities
Digital platform partners	Regular updates to members and the Victorian Government on our strategy and initiatives	Women in Leadership Awards
Tailored member events	Increase awareness across other ecosystems domestically and globally	Opportunities for member organisations to raise their profiles on BioMelbourne Network's digital channels
Supported an inbound trade mission from Minnesota with Invest Victoria, BioNSW and LSQ	Leverage Wilam communities for inbound and outbound trade missions	Event sponsors recognised in promotional materials
Hosted a roundtable with the Secretary General of the African Continental Free Trade Area together with DFTA and the Victorian Government		

Delivering on our strategic priorities

Digital platform partners

BioMelbourne Network continually endeavours to broaden its value proposition to members and the broader healthtech ecosystem in Victoria.

To launch exciting initiatives such as [Wilam](#) and [BioResource Hub](#), it takes all of us working together. BioMelbourne Network is pleased to work with our industry partners to bring these valuable digital platforms to the life sciences sector.

Digital platform partners receive business services and platform benefits in return for their support of BioMelbourne Network's digital platforms, Wilam and BioResource Hub.

BioMelbourne Network thanks its 2023-2024 Wilam partners: CAI, CSIRO, IQVIA and Moderna, and its BioResource Hub Partners: Avatar Brokers and CSIRO.

Partners supporting Wilam



Partners supporting BioResource Hub



Events in focus

2024 BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Awards

The BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Awards recognise and champion women who are making outstanding contributions in our healthtech industry and driving change and impact.

Award recipients are innovators in their fields and across the career spectrum, transforming our sector in research translation, commercialisation and development of new pharmaceuticals, and venture capital. They inspire the next generation of scientists and business leaders.



Victorian Parliamentary Secretary Bronwyn Halfpenny, with Award recipients Professor Mimi Tang, Dr Amanda Vrselja and Professor Michelle McIntosh.

Events in focus

2024 Distinguished Leadership Award recipient



Professor Mimi Tang, Director, Allergy Translation and Group Leader, Allergy Immunology, Murdoch Children’s Research Institute; Scientific Founder and CEO, Prota Therapeutics; and Founder/ Director, AllergyPal.

Mimi is globally recognised for her leadership in allergy and immunology. She has made exceptional contributions to the

understanding and treatment of food allergies that are impacting clinical practice and research, transforming allergy management by making remission of allergies a tangible reality. Her extensive publications have earned her recognition as one of the top 1% of highly cited researchers in immunology, globally.

Mimi’s tenacity and her passion for innovation have enabled her to fearlessly transition from academia into senior biotech commercialisation roles.

2024 Inspiring Leadership Award recipient



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

Michelle is a highly driven, supportive and compassionate leader who builds inclusive and safe work environments centred

around teamwork and shared ownership of outcomes. She is recognised internationally for her unwavering commitment to improving access to safe and affordable medications in low-and middle-income countries, mainly in maternal health.

In 2017, Michelle was the driving force behind the formation of Monash University’s 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. Its expansion will allow the scale-up of medicine manufacturing capability, support clinical trials, and grow exports and jobs.

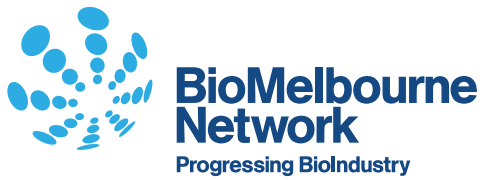
2024 Emerging Leadership Award recipient



Dr Amanda Vrselja, Program Head, CUREator, Brandon BioCatalyst.

Amanda has led the program’s novel design, which combines funding delivered like an investor with access to expert networks, training and hands-on support. This enables projects to reach key development milestones and enhances their capability and capacity to succeed.

In a short time, Amanda has led CUREator through a period of rapid growth, and is recognised for her leadership, strong technical skills and deep knowledge of the start-up sector. Her dedication to research translation and commercialisation, coupled with her passion for mentoring, are testament to her commitment to advancing others and the sector.



www.biomelbourne.org

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