

# 2025

BIOMELBOURNE  
NETWORK

## Women in Leadership AWARDS CEREMONY

TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2025

CEREMONY SPONSORED BY



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BioMelbourne Network

# ABOUT THE AWARDS

**Marking their 10th year, the BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Awards** celebrate the outstanding contributions of women, and everyone identifying as a woman, at different career stages, driving progress and shaping the future of the life sciences sector in Victoria and beyond. Spanning pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, medical technology, digital health, academia and research, healthcare, R&D and industry services, the awards showcase the breadth and depth of talent and innovation within our ecosystem.

By recognising and amplifying the achievements of these exceptional leaders, we reinforce the critical importance of diversity and inclusion in advancing our sector. BioMelbourne Network proudly champions diversity and inclusion; this platform seeks to inspire future leaders, break down barriers, and strengthen our sector's impact for everyone's benefit.

*BioMelbourne Network is Victoria's leading industry association for organisations engaged in biotechnology, medical technology, and health innovation since 2001.*

*BioMelbourne Network has more than 200 companies and 6,000 members and focuses on building an engaged and collaborative life sciences community through data and insights, promotes and advocates for sector growth, and provides members with opportunities to accelerate in research, innovation, commercialisation and manufacturing.*

“*Empowering women in leadership isn't just about equal representation, it's about unlocking the full potential of diverse perspectives. When women lead, we create more innovative, inclusive, and resilient ecosystems that drive meaningful change for all.*”

– Victoria's Lead Scientist, Dr Amanda Caples, PhD

## WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP HONOUR ROLL

### DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD

2024 – Prof Mimi Tang  
2023 – Prof Sharon Lewin AO  
2022 – Dr Emma Ball  
2021 – Dr Jenny Petering  
2020 – Dr Andrea Douglas  
2019 – Dr Anna Lavelle AM  
2018 – Kathy Connell  
2017 – Sue MacLeman  
2016 – Dr Jackie Fairley  
2015 – Dr Elaine Saunders

### INSPIRING LEADERSHIP AWARD

2024 – Prof Michelle McIntosh  
2023 – Prof Susie Nilsson  
2022 – George Kenley  
2021 – Jennifer Herz  
2020 – Bronwyn Le Grice  
2019 – Dr Clara Gaff  
2018 – Dr Amanda Caples  
2017 – Dr Kerry Hegarty  
2016 – Prof Sally McArthur

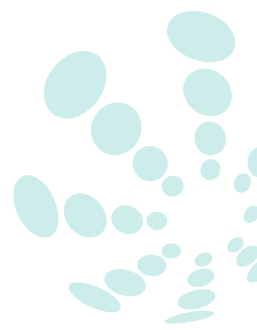
### EMERGING LEADERSHIP AWARD

2024 – Dr Amanda Vrselja  
2023 – Rima Darwiche  
2022 – Prof Lauren Ayton AM  
2021 – Dr Hannah Kirk  
2020 – Dr Ewa Douroux  
2019 – Dr Evelyn Chan  
2018 – Grace Lethlean  
2017 – Associate Prof Elizabeth Williams  
2016 – Jacqueline Savage  
2015 – Dr Megan Baldwin

2021 LEADERSHIP AND IMPACT during the pandemic  
– Prof Margie Danchin



*By honouring women in leadership, we amplify voices and inspire others.”*



## CELEBRATING FORMIDABLE LEADERSHIP FOR TEN YEARS

**Leadership takes many forms, and its impact is unmistakable. Women in life sciences continue to demonstrate the power of visionary leadership: pushing boundaries and driving innovation in one of the most critical industries of our time.**

The BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Awards recognise these exceptional contributions, and for the tenth year in a row, we celebrate what is possible when talent, determination, and opportunity intersect.

In 2025, we honour three remarkable women whose leadership exemplifies the strength and promise of Victoria’s life sciences sector: a Distinguished Leader, an Inspiring Leader, and an Emerging Leader whose legacies will shape generations to come.

These awards are more than recognition – they serve as a call to action. Women in life sciences continue to overcome challenges, break through barriers and defy limitations in a sector that thrives on diversity and collaboration. The extraordinary calibre of this year’s nominees reminds us that whilst further progress remains ahead, it is also underway and achievable when we work together towards a shared vision of equality.

By honouring women in leadership, we amplify voices and inspire others through each nominee’s passion, resilience, and vision that is driving our industry forward.

I would like to thank all nominators and nominees, and the pre-screening and judging committees for their commitment to elevating outstanding leaders. I also value the support of the Victorian State Government for this event and their support and our shared vision for a vibrant, inclusive Victorian life sciences sector.

As you explore this year’s booklet, I invite you to reflect on the impact of these leaders and consider how we can collectively create even more opportunities for women in the life sciences sector. It is only through intentional effort and collaboration that we can create an industry where everyone has the chance to thrive, and where every leader is empowered to excel for the benefit of everyone’s health – nationally and globally.

**Karen Parr**

*CEO, BioMelbourne Network*



## IMPACT FOR INDUSTRY

### Our 2025 recipient is Dr Jane Oppenheim



Dr Jane Oppenheim is the Scientific and Operations Director at Ego Pharmaceuticals, leading a team of over 300 people in their respective division. An Executive Director with more than 30 years' experience of manufacturing leadership, Jane has spearheaded the development of many highly successful dermatological products, ensuring compliance with pharmaceutical regulations

across 14 countries, from Australia through to the UK, Middle East, and Asia.

Jane has a strong belief that Australia needs a sustainable and robust high-technology manufacturing industry for the benefits to the community – economics, knowledge building, employment, up-skilling employees, satisfying jobs and cultural inclusion – in an industry she passionately believes in, and adds value to society.

Renowned for her strategic vision, problem-solving, and commitment to growth, Jane embraces cutting-edge technologies to help develop products that can transform lives. Guided by her mantra “Can we do that better?” she is an agent of positive change who is values-driven and prioritises ethical practices and patient needs.

Jane is highly valued for her integrity, unwavering belief in social justice and for being a compassionate, humble man being who is committed to supporting those less fortunate. Her leadership continues to inspire innovation and foster a culture of excellence and inclusivity.

Jane has received numerous accolades, including the prestigious 2019 Clunies Ross Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, recognising her outstanding contributions to science, technology, and innovation.

*“I am delighted that BioMelbourne Network has recognised my 30+ years as part of a dedicated team that has developed Ego Pharmaceuticals into an innovative and globally competitive pharmaceutical company.*

*This recognition is a testament to the professionalism, creativity, and shared commitment for the people that I have worked alongside throughout this journey, and who are dedicated to make a meaningful difference to people's lives.”*

*– Dr Jane Oppenheim*



*This award recognises outstanding contributions by senior executive leaders, with a career history of contributions for 10+ years.*

## MAKING IT HAPPEN

### Our 2025 recipient is Sally Kinrade



Sally Kinrade is Vice President at Medicines Development for Global Health (MDGH). With over 30 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry and a foundation in clinical pharmacy practice, Sally has made a profound impact on medicines development, business operations, leadership and patients' lives.

Her career spans a broad range of operational and management roles,

including clinical R&D, pre-launch brand planning, and medical affairs. Sally has collaborated with local and international teams, including governments, advisors and philanthropists to drive the success of new medicines from early clinical development through market launch and growth phases.

More recently, Sally has been the moxidectin program leader. She has been responsible for leading her team to progress moxidectin, a medicine to treat onchocerciasis (river blindness), affecting more than 200 million people globally, from US FDA approval through all the processes necessary to bring it to patients to change their lives. Moxidectin is the first new drug for onchocerciasis in 30 years.

In addition to her operational expertise, Sally has led key business process improvement initiatives, optimising operations and ensuring the delivery of high-quality outcomes across organisations.

Her leadership philosophy is rooted in uniting teams under a common goal, developing clear strategies, fostering collaboration, and maintaining effective stakeholder engagement.

She is highly respected for her drive, determination, commitment and tenaciously pursuing goals such as achieving health equity by ensuring new and improved medicines are developed and reach patients in communities that are still underprivileged and sometimes war-torn. These included endemic communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Côte D'Ivoire, and Ghana where she set up a pilot implementation project.

Her enthusiasm for finding practical solutions to complex problems, her hands-on approach, business acumen, outstanding communication and negotiation skills are highly valued as are Sally's integrity, energy, ethics and warmth, empathy and support.

*"I am truly delighted to be receiving this award and appreciative of BioMelbourne Network's recognition of my career contributions. Achieving big things in pharmaceutical development and medicines access is not a solo effort. A strong cohesive team with passion, skill and clarity of purpose cannot be overestimated.*

*The Medicines Development for Global Health team is an amazing exemplar I am privileged to be part of. Together, we have achieved many firsts, and I'm sure will continue to make an indelible mark on global health."*

– Sally Kinrade



Medicines Development  
for Global Health

*This award recognises leaders playing an inspiring and pivotal role in leadership of a project, partnership, or collaborative initiative within the last 5 to 10 years.*

## MOVER AND SHAKER

### Our 2025 recipient is Dr Anne-Laure Puaux



Dr Anne-Laure Puaux is the Head of Business Development at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI) and the CEO of WEHI Ventures, the investment company established by WEHI to manage its new strategic investment fund “66ten”. This fund is investing \$66 million over ten years to translate and commercialise WEHI scientific

discoveries into healthcare products and services.

Anne-Laure played a key role in conceptualising the fund’s governance and operational framework, getting Board approval and initiating its activities. She led the recruitment of an industry-experienced management team as well as the assembly of an extraordinary group of globally experienced biotech entrepreneurs, investment managers and industry R&D leaders to serve as members of 66ten’s Investment Review Committee.

Being a globally experienced leader in the life sciences sector, Anne-Laure started her career as an immunologist, and has held postdoctoral roles in academic institutions, and staff scientist positions within research and development departments of biopharma companies. She also has hands-on experience in the evaluation of new investment opportunities and in designing, negotiating and closing partnerships between global pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology companies and academic research institutions.

Anne-Laure holds a PhD from AgroParisTech based on her research work at Institute Pasteur in Paris, France and a Global Executive MBA from IE Business School in Madrid, Spain.

She is praised for her courage, resilience, clear vision, business acumen and strategic, big picture thinking and valued as a compassionate, inclusive leader, inspiring and instilling confidence in those around her. Anne-Laure is well-known for her thirst for continuous improvement, listening to others and driving progress for the ultimate benefit of patients in Australia and worldwide.

*“I am deeply honoured to receive this recognition from BioMelbourne Network. Forging partnerships and collaborations is at the heart of what I do to advance the sector I am so passionate about, and this award is a celebration of the collective efforts from everyone involved.*

*The healthcare, medical research, and biotech fields are incredibly complex, and no single individual or organisation can make a real difference alone. Only when we collaborate, we combine our skills and create something greater and more impactful than the sum of our parts. This award inspires me to continue my work with even greater commitment.”*

**- Dr Anne-Laure Puaux**



*This award recognises leaders that have stepped onto a new career path during the last two to four years, who are stars in the industry.*



## Partner with BioMelbourne Network to

- expand your reach
- enhance your brand
- connect with industry leaders
- receive exclusive opportunities



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- 2.** Access Wilam via the link in the email sent to you.
- 3.** Click **log in**, then **Can't Access My Account** & follow the prompts.
- 4.** Log in to Wilam & set up your profile.
- 5.** Discover your online community.



## 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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