

Early and Mid Career Researchers Association Mini-Symposium



From 11.30 am (half-day)
6th Dec 2018



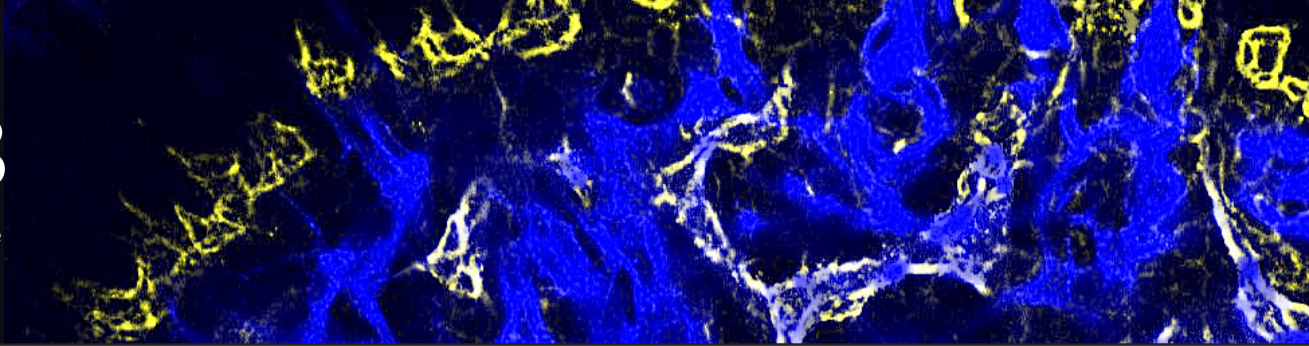
Level 3, QBP Auditorium
UQ St Lucia



[imb.uq.edu.au/
EMCRAsymposium2018](http://imb.uq.edu.au/EMCRAsymposium2018)

PROGRAM:

- 11:30 onwards REGISTRATION
- 11:30 - 12:50 **Poster Session** and LUNCH
- 12:50 - 13:00 **Welcome:** Prof. Brandon Wainwright
- 13:00 - 13:40 **Keynote Session 1** (Chair: Christina Kulis)
- Prof. Lyn Griffiths (IHBI, QUT):** 13:00 - 13:40 (40 mins)
Career insights
- 13:40 - 14:20 **EMCR Short talks Session 1** (Chair: Divya Ramnath)
- Dr. Srikanth Budnar (IMB, Yap Group):** 13:40 - 14:00 (20 mins)
Cyclic resetting of RhoA residence kinetics buys time for contractile signalling
- Dr. Sally Mortlock (IMB, Montgomery Group):** 14:00 - 14:20 (20 mins)
Genetic regulation of transcription and methylation in human endometrium and identification of gene targets for reproductive diseases
- 14:20 - 14:40 AFTERNOON TEA
- 14:40 - 15:20 **Keynote Session 2** (Chair: Ken Loh)
- Prof. Georgia Chenevix-Trench (QIMR-B):** 14:40 - 15:20 (40 mins)
Career insights
- 15:20 - 16:00 **EMCR Short talks Session 2** (Chair: Devika Ganesamoorthy)
- Dr. Yanni Chin (IMB, King Group):** 15:20 - 15:40 (20 mins)
Structural venomics: Tracking the evolutionary journey of the complex chemical arsenal of spider
- Dr. Baptiste Couvy-Duchesne (IMB, Visscher Group):** 15:40 - 16:00 (20 mins)
Widespread associations between grey matter structure and the human phenome
- 16:00 - 17:00 **Panel Discussion** (Chairs: Rebecca Coll and Quan Nguyen)
- Prof. Tim Dunne (UQ)**
Prof. Neena Mitter (QAAFI, UQ)
Prof. Mark Blows (UQ)
Prof. Avril Robertson (SCMB, UQ)
Prof. Ian Frazer (Faculty of Medicine, UQ)
- Surviving and Thriving in Academia:* 16:00 - 17:00 (60 mins)
- 17:00 - 18:30 **Close** (Jennifer Smith), **Prizes** and DRINKS/MIXER



Invited Speakers/ Panel Experts:



Prof. Lyn Griffiths (Executive Director IHBI, QUT)

Prof. Lyn Griffiths is the Executive Director of the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI), the largest inter-disciplinary research institute at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT). She is a molecular geneticist with over 28 years experience studying human complex gene disorders with specific expertise in human gene mapping and gene expression analyses, including migraine, cardiovascular disease and several types of cancer. Prof. Griffiths has published more than 336 refereed publications in peer reviewed international journals including Nature, Nature Medicine, Nature Neurology Review, PNAS, American Journal of Human Genetics, Nature Genetics, Cancer Research, Neurology and Neurogenetics. Prof. Griffiths has supervised 53 PhD students, and 45 Honours students to completion, many of whom now have established positions with excellent national and international institutes. Prof. Griffiths is currently supervising 7 PhD and 2 Masters students. Prof. Griffiths has many significant international collaborations including: the International Migraine Gene Consortium; Texas Biomedical Research Institute; University of Texas Grande Valley, Oxford University; St Bart's London; Italian National Research Council; and the MS ANZ Gene consortium.



Prof. Georgia Chenevix-Trench (NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow, QIMR-B)

Prof. Georgia Chenevix-Trench is a Senior Principal Research Fellow of the NHMRC, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Sciences and of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, and Head of the Cancer Genetics Laboratory and the Department of Genetics and Computational Biology at the QIMR Berghofer in Brisbane. She is the author of more than 400 peer-reviewed papers, and has been instrumental in the collection of public resources such as kConFab, the Australian consortium for research into familial breast cancer. She is the leader of the Consortium of Investigators of Modifiers of BRCA1/2 (CIMBA), and a founding member of the Breast and Ovarian Cancer Association Consortia, which have identified almost 200 novel breast and ovarian cancer susceptibility loci since the advent of genome-wide association studies. A major focus of her current research is to work out the function of the alleles associated with cancer risk, and to identify their target genes.



Prof. Tim Dunne (Pro-Vice Chancellor, UQ)

Tim Dunne is Pro-Vice Chancellor in the Office of the Provost at The University of Queensland, where he is also Professor of International Relations. In his current role he acts as the standing deputy to the Provost, as well as being the executive responsible for planning, and chairs the boards of the University of Queensland Press, and the UQ Art Museum. He took up the role of PVC in 2017 following a four-year term as the inaugural Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. He undertook his graduate training at the University of Oxford, leading to an academic position at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth (1993-2003). Tim was then appointed Reader and Head of Politics at the University of Exeter (2003-2010) where he later became Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. He has written and edited twelve books, including *Inventing International Society: A History of the English School* (1998); *Human Rights in Global Politics* (co-edited with Nicholas J. Wheeler, 1999); *Worlds in Collision* (co-edited with Ken Booth, 2002); *Terror in our Time* (co-authored with Ken Booth, 2012); *International Relations Theories* (co-edited with Milja Kurki and Steve Smith, 2016, 4th edn); *the Handbook of the Responsibility to Protect* (co-edited with Alex J. Bellamy, 2016); and *The Globalization of International Society* (co-edited with Christian Reus-Smit in 2017). He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, Australia.



Prof. Neena Mitter (Centre Director, Centre for Horticultural Science, QAAFI, UQ)

Prof. Neena Mitter is an agricultural biotechnologist recognised for her leadership in innovative cross-functional research and exceptional industry engagement to address global challenges of agriculture and food security. Her scientific journey began as an agricultural scientist at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, India. She moved to Australia in 2000 and progressed to the role of the Focus Team Leader and Principal Scientist at Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Queensland within seven years. She joined QAAFI's Centre for Animal Science in October 2010. At QAAFI, her multidisciplinary background and experience makes her a leading contributor in both the Centre for Plant Science and the Centre for Animal Science. Her innovations creating change by research at UQ, namely 'BioClay for crop protection', 'Nanovaccines for animal health', and "Clonal propagation of avocado using plant stem cells" are ground breaking platform technologies impacting agricultural production, environmental sustainability and socio-economic dynamics of farming community. Her high-quality research has merited 40 publications in the last 5 years even within the landscape of commercial confidentiality.



Prof. Mark Blows (Pro-Vice Chancellor Research, UQ)

Mark received his PhD in Genetics from La Trobe University in 1994. He subsequently held an NSERC International Fellowship at York University and an Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship at James Cook University, before joining the University of Queensland in 1998. Mark was awarded two further ARC Fellowships, and served as Head of School of the School of Biological Sciences for 7 years. His major interests are in statistical genetics, with a particular focus on how genetic variance evolves, the distribution of genetic variance in high-dimensional phenotypes, and how genetic variation limits evolutionary change. In 2011, he was elected to the Australian Academy of Science.



Prof. Avril Robertson (Biotechnology Program Director, SCMB, UQ)

Prof. Avril Robertson is Biotechnology Program Director at the SCMB, UQ. She completed Chemistry with Industry Masters and PhD at University of St Andrews in Scotland. Avril pursued an industrial career, and has 10 years experience, in the UK across three companies, including her role as Preclinical Project Leader and Senior Medicinal Chemist at Cyclacel Ltd. focused on drug discovery and project management.

Keen to combine her passions of research and teaching, she joined the IMB in 2011. Avril's research is in the area of novel therapeutics. In 2015, her collaborative work on anti-inflammatory therapeutics resulted in founding of a new company "Inflazome" in Ireland to progress these novel molecules to the clinic. She has additional research interests in cancer therapeutics and antifungal/antimicrobial drug discovery. Avril is also a passionate teacher with qualifications in secondary and tertiary teaching and in higher education leadership. Based on her international industrial and academic career experiences she is particularly passionate about work integrated learning and about student opportunities to develop work based skillsets.



Prof. Ian Frazer (Professor, Faculty of Medicine, UQ)

Professor Ian Frazer is a clinician scientist, trained as a clinical immunologist in Scotland. As a professor at the University of Queensland, he leads a research group working at TRI in Brisbane, Australia on the immunobiology of epithelial cancers. He is recognised as co-inventor of the technology enabling the HPV vaccines, currently used worldwide to help prevent cervical cancer. He heads a biotechnology company, Admedus Vaccines, working on new vaccine technologies, and is a board member of several companies and not for profit organisations. He is current president of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, and a member of the Commonwealth Science Council. Most recently appointed chair of the federal governments Medical Research Future Fund.

He was recognised as Australian of the Year in 2006. He was recipient of the Prime Ministers Prize for Science, and of the Balzan Prize, in 2008, and was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of London in 2012. He was appointed Companion of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 2013.