



Bio Connections Australia

by informa ●●●

MONDAY 27 JULY 2026

CROWN PROMENADE MELBOURNE

INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE:



Dr Daniel Getts, *Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Myeloid Therapeutics;*
Founder & Executive Chair, Aurora Pty Ltd

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



Phoebe Dunn, *Chief Executive Officer,*
mRNA Victoria



Sarah Meibusch, *Partner & Head of Healthcare,*
OneVentures



Dianna McKiernan, *Chief Operating Officer,*
Ternarx



David Sparling, *Site Head Australia,*
BioNTech



Professor Victoria Cogger, *Executive Director,*
Sydney Biomedical Accelerator



Mike Junger, *Director – Industry & Government Relations,*
Vaxxas



Dr Ingmar Wahlqvist, *Senior Director - New Ventures
& Investment; Acting Chief Commercialisation Officer,*
Monash Innovation



Dr Paul De Barro, *Senior Principal Research Scientist,
Director, Strategic Project Development, Health &
Biosecurity, CSIRO*



Betty Zhang, *Investment Manager,*
Boson VC



Dr Gisela Mautner, *Chief Executive Officer & Managing
Director, Noxopharm*



Dr Christian Toouli, *Chief Executive Officer & Managing
Director, FivepHusion*



Dr Michael Wilson, *Senior Vice President, Head of Global
Research, CSL*



Amir Zalcenstein, *Managing Director,*
SYNthesis BioVentures



Maria Lund, *Investment Manager,*
IP Group



Holly Stefl, *Chief Commercial Officer,*
P74 Bio



Dr Joey Man, *Venture Capital Investor,*
Tenmile



Prof Andrew Davidson, *Medical Director, Melbourne
Children's Trials Centre & Head - Anaesthesia Research,
Murdoch Children's Research Institute*



Jason Segal, *Founder/Analyst,*
The Armchair Analyst

Bio Connections Australia

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7:30 Registration & Morning Coffee

8:00 BREAKFAST BRIEFINGS

From Barriers to Breakthroughs: Unlocking Innovation in Australia

The health biotechnology sector in Australia faces significant innovation barriers, despite being a global leader in medical research. While Australia is globally ranked in the top 10 for life sciences and generates roughly 2.7% of the world's scientific output, it faces significant barriers to scaling these innovations domestically. The core challenges revolve around navigating the "valley of death" between research discovery and commercialization, primarily driven by a lack of capital, skills shortages, and complex regulatory environments.

- What initiatives or programs could be introduced to better support early-stage biotech companies in overcoming funding and resource challenges?
- Skill shortages in the biotech industry, particularly mid and high-tier scientific talent.
- How can industry stakeholders collaborate to create a more supportive environment for innovation?

Betty Zhang, *Investment Manager*, **Boson VC**

Dianna McKiernan, *Chief Operating Officer*, **Ternarx**

Dr Paul De Barro, *Senior Principal Research Scientist, Director, Strategic Project Development, Health & Biosecurity*, **CSIRO**

8:45 End of Breakfast Briefing

9:05 Opening remarks from the Chair

9:10 INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE

Dr Daniel Getts, *Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer*, **Myeloid Therapeutics**; *Founder & Executive Chair*, **Aurora Pty Ltd**

9:40 KEYNOTE

Australia's Biotech Boom: Can Capital Keep Up?

Sarah Meibusch, *Partner & Head of Healthcare*, **OneVentures**

10:10 IN CONVERSATION

Exploring New Therapeutic Modalities: Innovations Beyond the Horizon

- What are the most significant advancements in therapeutic modalities over the past decade, and how have they shaped the current landscape of drug development?
- What are the unique challenges in developing RNA-based cancer vaccines? What are the key considerations for improving the stability, delivery, and immunogenicity of RNA-based vaccines for cancer?
- What are the most exciting recent discoveries in immunology that have the potential to transform the treatment of autoimmune diseases?
- Other topics to cover includes Anti-drug conjugate antibodies, Precision Medicine and Targeted Delivery, Rare diseases and orphan drugs

Dr Gisela Mautner, *Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director*, **Noxopharm**

Dr Michael Wilson, *Senior Vice President, Head of Global Research*, **CSL**

10:45 Networking Break & Morning Tea

11:15 INVESTMENT PANEL

Investment Trends in 2026: A New Era of Discipline and Selective Capital

- How are recent regulatory changes in China and other countries influencing private equity raising in biotech?
- How can Australian biotech companies position themselves to attract international investors in this new era of selective capital?
- When is the right time for companies to pursue hybrid syndicates of onshore and offshore investors?
- How can biotech companies balance debt versus equity financing models to optimize growth?

Amir Zalcenstein, *Managing Director*, **SYNthesis BioVentures**

Maria Lund, *Investment Manager*, **IP Group**

Holly Stefl, *Chief Commercial Officer*, **P74 Bio**

Dr Jeannie Joughin, *Venture Partner*, **OneVentures**

Dr Joey Man, *Venture Capital Investor*, **Tenmile**

Moderator: Hashan De Silva, *Founder & Managing Partner*, **KP Rx**

12:00 IN CONVERSATION

Australia as a Global Clinical Trials Hub: What's working and what's holding us back?

Australia's health biotech sector thrives on a \$1.4 billion clinical trials industry, driven by rapid, high-quality regulatory approvals and a strong R&D tax incentive. Over 1,800 trials annually, often focusing on early-phase, benefit from a 9th-ranked global research position, world-class researchers, and diverse populations, attracting significant international investment.

This panel will explore the unique advantages and challenges of initiating clinical trials in Australia, including regulatory pathways, patient recruitment strategies, and leveraging Australia's robust healthcare infrastructure. It will also delve into the global expansion of trials, addressing cross-border collaboration, harmonization of regulatory requirements, and strategies for scaling clinical research internationally.

Prof Andrew Davidson, *Medical Director*, **Melbourne Children's Trials Centre & Head - Anaesthesia Research**, **Murdoch Children's Research Institute**

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12:35 Networking Lunch

13:35 Afternoon Remarks From the Chair

Associate Professor Tam C. Nguyen, *Director Research & Innovation, Monash Health; Investment Committee, Horizon3 Healthcare Fund*

13:40 AFTERNOON KEYNOTE

Sovereign Capability in Advanced Therapeutics: Why mRNA Matters for Australia

- National manufacturing resilience
- Supply chain security
- Strategic importance of local capability

Phoebe Dunn, *Chief Executive Officer, mRNA Victoria*

14:10 IN CONVERSATION

Building a Competitive Edge: Australia's Biotech Manufacturing Future

- What lessons can Australia learn from other global biotech hubs to accelerate its growth in biotech manufacturing?
- How can the National Reconstruction Fund (NRF) specifically ensure that a "Future Made in Australia" includes the full commercial lifecycle, not just the R&D phase?
- Should Australia focus on becoming the "world leader" in a specific health niche to ensure we are an indispensable partner in the global supply chain by 2035?

David Sparling, *Site Head Australia, BioNTech*

14:45 IN CONVERSATION

University Collaborations and IP Ownership

- Benefits and challenges of university collaborations for biotech companies, and how can these partnerships be optimized for mutual success?
- What are the most effective strategies for de-risking early-stage research?
- What are the best practices for structuring IP ownership agreements to attract investors while ensuring fair distribution of rights?

Dr Christian Toouli, *Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, FivepHusion*

Professor Victoria Cogger, *Executive Director, Sydney Biomedical Accelerator*

Dr Ingmar Wahlqvist, *Senior Director - New Ventures & Investment; Acting Chief Commercialisation Officer, Monash Innovation*

15:20 Networking Break & Afternoon Tea

15:50 Retail Investor Sentiment in Life Sciences

Strategies for biotech firms to build a "supportive register" of shareholders during the often-volatile journey from Phase 1 to commercialisation.

Jason Segal, *Founder/Analyst, The Armchair Analyst*

16:20 CASE STUDY

Success stories of AI-driven biotech innovations

16:50 BIOTECH PANEL

From Small Startups to Big Pharma

- What are the most promising areas of innovation in Australian biotech startups?
- What strategies can startups adopt to maximize the benefits of government incentives?
- What are the biggest hurdles in converting Australia's world-class research into commercialized products, and how can they be overcome?
- What steps can the industry take to ensure the emergence of more "CSL-level" companies in the next decade?
- How can Australia position itself as a global leader in biotech innovation while competing with established hubs like the US and emerging hubs like China?

Senior Representative, **Dimerix**

Mike Junger, *Director – Industry & Government Relations, Vaxxas*

Dr Daniel Getts, *Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Myeloid Therapeutics; Founder & Executive Chair, Aurora Pty Ltd*

17:35 Closing Remarks from Chair

17:40 Networking Drinks 🍷

19:00 BIO CONNECTIONS NETWORKING DINNER

A true highlight of the event. Continue your discussions of the day and network with speakers, delegates and sponsors in a more relaxed and informal setting.

Join us for canapes and drinks at the bar before moving into the seated restaurant.

Numbers to the dinner are limited, book early to avoid disappointment.

SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES

Don't miss this opportunity to get involved early in this year's Bio Connections Australia Conference.

To see what we have available please contact:

Danielle Newman, Sponsorship Manager

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Email: Danielle.Newman@informa.com



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Monday 27 July 2026 | Crown Promenade Melbourne

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Register Early & Save	Early Bird Rate				Standard Rate		
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Conference Package	PRICE	GST	TOTAL	SAVE	PRICE	GST	TOTAL
Standard Pass	\$1,595	\$159.50	\$1,754.50	\$200	\$1,795	\$179.50	\$1,974.50
Biotech Rate					\$295	\$29.50	\$324.50
Dinner					\$230	\$23	\$253

For full terms and conditions, please visit: www.informa.com/bioconnections

VENUE DETAILS

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