



## Student and ECR Breakfast

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July, 7:30am – 9:00am Trinity Room, Shangri-La  
The Marina, Cairns

On the first full day of the 2022 ASP Annual Conference we start with a professional development and networking breakfast event for our research students and early career researchers. This year's breakfast will be held from 7:30-9:00am on Tuesday July 5 in the Trinity Room of the Shangri La Hotel. It is themed as *Meet the Mentors Breakfast* and the discussion topic will be "*Keys to Successful Collaboration*".

You will meet with some of our highly successful researchers who collaborate widely with other academics, with industry, with government, with NGOs. Workshop participants should find out: Why collaborate? How do collaborations start? What are the lessons they've learnt from experiences with good, bad or indifferent collaborations? Are the approach and requirements different for collaborations?

Here are the wonderful mentors that you will be meeting during the Student and ECR Breakfast event.

## **Professor Kathy Andrews**

**Director and Principal Research Leader, Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery**

**Head, Tropical Parasitology Lab, Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery**



Professor Kathy Andrews is the Director of the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD) where she is also a Principal Research Leader and head of the Tropical Parasitology lab. Her research focuses on contributing to improving the lives of people who suffer from malaria through the discovery and pre-clinical investigation of new drug leads for malaria prevention and treatment and by understanding how current drugs work. Kathy has a PhD in microbiology and more than 20 years' experience in malaria research, including as an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at Heidelberg University in Germany and as an ARC Future Fellow at Griffith University and the QIMR Berghofer Institute. Kathy has published 109 papers, supervised >30 PhD and Honours students and has attracted more than \$10 million in biomedical research funding, including leading

three NHMRC grants totalling >\$2M in the past five years. Kathy collaborates nationally and internationally with biologists and chemists from both academia and industry including the CSIRO and the Medicines for Malaria Venture. Kathy was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Society for Parasitology in 2020 and has received several awards including the 2021 Griffith VC Excellence Award for Research Leadership, 2020 Griffith PVC Sciences Excellence Award for Research Leadership, 2019 Life Sciences Queensland Women of Influence award and 2017 Queensland Women in Technology Life Sciences Research Leader Award. Kathy is a past Director of the Australian Society for Medical Research and past Executive Council member and Treasurer of the Australian Society for Parasitology. Kathy is a passionate about mentoring the next generation of researchers. She is the founder and Director of the *That's RAD! Science* STEM outreach project which has resulted in the production of four STEM picture books that have been distributed to >7,000 children with an estimated reach of ~20,000 people. In 2022, she developed the Impact CV to help researchers around the world more effectively track, plan and communicate the impact of their research and engagement activities.

## Professor Christian Doerig



Christian Doerig obtained a degree in science education and a PhD in molecular virology at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. He then pioneered the study of cell signalling in the human malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*, and is a recognised leader in this field. He coordinated several EU-funded international consortia in malaria research involving partners in Europe, India and Africa. He was Head of the Department of Microbiology at Monash University (2011-2015) then Associate Dean for Biomedical Sciences at RMIT University (2019-2020).

His current research interests include the host cell signaling response to intracellular pathogens such as malaria parasites and the SARS-CoV-2 Coronavirus, with the purpose of developing Host-Directed Therapy against infectious diseases based on kinase inhibition.

He is "Directeur de Recherches" (on secondment) at the French government biomedical research agency INSERM, Honorary Professor of the University of Glasgow and Adjunct Professor at Monash University.

## Professor Denise Doolan



Denise Doolan is Acting Director, Professorial Research Fellow and NHMRC Principal Research Fellow at the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine, James Cook University, Australia. She is a molecular immunologist, working on the development of vaccines, diagnostics and host-directed therapeutics for infectious and chronic diseases that impact global public health, with a particular focus on malaria. Her cross-disciplinary research program spans host-pathogen immunity, antigen discovery, vaccine engineering, and biomarker discovery. She has a specific interest in the application of state-of-the-art genome-based technologies and human models of disease system to identify novel targets for intervention against disease or that predict risk of disease. She is a recognized world expert in malaria immunology, vaccinology, and omic-based approaches to identify disease targets, and has published ~200 articles which have been cited more than 12,500 times.

Professor Doolan serves on a number of Executive Boards and Advisory Boards, including the *Australian Medical Research Advisory Board* to provide specialist insights into Australia's medical research and innovation priorities for the Federal Government. She has served on the Executive Board of the *International Society for Vaccines* since 2015 and is the currently President of the *International Society for Vaccines* (2022-2023). She was previously on the Executive Board of *Australian Society for Parasitology* and was President of ASP (2011-2013). She was awarded the

ASP Bancroft Mackerras Medal for Excellence in 2016, and was honoured as a *Fellow* of the Australian Society of Parasitology in 2019.

Denise was awarded a B.Sc (Honours; biochemistry) from the University of Queensland; Master of Philosophy from Griffith University based at CSIRO (virology); and PhD from the University of Queensland at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (molecular immunology). She received a USA National Academy of Sciences Postdoctoral Fellowship to work on malaria vaccine development at the U.S. Naval Medical Research Center, where she was subsequently appointed as Director of Basic and Preclinical Research & Development, and then Scientific Director of the U.S. Navy Malaria Program; also co-leading the Department of Defence Agile Vaccine Program to rapidly develop molecular-based vaccines against emerging biowarfare threats. She returned to Australia in 2007 to establish the Molecular Vaccinology Laboratory at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research; and in 2016 relocated to the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine (AITHM) at James Cook University.

### **Professor Robin Gasser**



Robin Gasser is Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor at the University of Melbourne. His fundamental research has generated deep knowledge and understanding about the biology of parasites, their interactions with their hosts and the diseases they cause by applying and integrating a range of advanced technologies to explore their genomes and gene functions. His achievements include the identification of a range of novel targets for antiparasitic drug development. He has used this extensive fundamental research to underpin the development of innovative methods for the diagnosis, treatment and control of socioeconomically important parasitic diseases of animals and humans for subsequent translation.

### **Professor Michael Good**



Michael Good is a Professor and NHMRC Investigator Fellow at the Institute for Glycomics, Griffith University. He heads the Laboratory of Vaccines for the Developing World. His research interests are in immunity and vaccine development for serious pathogens. He has developed candidate vaccines for the prevention of malaria and streptococcus and these have entered clinical trials. He is also working on COVID immunity and vaccine development. He has published 356 refereed research articles (Pub Med). His H index is 77 (Google Scholar).

He graduated MD PhD DSc from the University of Queensland and the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research/University of Melbourne and undertook postdoctoral training at the University of Queensland and at the National Institutes of Health in the USA.

He was the Director of the Cooperative Research Centre for Vaccine Technology and the former Director of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. He served as President of the Association

of Australian Medical Research Institutes. He served on the Board of the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health and on the Board of the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (2010-2013). From 2006-2012 he was Chairman of the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia.

In 2008 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO), in 2009 he won the Australian Museum CSIRO Eureka Prize for Leadership in Science and in 2010 was named a Queensland Great and was awarded an NHMRC Australia Fellowship. In 2011 he was named the Heart Foundation's Researcher of the Year.

Michael Good is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences. He is an International Honorary Fellow of the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology and a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology.

### **Professor Alex Loukas**



Alex Loukas is a NHMRC Level 3 Leadership Fellow and Distinguished Professor at James Cook University (JCU). He obtained his BSc Hons in 1990 and PhD in 1995 from University of Queensland. He conducted postdoctoral work at the University of Edinburgh, held an assistant professorship at George Washington University, and led a group at Queensland Institute of Medical Research before moving to James Cook University in Cairns as a professorial tropical research leader in 2010. Loukas' research interests focus on the molecular basis of host-parasite interactions, and exploiting that knowledge to develop (1) anti-helminth subunit vaccines and diagnostics, and (2) next-generation biologics for treating inflammatory and metabolic diseases using human parasite challenge models

and recombinant parasite proteins. His work is currently funded by the Australian government (NHMRC, ARC and CRC), the US government (NIH-NCI, Department of Defense) and various VC firms. Loukas was editor-in-chief of International Journal for Parasitology from 2009-2015 and is currently chief editor of the recently launched Frontiers in Parasitology. He has received numerous awards and prizes for his research and is a fellow of the Australian Society for Parasitology.

## Professor Malcolm McConville



Malcolm McConville's group have had a long-term interest in studying host-parasite interactions with a particular focus on identifying metabolic pathways in either the host or parasite that are essential for virulence and potential drug targets. He obtained his PhD in Botany/Biochemistry at the University of Melbourne before undertaking post-doctoral research at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne and the University of Dundee, Scotland. He returned to Australia in 1995 as a Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow, to establish a research group in molecular parasitology in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Melbourne and has subsequently been supported by NHMRC Principal Research Fellowships. He is the National Convenor for the NCRIS-funded Metabolomics Australia network and academic lead for one of Australia's largest metabolomics facilities, located in the Bio21 Institute of Molecular Science and Biotechnology. He has served as Director and is currently the Associate Director of Infrastructure and Platforms at the Bio21 Institute. His research group utilize advanced mass spectrometry-based metabolomics profiling and stable isotope labelling approaches, large scale gene knock-out studies and a variety of other biochemical and systems level approaches to map and study novel metabolic pathways in these medically important eukaryotic pathogens with the view of identifying new drug leads and therapeutic strategies for treating these diseases.

## Professor Barbara Nowak



Barbara Nowak is Professor at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies at the University of Tasmania, where she leads Aquatic Animal Health research group. She is Honorary Professor of RMIT University (Australia) and Honorary Professor at Aarhus University (Denmark). Her research interest focuses on various aspects of fish health, such as fish parasitology, fish immunology and fish pathology, including both wild and farmed fish. Prof Nowak has been working on fish health management and disease control. She has been actively involved in Atlantic salmon and tuna health research and collaborated with aquaculture industry worldwide. She is the world expert on amoebic gill disease. Prof Nowak is recognized as world expert in aquaculture (top 0.013%) by PubMed's Expertscape. She has been listed as 129th, out of 27,800 fisheries specialists and included in the top 2% of world scientists in any discipline. Prof Nowak has mentored more than 40 PhD students, and co-authored more than 250 peer-reviewed publications. Prof Nowak is Associate Editor of Journal of Fish Diseases and PeerJ and a member of the Editorial Board of Acta Ichthyologia et Piscatoria. She has received numerous awards for her research and supervision of PhD students. Prof Nowak was elected Fellow of Australian Academy of Science in 2021.

## Professor Ala Tabor



Prof Ala Tabor joined The University of Queensland's QAAFI's Centre for Animal Science in 2010, after 18 years with the Queensland Government. She is a research focussed academic with a strong background in industry engagement associated with animal health and agricultural biotechnologies with over 100 research publications. Her research interests are associated with the application of genomic sequence data to improve animal disease management. Areas studied to date include bovine reproductive diseases, Australian paralysis tick (*Ixodes holocyclus*), cattle tick (*Rhipicephalus microplus* species complex), and tick-borne diseases. Some key outputs of her work include the application of reverse vaccinology for the development of a novel cattle tick vaccine and paralysis tick vaccine (patents pending), and commercialized diagnostic tools for bovine reproductive diseases. In the last 20 years, Prof Tabor has held ~\$AUD20 million in competitive

grants including \$7m as a collaborator/mentor. Current research includes bovine biomarkers and microbiomes for disease resistance, genomics of ticks and bovine venereal disease pathogens, tick fever genotyping/detection, bovine trichomoniasis vaccine development, and diagnostic assay development for bovine genital campylobacteriosis. Her research vision is to translate her research outcomes into viable products and methods for the benefit of cattle producers and pet owners.

## Professor Rebecca Traub



Rebecca is a Professor of Veterinary Parasitology and ARC Future Fellow and at the University of Melbourne. Rebecca's research covers the field of One Health, with a focus on the diagnosis, epidemiology and control of neglected tropical diseases encompassing parasitic zoonoses, companion animal vector-borne diseases and human soil transmitted helminthiases, with much of her research based in the Asia Pacific. In 2015, Rebecca founded the non-for-profit organisation, the Tropical Council for Companion Animal Parasites ([www.troccap.com](http://www.troccap.com)). Rebecca was awarded the John Adrian Sprent Prize in 2005 and the Bancroft Mackerras Medal of Excellence in 2019, by the Australian Society for Parasitology. She now serves as President.