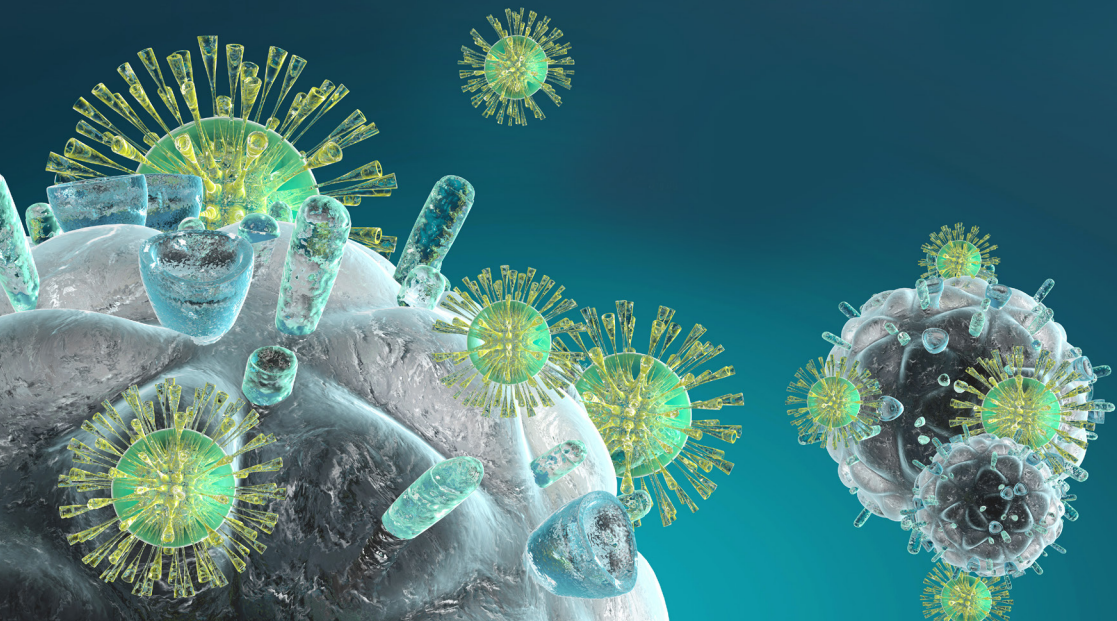




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# CONTENTS

|                             |          |                                  |           |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>WELCOME.....</b>         | <b>3</b> | Connie Jackaman.....             | 10        |
| <b>CODE OF CONDUCT.....</b> | <b>4</b> | Michaela Lucas.....              | 12        |
| <b>ABOUT ASI.....</b>       | <b>5</b> | Bruce Lyons.....                 | 13        |
| <b>ASI FACULTY .....</b>    | <b>5</b> | Shalin Naik.....                 | 14        |
| Robert Brink.....           | 5        | Joanne Reed.....                 | 14        |
| Vanessa Bryant.....         | 7        | Iain Comerford.....              | 15        |
| Georgina Clarke.....        | 8        | Lisa Ebert.....                  | 15        |
| Susanne Heinzel.....        | 8        | Katherine Kedzierska.....        | 16        |
| Christian Engwerda.....     | 9        | Michelle Wykes.....              | 17        |
| Kate Schroder.....          | 9        | <b>SPONSORS .....</b>            | <b>19</b> |
| Anselm Enders.....          | 10       | <b>ORGANISING COMMITTEE.....</b> | <b>19</b> |

# WELCOME TO ASI 2021!

**We warmly welcome you to the 2nd Advanced Immunology School, here at Longpoint Conference Centre Sydney. We meet on the traditional country of the Darug nation and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.**

The goal of ASI Advanced Immunology School is to immerse selected early career researchers in cutting-edge basic and clinical immunological research in a friendly environment. This 3-day course will combine presentations from experts in the field and round-table discussions, providing an in-depth view of state-of-the-art advances and emerging themes in immunology. The theme of this AIS is 'Immune Challenges'. Speakers expertise ranges from autoimmunity, infection control, innate and adaptive immunity and cancer immunology. There will also be a technical talk focusing on state-of-the-art single cell technologies.

Further training and career development opportunities are provided in the form of workshops, which will focus on grant and paper writing and careers in science.

There are also many opportunities relax and interact with the teaching faculty and delegates, which we hope will foster new collaborations and professional networks. The aim of this school is to engage, interact, learn and enjoy and there will be prizes for outstanding contributions by the delegates, so don't be shy.

We encourage social media! Post to our tag @ASImmunology on facebook and use #ASIAdvImmSchool on Twitter when sharing with your friends and colleagues back in the lab.

We anticipate the AIS will be an enjoyable and enriching experience that will equip you with skills, ideas and networks that you can apply immediately in your research and memories for years to come. Most importantly, we hope you have a fun and enjoyable time and that you'll leave with a new level of excitement about the part of our body that is so important to our health, the all-amazing immune system!

We thank you once again for your interest in the Advanced Immunology School and we are really looking forward to connecting with you over the coming days!

With warm regards,  
Susanne Heinzl, Joanne Reed, Tyani Chan, Eee Shan Pang, Debbie Burnett.  
The ASI-AIS 2021 Organising Committee

# CODE OF CONDUCT

## MEMBERS CONDUCT

An appropriate standard of professional conduct is expected from members at all ASI meetings and events. Concerns about breaches of this conduct should be brought to the immediate attention of a member of the meeting organising committee or society executive.

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## SOCIAL MEDIA ETIQUETTE

Whilst we encourage engagement on social media from attendees we realise that sharing unpublished results without the speakers consent may compromise the ability to publish in scientific journals in the future and/or progress of the research.

We therefore ask attendees to:

- » Refrain from recording and/or reproducing audio, video or photos from oral and poster presentations unless explicit permission is granted from the presenter
- » Communicate across social media platforms in a respectful manner

## DO

- » Keep phones on silent during sessions!
- » Post to our tag @ASImmunology on facebook and use #ASIAdvImmSchool on Twitter when sharing with your friends and colleagues back in the lab.
- » Enjoy making new connections at the meeting and communicate in a respectful manner

## DON'T

- » Post any photos of others' primary data
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## DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

The Organising Committee will not accept liability for damages of any nature sustained by participants or their accompanying persons or loss of or damage to their personal property as a result of the meeting or related events.

Should the event be cancelled due to COVID-related travel restrictions for any particular region/s, the Organising Committee shall endeavour to reschedule. The attendee will receive a full refund on the registration fee, but the attendee hereby indemnifies and holds the Organising Committee unaccountable for all travel and quarantine -related costs, damages and expenses.

# ABOUT ASI

The Australian and New Zealand Society for Immunology Incorporated (ASI) was created by the amalgamation in 1991 of the Australian Society for Immunology, formed in 1970, and the New Zealand Society for Immunology, formed in 1975. The aim of the Society is to encourage and support the discipline of immunology in the Australasian region.

It is a broadly-based Society, embracing clinical and experimental, cellular and molecular immunology in humans and animals. The ASI provides a network for the exchange of information and for collaboration within Australia, New Zealand and overseas. ASI members have been prominent in advancing biological and medical research worldwide. We seek to encourage the study of immunology in Australia and New Zealand and are active in introducing young scientists to the discipline.

## ASI FACULTY

### **ROBERT BRINK** Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Prof Robert Brink obtained his PhD in 1992 from the University of Sydney (Centenary Institute), studying the mechanisms that prevent autoantibody production by self-reactive B cells. He worked at the Whitehead Institute in Boston from 1994-96 before returning to the Centenary Institute where he developed a series of genetically modified mouse models to investigate antibody responses and lymphocyte development. In 2006 Prof Brink was recruited to the Garvan Institute in Sydney to head the B Cell Biology group. He served as Head of the Institute's Immunology Division from 2010-14 and established the MEGA facility for production of GM mice using CRISPR/Cas9 technology. His major research focus continues to be the regulation of B cell survival and antibody production during immune and autoimmune responses with particular interest in the regulation and function of the germinal centre reaction.



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## **VANESSA BRYANT** Walter and Elisa Hall Institute



Dr Vanessa Bryant's research aims to solve the underlying genomic and functional causes of rare disorders of the immune system, focusing on the variable disorder Common Variable Immunodeficiency (CVID), both as a primary immunodeficiency in itself, and as a model for other complex immune disorders. Dr Bryant's research combines functional genomics with quantitative immunology to transform the way we approach and treat rare and complex immune diseases. Her research has identified novel CVID genes and mutations responsible for disease, including discovery NFKappaB1 deficiency, now recognised as the largest monogenic cause of CVID. This discovery has greatly

accelerated diagnoses for patients worldwide, facilitating early access to treatment to avoid significant complications of untreated and unmanaged disease.

Dr Bryant is the inaugural Sir Clive McPherson Family Research Fellow and a Royal Melbourne Hospital DW Keir Fellow. She is a Laboratory Head in the Immunology Division at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and Clinical Scientist at The Royal Melbourne Hospital. Vanessa completed her PhD in immunology at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research in Sydney with Prof. Stuart Tangye, before performing her postdoctoral research with Prof. Jean-Laurent Casanova at The Rockefeller University in New York.

Dr Bryant leads clinical genomics programs aimed to implement early, accurate gene-based diagnoses for people with suspected rare primary immunodeficiency to allow early and targeted care and avoid the complications of unmanaged disease. Dr Bryant also co-leads COVID PROFILE, a longitudinal clinical study of immunity to COVID-19.

---

## GEORGINA CLARKE *University of Sydney*



A/Professor Georgina Clark started research life as a molecular immunologist with an interest in leucocyte surface molecules and antibody engineering. She was awarded her PhD from the University of Melbourne, completed postdoctoral studies at Oxford University and has worked at the Christchurch Medical School, University of Otago, Mater Medical Research Institute, ANZAC Research Institute and the University of Sydney. Her research spans studies in human and mouse biology allowing a focus on translational research from mouse to human then bench to commercialisation to enable progression to first in human trials. Her work led her to chair the Human Leucocyte Differentiation Council

which is the peak body for nomenclature and validation of antibodies to human leucocyte membrane molecules. A/Prof Clark heads Dendritic Cell Research at the ANZAC Research Institute where she is also currently acting in the Director role.

The cell surface molecules that are of interest to A/Prof Clark are those expressed by human dendritic and myeloid cells, and to which antibodies can be developed as immune therapies for cancer. Together, Dendritic Cell Research has developed a human anti-human CD83 antibody as a novel immunosuppressive agent which has been spun out into a biotech start-up, Kira Biotech Pty Ltd to progress commercialisation towards first in human trials and beyond. The group continues to develop humanised antibodies targeting CD300 molecules as therapeutics for acute myeloid leukemia and novel phagocytic checkpoints to induce anti-tumour responses to cancer.

---

## SUSANNE HEINZEL *Walter and Eliza Hall Institute*



Dr Susanne Heinzel is a cellular immunologist at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for Medical Research in Melbourne. Her work focuses on the quantitative analysis of the rules that govern the activation, survival and differentiation of T and B lymphocytes in health and disease. She is interested to understand the signal integration and regulation of cell fate decisions in lymphocytes. She has discovered the role of the oncogene Myc as a 'division timer' in healthy lymphocytes. Her recent work has been published in journals such as Science, Nat Immunology, Nat Comms, JI and PNAS. She is the founder of the ASI-AIS and was president of the ASI 2017-2018.

---



## CHRISTIAN ENGWERDA

QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute



Christian Engwerda studies the behaviour of T cells during parasitic infections with a particular focus on understanding how T cells are controlled. His group works with experimental models of malaria and leishmaniasis, and in recent years, have increasingly concentrated on studying samples from volunteers deliberately infected with parasites, as well as from malaria and leishmaniasis patients. The goal of their research is to improve anti-parasitic immunity using host-directed treatments in combination with vaccines and/or anti-parasitic drugs. They also use their discoveries in parasitic diseases to guide development of new treatments for chronic inflammatory conditions.

---

## KATE SCHRODER University of Queensland



Professor Kate Schroder heads the Inflammasome Laboratory at the Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB), University of Queensland, as an NHMRC RD Wright Fellow. She is also the Director of the IMB Centre for Inflammation and Disease Research, the Chair of the IMB Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Kate's graduate studies with Prof David Hume defined novel macrophage activation mechanisms, and her PhD was awarded in 2005. Her subsequent postdoctoral research with Profs Hume and Sweet identified surprising inter-species divergence in the inflammatory programs of human versus mouse macrophages (PNAS USA, 2012). As an NHMRC CJ Martin Fellow

in Switzerland, Kate then trained with Prof Jürg Tschopp, a pioneer in the fields of inflammasome and cell death signalling pathways. Kate returned to Australia, and was appointed an IMB Lab Head in 2013. Kate's laboratory investigates the molecular mechanisms governing inflammasome activity and caspase activation, the cell biology of inflammation, cell death and host defence, and mechanisms of inflammasome inhibition by cellular pathways and new small molecule inhibitors. UQ start-up company, Inflazome (recently bought by Roche) is poised to start Phase 2 human clinical trials of these compounds as novel anti-inflammatory therapeutics. Kate served on the Inflazome Scientific Advisory Board from 2016-2017.

---

## **ANSELM ENDERS** The John Curtin School of Medical Research



Anselm's laboratory focuses on elucidating the genes and mechanisms controlling the development and function of B cells and other lymphocytes. To find new genes involved in B cell development we do screening of mice after random ENU mutagenesis. This process has led to the discovery of essential roles for different genes in the development, survival or function of B cells. Some key results were the discovery that defects in ATP11C, a phospholipid transporter, block early B cell development in the bone marrow and that the endosomal peptidase SPPL2A is essential for the survival of mature B cells. In NHMRC funded research projects they are currently following up on these

discoveries to understand the molecular mechanism underlying the observed defects. Another recent focus in his group is the identification of novel causes for primary human immunodeficiencies. In collaboration with clinical groups in Australia and overseas they have sequenced the genome of patients without a known genetic cause. This has led to the discovery of the most likely causal mutation in different genes that were previously not known to be involved in the immune system. They are currently generating mouse models with the same mutations to better understand the molecular basis for the disease.

---

## **CONNIE JACKAMAN** Curtin University



Dr Connie Jackaman works on ageing and innate immune responses and is currently based at Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute (CHIRI), Curtin University, Western Australia. She completed her PhD in tumour immunology, followed by postdoctoral training in muscle pathology and related diseases. She moved to CHIRI, Curtin University in 2012 and leads the Immunoageing Lab investigating myeloid cell function in the elderly. Her current research is focussed on examining the impact of dysregulated myeloid cell inflammation on age-related diseases/comorbidities, including musculoskeletal injury/muscle diseases, dementia and cancer.

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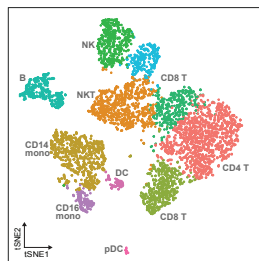
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## MICHAELA LUCAS University of Western Australia



Clinical Professor Michaela Lucas is an Immunologist/ Immunopathologist and Clinician-Scientist with appointments at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (SCGH), the Perth Children’s Hospital, and The University of Western Australia, where she leads a multi-disciplinary team of clinical and basic science researchers, microsurgeons and technicians, at the Immunology and Transplantation Lab. Following medical training in Germany, she completed a Marie Curie Research Fellowship and postdoctoral position at the University of Oxford where she studied liver T-cell immunology. Her research interests and expertise now span T cell immunology including the pathogenesis of T cell

mediated drug allergies, anti-viral T cell responses, vaccine development, and most recently understanding the role of inflammation in the development of adaptive immunity in organ transplantation.

Professor Lucas’s research has produced over 100 peer-reviewed papers. She has held multiple NHMRC and ACH2 grants as a principle and co-investigator, and has led investigator-driven randomised controlled trials in antibiotic allergy, as well as serving as Principal Investigator at the SCGH site for the multi-centre BRACE Trial, investigating the BCG vaccination to reduce the impact of COVID-19 in Australian healthcare workers following Coronavirus Exposure. She is a leading clinician in the field of Drug Allergy in Australia having established national guidelines in drug allergy management. She is the President of the Australasian Society of Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA), Chair of the ASCIA Drug Allergy Committee, and the project lead in Drug Allergy for the National Allergy Strategy. She consults for the Australian Digital Health Agency on the My Health Record initiative and the Australian Health and Safety Agency on drug allergy documentation. In addition, she participates in the National Organ Transplantation Service, and is a clinical expert on immunosuppression, including the use of novel biological agents and routine immunosuppressive medications.

---

## BRUCE LYONS

### Tasmanian School of Medicine, University of Tasmania



I received my PhD from the University of Adelaide on 'Human myeloid differentiation antigens', then spent 18 months at the IMVS examining cytokine control of histamine release. This was followed by postdoc training in Edinburgh on Ig v region use and apoptotic mechanisms of CLL cells, before joining Chris Parish's lab at JCSMR, where I investigated control of lymphocyte migration amongst other things and developed the CFSE cell division tracking methodology for which I am best known.

After Canberra, I was a Research Fellow in the Discipline of Pathology in Hobart, continuing work on splenic lymphocyte migration. I then returned to Adelaide to work on small molecule inhibitors of CML and their off-target immune effects at the IMVS. During this time, I also managed a central flow and imaging facility in the IMVS/Hanson Institute. Prior to re-joining the School of Medicine in Tasmania, I led the in vivo mouse work for a vaccine adjuvant start-up (Vaxine Ltd) based at Flinders University in Adelaide.

At UTAS, I had a balanced research and teaching position, leading the Tasmanian devil immunology group with Emeritus Prof Greg Woods, with the primary aim of developing a vaccine for devil facial tumour disease (DFTD). Since January 2021, I have held a research-only adjunct position, continuing my investigations of devil immunity and DFTD.

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## SHALIN NAIK **Walter and Elisa Hall Institute**

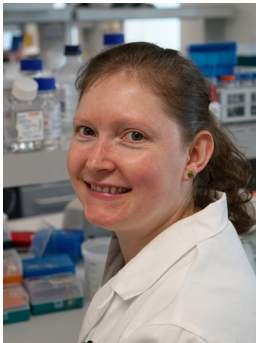


Dr Naik is a graduate of the University of QLD (Microbiology & Biochemistry) where he did Honours with Prof. David Hume on macrophage activation by CpG DNA. After a 2-year hiatus in London, he returned to Melbourne to do his PhD with Prof. Ken Shortman on dendritic cell development at WEHI. It was here he gained an interest in single cell tracking and fate determination in biology and was awarded his PhD in 2006. Interested in the emerging technology of ‘cellular barcoding’ Dr Naik did his postdoc in the laboratory of Prof. Ton Schumacher at the Netherlands Cancer Institute, where he traced the single cell output of haematopoietic stem and

progenitor cells in vivo. After returning to WEHI in 2013, he was later appointed as a Laboratory Head in the Immunology Division where his lab uses single cell systems biology to investigate immunology, cancer and development. He also setup and led the Single Cell Open Research Endeavour (SCORE) at WEHI – a collaborative centre for single cell technology, experimental design and computational projects.

---

## JOANNE REED **Garvan Institute of Medical Research**



Dr. Joanne Reed is a Group Leader at the Garvan Institute, Conjoint Senior Lecturer at UNSW and Co-Chair of ASI’s Advanced Immunology School. She has a long-standing interest in autoimmune disease, particularly the origins and pathogenesis of autoantibodies. Joanne completed her PhD at Flinders University, Adelaide in 2009, studying Sjogren’s syndrome and lupus. She was then awarded an NHMRC CJ Martin Fellowship for postdoctoral training at New York University, where she worked on neonatal lupus. In 2013 she returned to Australia to continue her research on autoimmune disease at Australian National University before relocating to the Garvan

Institute in 2015. Joanne currently leads a translational research program focused on understanding autoantibody-mediated autoimmune disease. Her team recently developed single cell genomic approaches to study patient B cells responsible for severe autoimmune pathology, with the goal of identifying targeted therapies.

---

## **IAIN COMERFORD** Adelaide University



Dr Comerford completed his Ph.D. in chemokine biology and immunology at the Beatson Institute for Cancer Research and the University of Glasgow with Professor Robert Nibbs in 2005. He then joined the Chemokine Biology Laboratory at the University of Adelaide with Professor Shaun McColl, focussing on regulation of the immune system by atypical chemokine receptors. Since then, he has been the recipient of fellowships and project grant funding from MS Research Australia, holds project grant funding from the Cancer Council SA, the NHMRC and is a research fellow & lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Adelaide and co-leads the Chemokine Biology Laboratory.

His current research interests are in the regulation of T cells during the resolution of inflammation during infection and autoimmunity; the migration of T cells into solid tumours; and the role of atypical chemokine receptors in shaping functional chemokine gradients.

---

## **LISA EBERT** University of South Australia



Dr Lisa Ebert has spent over 20 years researching the immune system, cancer, and interactions between the two. She completed her PhD in 2002 at the University of Adelaide, and then undertook postdoctoral research positions at the University of Bern in Switzerland (2002 – 2005) and at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research in Melbourne (2005 – 2010). During this time, she developed a focus on understanding how the immune system interacts with cancer, and using this knowledge to develop and improve cancer immunotherapies.

In 2011, she returned to Adelaide as Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Cancer Biology – a unique alliance between the South Australian public health system and the University of South Australia. Her current research is focussed on developing CAR-T cell therapies for brain cancer, and identifying key factors which determine the success of checkpoint blockade immunotherapies in melanoma patients. These studies are conducted at the interface between laboratory and clinic, with close ties to the Royal Adelaide Hospital Cancer Clinical Trials Unit.

---

## KATHERINE KEDZIERSKA

### Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity



Katherine received her PhD from Monash University in 2002 for her studies on the mechanisms underlying defective immune functions after HIV infection. Her PhD work was recognised by the 2001 Premier's Commendation for Medical Research, 2002 Monash University Mollie Holman Doctoral Medal and an NHMRC Peter Doherty Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her postdoctoral research with Laureate Professor Peter Doherty at University of Melbourne. Her postdoctoral work was focused on the early establishment of influenza-specific CD8+ T cell memory, TCR repertoire diversity and viral escape in a mouse model of influenza virus infection. In 2007, she

got awarded an NHMRC RD Wright Fellowship and grant funding to establish her own research team.

She is currently an NHMRC Investigator Fellow and a group leader of 'Human T cell Laboratory' in Department of Microbiology and Immunology at University of Melbourne. Her research interests include human T cell immunity to pandemic, seasonal and newly emerged influenza viruses, anti-viral immunity in the young, the elderly and Indigenous Australians, viral escape and generation of immunological memory in human influenza infection. She also studies human immunity to SARS-CoV2 in COVID-19 patients.

Katherine is a recipient of a number of prestigious awards, including 2016 Australian Academy of Science Jacque Miller Medal, 2011 NHMRC Excellence Award and 2011 Scopus Young Researcher of the Year Award. She is a Co-Head of Indigenous Health at the Doherty Institute. In 2019, she was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science (AAHMS).

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## **MICHELLE WYKES** Queensland Institute of Medical Research



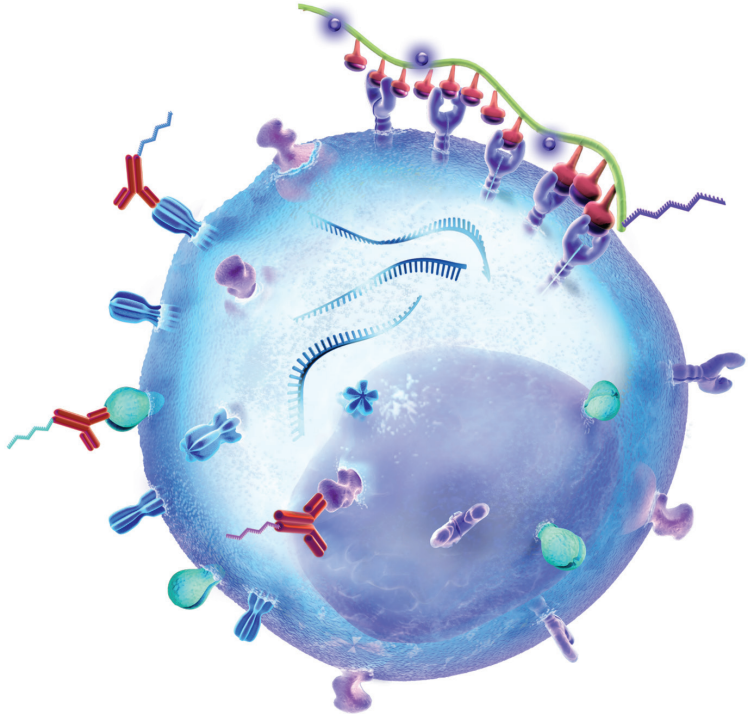
Associate Professor Michelle Wykes is Group Leader of the Molecular Immunology Laboratory at the QIMR Berghofer. She is an expert on “immune checkpoints” which are the basis for a new type of cancer treatment known as “immunotherapy”. Her research in “immune checkpoints” started when she was looking for the reason *Plasmodium* spp, which cause malaria, could evade immunity.

Her laboratory initially discovered Programmed cell death1 Ligand 2 (PD-L2) was contrary to dogma, not a “brake” on the immune system, but actually an essential activator of immunity. In 2014, they identified the second “activating” receptor for PD-L2 and with

an NHMRC development grant (2016-2018) funding made fully human therapeutic antibodies to this target which were licensed to Merck KGaA in 2020. In 2019, she was awarded a second NHMRC development grant (2019-2021) to develop a novel immune biologic and in 2020 awarded 1 of only 3 Australia/NZ CSL Research Accelerator Initiative prizes to advance her novel immune inhibitor in collaboration with CSL.

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