



LIFE SCIENCES WA

Issue 14 brings you the latest news in the agriculture, aquaculture and health sectors. Read on to find out how you can apply for an exciting scholarship in the STEM field, a promising discovery for drought tolerant crops, and three upcoming events open for registrations.

Four UWA researchers recognised in Premier's Science Awards

An artificial intelligence developer, an inventor of cancer imaging devices and PhD students researching aneurysm growth and attitudes towards transgender young people have been honoured in the 2022 Premier's Science Awards.

The four scientists from The University of Western Australia were announced as winners of the awards, which celebrate the achievements of the WA science community, at a ceremony in Perth last week.

Image: Joint ExxonMobil Student Scientist of the Year winner and Life Sciences WA Committee member, Nikhilesh Bappoo.



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Bacteria fighting research commercialised by biotech startup

A company founded by The University of Western Australia is developing technology to fight potentially deadly antimicrobial resistance Lixa, which was launched last night, was formed to capitalise on technology that infiltrates bacteria and was developed by researchers from UWA's School of Biomedical Sciences.

Image: Dr Angela Fonseca is the co-founder of Lixa.



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The WiSTEM2D Scholars Award Program - Applications Now Open

The 2023 #WiSTEM2D Scholars Award applications are now open. The Johnson & Johnson Scholars Award Program aims to fuel development of female STEM2D leaders and feed the STEM2D talent pipeline by awarding and sponsoring women at critical points in their careers, in each of the STEM2D disciplines: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Manufacturing and Design.

Applications for the 2023 WiSTEM2D Scholars Award are now open. The deadline to apply is **September 30th**.



[Apply Now](#)

Scientists investigate the ups and downs of the lives of sharks and rays

An international team of scientists, including from The University of Western Australia and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), have carried out research into how sharks, rays and skates – also known as elasmobranchs – use the ocean depths.



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Microplastics continue to cause havoc to our environment

New research and footage captured by Murdoch University scientists show how damaging microplastics are to the environment with particles posing potential threat to organisms when ingested.

A new analysis using a novel elutriation method, a case study on abundance and spatial distribution of microplastics, led by Head of Discipline Environmental and Conservation Sciences Jennifer Verduin, shows microplastics accumulate at a density of 43 particles per kilogram of sediment.



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Medical product development to target chronic conditions

Medical diagnostic products developed by The University of Western Australia and Proteomics International will be commercialised by a new business entity, which could help people with chronic disease as well as other conditions.

Proteomics International Laboratories announced the spin-off of the independent company OxiDx, which will focus on developing products to measure oxidative stress.

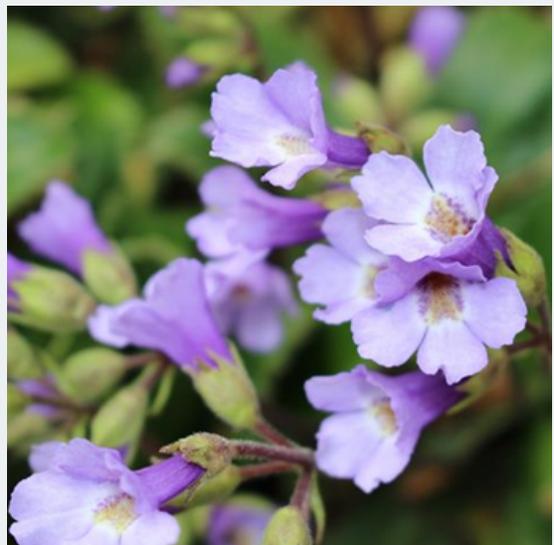


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Rare resurrection plant may hold clues for drought tolerant crops

A rare plant that can 'resurrect' itself after prolonged periods without water could hold clues to improve drought resistance in crops.

Dr Monika Murcha and Dr Aneta Ivanova, from The University of Western Australia's School of Molecular Sciences, worked on a collaborative project with an international team which included scientists from the AgroBioInstitute in Bulgaria where the Orpheus plant, *Haberlea rhodopensis*, grows in the mountains.



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Life Sciences WA Student Career Night - Meet the Employers and Understand their Expectations

Join us for Life Sciences WA's inaugural student event where we will bridge the gap between employer expectations and students and graduates seeking employment in the sector.

Get a step ahead and be prepared when you apply for internships and future roles. Understand the do's and don'ts of seeking employment in Life Sciences and hear from employers and students in the sector who have successfully completed internships and received employment offers. Most importantly, learn how to transfer your current research skills into a busy life sciences business!

Biotech Advancement and Acceleration - The WA Way

Business Luncheon with The Hon Mr Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Medical Research, Innovation and ICT and The Hon Ben Wyatt, Board Member, Telethon Kids Institute.

The medical technology, biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector contributed \$5.5 billion to the Australian economy in 2021 and supported 73,000 jobs across the country. 22 September is your opportunity to meet industry leaders, entertain investors, incentivise your team, and gain greater awareness of the Health and Medical Life Sciences industry in Western Australia and the opportunities it presents for job creation and economic development.



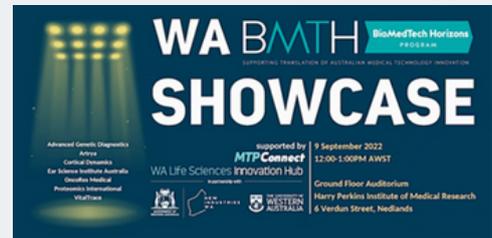
[Register](#)



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There's still time to register for the WA BMTH Showcase!

Join MTPConnect tomorrow as they celebrate some of WA's outstanding medtech organisations at the WA BMTH showcase, featuring an opening address by the Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC, WA's Minister for Innovation, ICT and Medical Research. The Australian Government's \$45 million BioMedTech Horizons program (BMTH), is a Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) initiative to support innovative collaborative health technologies, drive discoveries towards proof-of-concept and commercialisation that address key health challenges as well as maximise entrepreneurship and idea potential.



[Register](#)

Register for Australia's biggest week in biotech

AusBiotech 2022 is a must-attend event as we come alive in person for the first time in three years. Join us as we gather with colleagues, old and new, for a week of networking and business opportunities. Championing our sector, AusBiotech 2022 is set to deliver an exciting lineup of speakers, programme sessions, and networking opportunities as we celebrate the return of meeting face-to-face.



[Register](#)

Join us in-person for Australia's largest life sciences conference at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

