



LIFE SCIENCES WA

Welcome to Issue 17 - the first Life Sciences WA Newsletter of 2023! Read on to find out the latest news in the agriculture, aquaculture, and health sectors, as well as an array of upcoming events and grant opportunities to kickstart the new year.

### **Life Sciences WA Investment Series: Investor Meets Innovator Podcasts**

Conversations about investing in the life sciences 101 are now available for listening! Visit the Podcasts link to listen to all seven episodes.



[Podcasts](#)

### **Innovative crop breeding method to meet global demand for grains**

Crop grain yields are stalling due to climate change, while the global demand for grains is expected to double by 2050.

Plant breeding researchers from The University of Western Australia's Institute of Agriculture, in collaboration with animal breeding researchers at University of New England (UNE), have developed a novel crop breeding method that achieved very high rates of genetic gain in canola in Australia and Canada.



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## **Clinical trial for new stroke therapy returns positive results after healthy volunteer dosing**

Participant dosing in the Phase 1 clinical trial to test the safety of ARG-007 has been completed, with healthy participants showing no serious adverse events.

This neuroprotective peptide drug developed by researchers at the Perron Institute and The University of Western Australia is a novel therapeutic aimed at reducing brain tissue death after ischaemic stroke.



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## **Australia's iconic black swans have a worrying immune system deficiency, new genome study finds**

For years, scientists have known bird flu kills every black swan it infects. This means if the disease made it to the Australian continent, it would be an existential threat to this iconic Aussie species.

A new study published today in *Genome Biology* finally reveals the gene contributions that make black swans particularly prone to falling victim to infectious diseases.



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## **AIRO partners with UWA bone and regenerative biology experts**

The Australian Institute of Robotic Orthopaedics (AIRO) is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded an Innovation Connections grant of \$50,000 from the AusIndustry Entrepreneurs' Programme. This funding will be instrumental in optimising the process for AIRO's proprietary High-speed Intelligent Laser Osteotomy (HAILO™) system's directed energy osteotomy (DEO™) parameters.

Pictured: Dr Jacob Kenny (Left), Sam Withers (Middle), and Associate Professor Nathan Pavlos (Right)



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## **Study points to potential new treatment for osteoporosis**

Research led by The University of Western Australia has identified a new type of human protein known as an ADR3 i-body that could be used to stop bone breakdown and as a treatment for osteoporosis.

Professor Jiake Xu, from UWA's School of Biomedical Sciences, said that osteoporosis is a common disease characterised by the increased break down of bone leading to a higher risk of fracture.



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## Women in Leadership Development (WILD) Program® 2023 cohort announced!

Congratulations to our West Australian leaders:

- **Tolu Okitika** MPH, PMP, Senior Program Manager at Telethon Kids Institute
- **Roop Judge**, BD and Commercialisation Manager - West, Grains Research and Development Corporation
- **Tracey Wilkinson**, Director Stakeholder Engagement at MTPConnect in the in the WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub
- **Alma Fulurija**, Program Director, Australian Strep A Vaccine Initiative at Telethon Kids Institute and Founder and Director, Biotome Pty Ltd

The WILD Program is a year-long leadership and career accelerator program designed to support the development of future female STEM leaders and growing Australia's STEM economy.



Register

## The Biotech Directory

The Biotech Directory is an online directory for companies operating in the broader biotechnology space – including pharmaceuticals, medical devices and AgBio, as well as the various service providers and suppliers that serve the industry.

Currently at launch stage, The Biotech Directory is pleased to offer Life Science WA subscribers a free listing. Simply enter in the code “lswa2023” when checking out.

If you spot any issues or have suggestions for how to improve the site, please let Janet know – [janet@biotechdirectory.com.au](mailto:janet@biotechdirectory.com.au)

The Biotech Directory

## Call for Applications: FHRI Fund Distinguished Fellows Program

Applications are invited for the Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund Distinguished Fellows Program.

The FHRI Fund Distinguished Fellows Program aims to attract outstanding and innovative world-class research leaders (the Fellows) to WA, who will lead a substantial and high-quality innovative research program.

Minimum Data Form is due by 1:00pm (AWST), Tuesday 25 July 2023.

Application Form is due by 1:00pm (AWST), Tuesday 8 August 2023.



[Apply](#)

## Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Grants - Round 14

The Round is open to all industry sectors however will have a focus on supporting projects in line with Government priorities, including the National Reconstruction Fund (NRF) priority areas- external site and the Science and Research priorities- external site. Applications that have a focus on the circular economy are also particularly encouraged as a specific government priority area.

CRC-P Round 14 is now open and will close at 17:00 AEDT on 2 March 2023.



[Apply](#)

## Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Grants – Round 24

Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Grants provide funding for medium to long-term, industry-led research collaborations.

CRC Round 24 is now open for applications and closes on Tuesday 7 March 2023 5:00pm AEDT.



Apply

## Health and medical life sciences industry: local capability fund

This Health and Medical Life Sciences local capability fund aims to assist Western Australian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that operate in this sector or are in partnership with a company in this field, with the costs of engaging external expertise to carry out the implementation and third party certification of national and international standards.

Applications are now open and closes at 5pm (AWST) on 8 March 2023.



Apply

## Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) program: Round 3 Research Projects

The Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) program, a Medical Research Future Fund initiative delivered by MTPConnect, is calling for applications to Round 3 of its Research Projects funding opportunity.

Applications for TTRA Research Projects Round 3 closes Friday 28 April 2023 at 4:00pm AEST.



Apply

## AusMedtech 2023: Call for Submissions

The annual AusMedtech conference brings together a diverse group of innovative thinkers and inventors in medtech and life sciences. We invite session submissions for the following presentation and session types: discussion panels, keynote and/or plenary, fora and workshops.



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## Science on the Swan 2023: Call for Submissions

The Science on the Swan 2023 conference we will highlight the key emerging strategic research strategies and partnerships underpinning and influencing the Western Australian medical health and research sector.



[Read More](#)

The call for abstracts deadline is Friday 27 February 2023.

## Illuminate PitchFest - 15/02/2023

The Illuminate PitchFest will shine a light on the next generation of world-class research, happening right here at Telethon Kids Institute.

This inaugural event offers a platform for emerging researchers to develop and refine their research ideas with resources and mentorship, with ten trailblazing researchers – selected from the Institute’s internal academic panel – to pitch their research projects in the hopes of securing an Illuminate Award.



[Register](#)

## WA MTP Sector Spotlight Series - Good Cyber Security Practice - 23/02/2023

The MTPConnect WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub invites you to join the monthly WA MTP Sector Spotlight Series event in partnership with the WA AustCyber Innovation Hub. This Spotlight is an opportunity for representatives from across the MTP sector to connect, collaborate and learn about cyber security and why it matters for companies, innovators, and researchers.



[Register](#)

## An Unfinished Life: The True Impact of Antibiotic Resistance (Perth) - 03/03/2023

Join Lixa and the AMR Awareness Australia Mission to help advance the fight against superbugs by attending the Australian Premiere of the internationally acclaimed documentary, *Salt in my Soul*, followed by an interactive discussion forum with US #AMR influencer, Diane Shader Smith, CARB-X's Chief Scientist Richard Alm, and the Australian scientists, clinicians and policy makers at the coalface of #antimicrobialresistance.



[Register](#)

