



LIFE SCIENCES WA

Issue 18 brings you the latest news in the agriculture, aquaculture, and health sectors. Read on to find out about a WA developed drug which may help treat Alzheimer's, a New barley gene to help crops cope with a changing climate, and an impressive line-up of events leading us into the tail end of March.

## WA developed drug candidate may help treat Alzheimer's

A neuroprotective drug candidate being trialled in Western Australia for stroke may also be beneficial for treating Alzheimer's disease.

The novel therapeutic ARG-007 has been developed by researchers at WA's Perron Institute and The University of Western Australia and is currently at the clinical trial stage as an early intervention treatment to reduce brain damage in stroke.

*Pictured: Professor Bruno Meloni and Dr Liz Dallimore in the Perron Institute lab (photo credit: CCIWA).*



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## Major grant to investigate threats to peatland ecosystems in south-west WA

World-class research into critical peatland ecosystems in Western Australia's South West has received a \$1.3 million funding boost from The Ian Potter Foundation, one of Australia's major philanthropic organisations.

The project, PEAT - Protecting Peatland Ecosystems and Addressing Threats in Southwestern Australia, led by conservation biologist Associate Professor Nicki Mitchell from the School of Biological Sciences at The University of Western Australia, will initially focus on mapping peatlands and describing their geodiversity, hydrology and biodiversity.



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## New molecule discovery linked to bone disease

An international team of scientists including 15 researchers from The University of Western Australia has discovered a molecule linked to high bone density that may pave the way for new treatment options for osteoporosis and other bone health conditions.

More than six million Australians aged over 50 live with poor bone health, the most common condition being osteoporosis.



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## **New barley gene to help crops cope with a changing climate**

Western Australian plant geneticists have played an integral role in identifying a new semidwarf gene to breed barley crops that can better withstand climate change.

The collaboration between the Western Crop Genetics Alliance, University of Tasmania and Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science offers a new opportunity for developing barley varieties that can adapt to modern farming conditions.

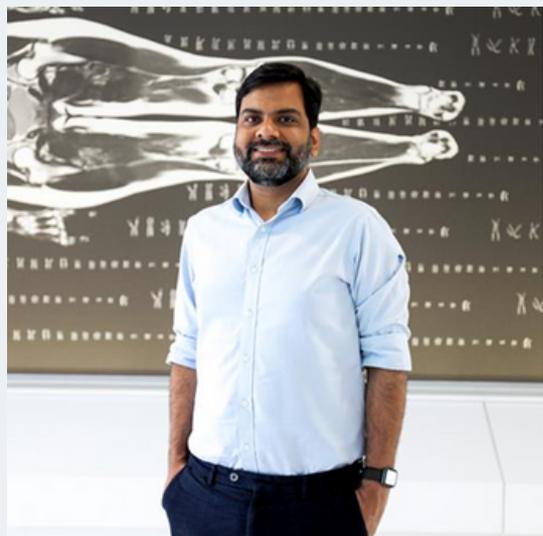


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## **Predicting relapse for one of the world's deadliest cancers**

Perth cancer researchers are on track to improve the outcomes of patients with the most common type of primary liver cancer.

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is one of the most aggressive cancer types. Patients typically suffer a high rate of treatment failures. Perth cancer researcher Dr Ankur Sharma said the key to better outcomes is early detection of new tumours and subsequent treatment response.



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*Pictured: Dr Ankur Sharma*

## Presentation and Q&A with Enterprise Singapore - 20/03/2023

Learn about the Singapore MTP ecosystem and opportunities for partnership and collaboration from Enterprise Singapore's Regional Director Hui Wen Lim. There will be a presentation from Hui Wen followed by Q&A and networking.

This event is relevant for start-ups, SMEs, investors, and policy makers interested in the Singaporean market.



[Register](#)

## 2023 Business Insights Series - 22/03/2023

Over the coming months WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub in conjunction with Moore Australia (WA) will be hosting a series of Business Insights events to help you establish and grow your business.

Join us on Wednesday, 22 March 2023, where keynote speakers, Peter Gray and Davide Costanzo will provide valuable insights as they discuss 'How to attract investors' and 'Investing in early stage innovation companies'.



[Register](#)

## **Annual Digital Health and Telemedicine Summit 2023 - 22/03/2023**

Digital health and telemedicine is about creating inclusive and accessible healthcare, by developing innovative products and customising services to suit individual needs rather than a one-size-fits-all model.

Take a look at the future and feasibility of personalisation, the innovations in the industry and the benefits of introducing a personalised model alongside other subthemes including AI, virtual reality, gamification, wearable technology, indigenous health and remote care.



[Register](#)

## **The Biointelect Venturer Program - Perth - 23/03/2023**

The Biointelect Venturer program provides participants with a real world understanding of the investment environment for life science technologies in Australia and other key markets – helping ensure they are both partner and investor ready.

Designed for those looking to leverage external funding to accelerate the commercialisation of their solution or technology, or take their start-up to the next level.



[Register](#)

## WA MTP Sector Spotlight Series ft. Australian Clinical Trials Alliance - 28/03/2023

The monthly series is an opportunity for representatives from across the MTP sector to connect, collaborate and learn about upcoming opportunities, and hear the stories and successes of WA organisations developing health and medical innovations. This month's event will feature insights from Professor Steve Webb's extensive clinical trial expertise and delve into how the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance can support your clinical trials with expert guidance and access to clinical trial networks. If you're developing a novel medical product (drug or device) that requires clinical adoption, this discussion is for you.



[Register](#)

## WA BioCheers - 04/05/2023

Registrations are now open for WA BioCheers on 4 May.

Reconnect with old friends and colleagues, meet new people, and find potential business partners. Expand your local network, share ideas and build relationships with members of West Australia's vibrant biotechnology community. You'll also have the opportunity to meet the WA based AusBiotech State Branch Committee and members of our national Advisory Groups.



[Register](#)

