



LIFE SCIENCES WA

Issue 21 brings you the latest news in the agriculture, aquaculture and health sectors. In our latest issue, we turn seaweed into plastic, work towards a cure for macular disease, and strap in for a busy month of events.

Perth biotech company turning seaweed into version of plastic

Plastic made from seaweed and milk that doesn't come from a cow. Those ideas may once have been seen as fanciful science fiction, but a boom in Australian biotechnology is making these discoveries, and more, the way of the future.

Seaweed could revolutionize how humans make all kinds of plastic product, according to Perth-based start-up ULUU.

Founded by Dr Julia Reisser, the company has found a way to turn natural farmed seaweed into pellets that can then be extruded into any plastic form.



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Alcolizer Technology named as a semi-finalist in the 2023 Australian Technologies Competition

Congratulations to Alcolizer Technology for being recognised as a semi-finalist in the 2023 Australian Technologies Competition. As part of the Competition, semi-finalists are invited to an exclusive two-day International Growth Masterclass and Networking Program held in Sydney.



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First genetic marker discovered for MS severity

Western Australian researchers have contributed to an international study which has identified the first genetic marker for multiple sclerosis (MS) severity.

This discovery opens the door to treatments for long-term disability in people diagnosed with this chronic disease of the central nervous system.

Pictured: Professor Allan Kermode and Dr Marzena Fabis-Pedrini, UWA Medical School

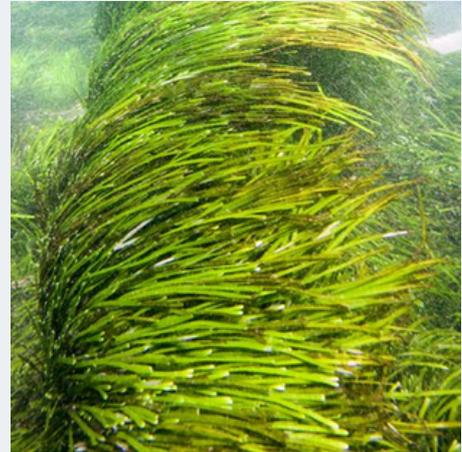


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How does the ocean's only flowering plant cope with being buried?

In water tanks at Edith Cowan University (ECU), pots containing *Posidonia sinuosa*, the most widespread species of seagrass in Cockburn Sound, have been tested to see how much burial under sediment they can withstand. The research, part of the WAMSI Westport Marine Science Program, is looking at the resilience of the ocean's only flowering plant, to dredging.

ECU researcher, Chanelle Webster, said seagrass was an important part of the ecosystem – providing not only food and habitat for marine animals but also stabilising the seabed and storing carbon which could help combat climate change.



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New research to bring hope for people with macular disease

There is new hope for people living with a form of macular disease known as diabetic macular ischaemia, thanks to an innovative research project led by Professor Chandra Balaratnasingam from the Lions Eye Institute. There is currently no treatment for DMI, in part due to a limited understanding of changes within the retinal cells that contribute to the disease.



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Gout medication gets FDA approval to treat heart disease on back of Perth LED clinical trial

Colchicine, a widely available gout medication, has received FDA approval to be used in low dose to prevent cardiovascular events in patients with proven coronary disease.

The approval to use low dose colchicine in this way comes following the discovery by Perth clinical cardiologist Dr Mark Nidorf (pictured above, left), and Professor Peter Thompson AM (above, right) from the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research.



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MTPConnect REDI Partnership

APR.Intern has partnered with MedTech and Pharma Growth Centre (MTPConnect) to increase workforce capabilities and strengthen research translation within Australia's medtech, biotech and pharmaceutical sector.

Under the agreement, MTPConnect's REDI initiative will provide eligible businesses with a \$10,000 subsidy to ease the cost of engaging a PhD student intern through APR.Intern. This subsidy lowers the cost of an internship by up to 50%, with 3-month projects starting from \$10,000.



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Curtin Ignition - Scholarship applications close 5pm 14/07/2023

Curtin Ignition is an intensive training program for aspiring entrepreneurs, academics and corporate innovators to trial and then prepare business ideas for the commercial environment.

There are over 94 scholarships on offer for new business ideas and innovations in a variety of sectors and industries.

Applications close at 5pm sharp, on Friday 14 July 2023.



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Grant Opportunities

Our Life Sciences WA grants page is overflowing with opportunities! Explore the grants, funding and support programs from government, corporations and not-for-profits to help your life sciences business grow and succeed.



[Grants Page](#)

WA MTP Sector Spotlight Series ft. Purpose Ventures - 19/07/2023

The monthly event 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 shines a spotlight on Purpose Ventures as Derek Gerrard and Kylie Gerrard share insights on their mission to support founders and scale up start-ups. Find out about their value-add and support offerings, and what long-term visions and goals are driving the fund.



[Register](#)

ISCT ANZ 2023 Regional Meeting - 16/08/2023

The International Society for Cell and Gene Therapy (ISCT), Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) regional meeting will be held in person in Perth, WA, August 16-18, 2023.

After 13 years, the ISCT ANZ annual meeting returns to WA to showcase the latest developments in cell and gene therapies. Scientific presentations from international and local speakers on day one will provide an overview of the latest developments in translational and pre-clinical research and manufacturing technologies. The day will end with a socialising event and the opportunity to network with peers, collaborators and sponsors.



[Register](#)

AgriFutures evokeAG - 20-21/02/2024

Following a sell-out 2023 event in Adelaide, evokeAG. organiser AgriFutures Australia in partnership with the Western Australian Government has announced the event will head west in February 2024.

AgriFutures evokeAG. 2024 will take place in Perth on Tuesday, 20 and Wednesday, 21 February at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. evokeAG. is the Asia Pacific region's premier agrifood tech event.



[Register](#)

Save the Date! 2024 WA BioInnovation Symposium

The 2024 WA BioInnovation Symposium will be held in Perth on the 22 & 23 February 2024 and will be an exciting showcase of potential in life sciences capabilities and partnering opportunities in Western Australia.

Brought to you by Life Sciences WA and WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub, the symposium will bring together key players across the entire life sciences sector. Connect with the researchers and clinician community, institutes, service providers, industry partners and financiers in the state's life sciences sector of WA. And if you are visiting Perth, take the opportunity to explore what the area has to offer too! More details to come.

FEBRUARY 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	1	2



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