



LIFE SCIENCES WA

Issue 22 brings you the latest news, events and opportunities in the agriculture, aquaculture, health and commercial sectors. Read on to discover the WA Innovator of the Year 2023 Finalists, information on a US Defense Department grant supporting MND research in WA, an AusBiotech report showing increase in US investment in Australian biotechs, and upcoming event opportunities within our Western Australian community.

Life Sciences WA accepting applications for the role of Project Officer

We have an incredible opportunity for someone to join the team at Life Sciences WA. The organisation is growing and is looking for a dynamic and experienced Project Officer.

As the Project Officer, you will play a pivotal role in event planning and management, increasing membership, and providing a valuable resource for companies operating in the Western Australia life sciences sector.



[Apply Now](#)

Celebrating National Science Week!

National Science Week is Australia's annual celebration of science and technology. Running each year in August, it features more than 1000 events around Australia, including those delivered by universities, schools, research institutions, libraries, museums and science centres. The 2023 theme is 'innovation: powering future industries'. This includes the advancement of technology in all industries especially using artificial intelligence (AI).

Visit the WA Events link to find in-person and online events, virtual tours, DIY science and more, across Western Australia, from 12 - 20 August.

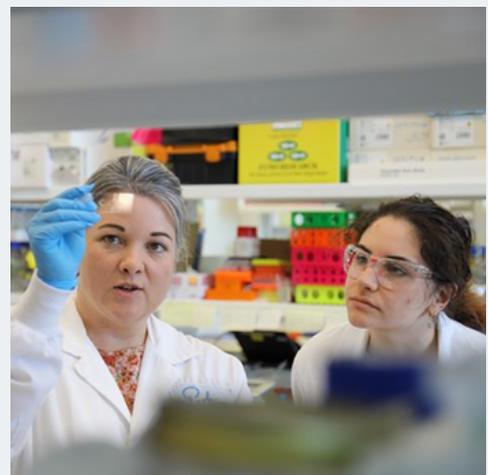


[WA Events](#)

Muscular dystrophy discovery increases likelihood more families will be diagnosed with muscle weakening diseases

When several people in an extended family suffer from similar muscle weakening symptoms, the cause is typically a genetic disease such as a muscular dystrophy. However, the challenge for geneticists lies in identifying the exact genetic mutation causing the problem.

Pictured: Associate Professor Gina Ravenscroft and Chiara Folland



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New AusBiotech report shows increasing US investment in Australian biotechs

Australia continues to attract significant investment from US investors, with the total figure of US investment into Australian life science companies totaling US\$1.43 billion and a strong growth trend over the five-year period, between 2018-2022.

An analysis of investment data by AusBiotech shows 100 deals between US-based investors and Australian-headquartered life sciences companies over the analysis period.



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WA Fishing Industry Secures International Advice to Protect Seafood Security

Last week WAFIC with funding from the Australian Government's Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, hosted Scottish Fishermen's Federation CEO, Elspeth Macdonald in WA to share and learn from Scotland's experiences with growing impacts from marine parks and green energy projects, such as wind farms.



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WA pharma startup to give diabetes and rare diseases a shot in the arm

Cutting edge health research from Murdoch University takes a step closer to the clinic with the launch of ProGenis Pharmaceuticals.

The new biotechnology company, headquartered in Perth, has been established to develop innovative treatments for various inherited and acquired diseases, including type 2 diabetes, multiple sclerosis, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and Rett syndrome.



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US Defense Department grant supporting MND research in WA

A new strand of research planned by WA researchers towards developing a drug for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) has attracted funding from the US Defense Department. ALS is the most common form of motor neurone disease.

Pictured: Dr Sarah Rea in the Perron Institute lab



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VitalTrace awarded funding through MTPConnect's CTCM Program

MTPConnect and the Minister for Health and Aged Care, Hon. Mark Butler MP, recently announced \$6.2 million of funding for six medical technology projects through the Clinical Translation and Commercialisation Medtech (CTCM) Program.

Congratulations to WA winner VitalTrace, awarded for Clinical translation of a novel continuous lactate biosensor for fetal monitoring.



CTCM Clinical Translation & Commercialisation Medtech

CTCM Projects Funding Round 2 Announced!

Congratulations to:

- 4DMedical Limited
- CathRx Ltd
- Medical Developments International Limited
- Ventora Medical Pty Ltd
- VitalTrace Pty Ltd
- Vivid White Pty Ltd

ROUND 2 \$6.2M

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Crucial role of hobbyists in keeping bee industry buzzing

The interactions between hobbyist and commercial beekeepers can enhance 'honey value add', industry profits and knowledge around beekeeping in Western Australia.

That's the finding of a new study by Associate Professor Kirsten Martinus, a human geographer in the School of Social Sciences at The University of Western Australia, which explored the differences and similarities between hobbyist and commercial beekeepers and how their interplay influences the industry.



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Lab results confirm promise of new immunotherapy gel for kids cancer

New research from Telethon Kids Institute and The University of Western Australia has found a gel applied during surgery to treat sarcoma tumours is both safe and highly effective at preventing the cancer from growing back.

The findings, published in the journal Cell Reports Medicine, have formed the scientific backbone of a trial under way in Perth to test the feasibility and safety of the gel on pet dogs.



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Pictured: Associate Professor Killugudi Swaminatha , Dr Francois Rwandamuriye and Associate Professor Joost Lesterhuis.

WA Innovator of the Year: 2023 Finalists

The Western Australia Innovator of the Year (WAIOTY) Awards has showcased innovative and entrepreneurial individuals, businesses and creative minds since 2006.

Congratulations to all of the finalists of the Western Australia Innovator of the Year Award.

Good luck to everyone shortlisted, especially those from our community: ClearDrum, Virex Pharma, Cytophenix, OMNI Industry Pty Ltd, Earflo, LubDub Technologies, Reliis, Inspiring Holdings Pty Ltd and Customa Pty Ltd.



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Health and medical life sciences industry: Market Access Grant Scheme

This Health and Medical Life Sciences Market Access Grant Scheme aims to assist Western Australian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that operate in this sector with the costs of attending national and international conferences and events to help support their business growth; access to investment; and potential partnerships.

The level of funding support is 80% of eligible costs (excluding GST) and up to a maximum of \$5,000 per company.



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Elevate: Boosting women in STEM

The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering's Elevate: Boosting Women in STEM program will award up to 500 undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships to women and non-binary people in STEM. The Elevate Program aims to address gender inequities in STEM through fostering more women and non-binary led industry-academia collaborations in applied research and business, growing professional skills of women in STEM and propelling women and non-binary people into leadership.

Applications close 31 August 2023.



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RISE Business Awards

The 2023 RISE Business Awards celebrates Western Australian businesses. Open to all private or public companies and not-for-profits, large and small, old and new, the awards provide an opportunity for local organisations to showcase their recent achievement.

Entries close Monday 4 September 2023.



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HARVEST Agtech Innovation Showcase & Pitch Night

17/08/2023

This Agtech Innovation Showcase & Pitch Night is an expo style networking event featuring the latest businesses looking to innovate in the Agtech industry. These start-ups and SME's will have their innovations on display and pitch for investment opportunities.



Register

Seminar Series - Medical Research - Creating Real Impact

28/08/2023

Join us for either or both 1.25 hour interactive sessions presented by an experienced team of intellectual property and investment specialists from Wrays, Yuuwa, Biotech Recruitment Consultants, QRC Solutions and other associates. Learn about real-life examples and experiences on building a great team and successfully translating Australian research projects into clinical programs and approved products.



Register

Session 1 | 1:00pm to 2:15pm: The Great Drug
Session 2 | 2:45pm to 4:00pm: The Great Team

The human health implications of global fisheries declines

05/09/2023

Across the globe climate change, environmental degradation, and unsustainable fishing practices are leading to reductions in seafood available to local consumers.

Professor Christopher Golden and his team have built a portfolio of research and engagement on the pathways and extent of these impacts. In this public lecture, Prof. Golden will provide insights into how fisheries and ecosystem management could serve as a public health intervention.



[Register](#)

Regenerative Agriculture Conference 2023

6-8/09/2023

A down to earth conference engaging in the most promising agriculture solutions to regenerate soils, draw down carbon, rehydrate landscapes, and restore on-farm biodiversity, helping build farm and community resilience. The 3 day conference will take place in the Margaret River region.



[Register](#)

FNA Perth 2023

23-24/11/2023

The 3rd International Symposium on Functional Nucleic Acids: From Laboratory to Targeted Molecular Therapy, is being held in Perth on 23rd and 24th November 2023.

This conference will focus on nucleic acid chemistry and biology including novel modified nucleotides, therapeutic and diagnostic applications of various nucleic acid constructs (siRNA, antisense, DNAzymes, microRNA targeting etc.), target specific delivery and therapy using nucleic acid aptamers.



[Register](#)

Save the Date! West Tech Fest 2023

4-8/12/2023

West Tech Fest is Australia's longest running tech and innovation festival providing opportunities for the local startup and tech community to connect with and hear from global leaders as they share insights into how to grow a successful business.



[Register](#)

