



LIFE SCIENCES WA

Issue 23 brings you the latest news, events and opportunities in the agriculture, aquaculture, health and commercial sectors. Read on to find out more...

Premiers Science Awards

Congratulations to Hackett Professor Kadambot Siddique, Director at The UWA Institute of Agriculture and a well-known member of our Life Sciences WA community, for taking out the Scientist of the Year award at the 2023 Premier's Science Awards.

Professor Kadambot Siddique has worked closely with industry to significantly improve cereal and grain legume production in dryland environments, with his leadership and collaboration resulting in new crop varieties and agronomic packages for grain growers.



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"Agricultural Biotechnology: Past and Future" - 30th Anniversary Celebration of the WA State Agricultural Biotechnology Centre (SABC)

On Tuesday 19 September 2023, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the WA State Agricultural Biotechnology Centre, held at Murdoch University.

The event took place as a one day International Symposium, and proved to be an exciting and intellectually stimulating gathering. Researchers, policy makers, and industry leaders converged to discuss the pressing needs and opportunities in the field of biotechnology in agriculture. The panel discussion agreed on making Australian agriculture more profitable and internationally competitive, while also seeking to contribute to international food and nutrition security.

The key takeaway from the day was that everyone is essential in driving positive change in the sustainable agricultural space, in inspiring farmers to generate income and grow the food that's in demand.



[More Info about SABC](#)

Behind the Scenes

A little behind the scenes of Life Sciences WA's second season of the Investor Series podcast, talking all things commercialisation. Stay tuned for its launch!

The first series of our Investor Series podcast is available on our website. Tune in to conversations featuring...

- Glenn Butcher
- Dr Alma Fulurija
- Bronwyn LeGrice
- Dr Bi Mian
- Paul Watt
- Liddy McCall
- Greg Riebe
- Steve Elias
- Dr Tara Speranza



Investor Series Podcasts

New research probes bone-brain link for Alzheimer's

WA-led international research recently published indicates a pathological link between osteoporosis and the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.

Findings of a research collaboration involving Professor Minghao Zheng's Bone and Brain research group at the Perron Institute and UWA and Professor Ralph Martins' Alzheimer's research group at Edith Cowan and Macquarie Universities suggest that bone loss as people age may result in the release of a factor that affects brain function.

Pictured: Dr Jun Yuan in the Perron Institute lab.



Read More

Extreme temperatures push oceans into uncharted waters

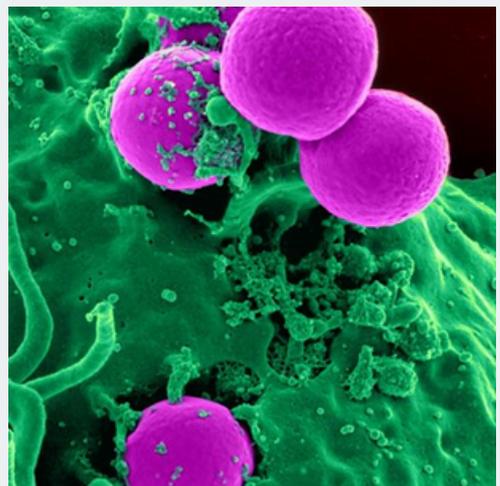
Marine science experts from the UWA Oceans Institute have warned that record-high ocean temperatures, combined with a strong El Niño forecast to develop this year, are set to trigger intense marine heatwaves around the globe. The team, led by CSIRO Research Director for Sustainable Marine Futures Dr Alistair Hobday, said it was critical for scientists and decision makers in marine biodiversity conservation, fishing, aquaculture, and tourism industries to closely monitor the extreme events and formulate a response plan.



[Read More](#)

Scientists find way to wipe a cell's memory to reprogram it as a stem cell

In a groundbreaking study published today in **Nature**, Australian scientists have resolved a long-standing problem in regenerative medicine. Led by Professor Ryan Lister from the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research and The University of Western Australia and Professor Jose M Polo from Monash University and the University of Adelaide, the team developed a new method to reprogram human cells to better mimic embryonic stem cells, with significant implications for biomedical and therapeutic uses.



[Read More](#)

Research focus on weed management for ameliorated soils

Western Australian grains scientists are looking to improve weed management following soil amelioration, with new research focusing on pre-emergent herbicides.

The work is part of a broader project to examine improving farming system profitability following soil amelioration, which has investment from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC).



[Read More](#)

Community Members in the Media

Two of our Life Sciences WA community members, EarFlo and VitalTrace, have recently made television appearances!

Earflo is currently developing an at-home device used to treat chronic ear infections, which will soon be trialled on vulnerable children in regional Western Australia. Earflo was recently selected as a finalist for the WA Innovator of the Year Awards in three categories!

VitalTrace appeared on Seven Network, updated watchers on their progress towards bringing DelivAssure to market. The DelivAssure device has been touted to drastically reduce WA's cesarean rates and save babies lives.



[EarFlo](#)



[VitalTrace](#)

Officially endangered: the critical ECU research saving WA's precious peatlands

On National Threatened Species Day 2023, the Australian Government declared the Empodisma peatlands of southwestern Australia endangered.

Edith Cowan University environmental scientists sought the listing, which came following three years of research and many more years of campaigning by dedicated organisations, to determine how to save the precious wetlands from extinction.



[Read More](#)

Curtin Accelerate

Are you currently developing or have developed a new, novel and innovative product, service, process or technology?

Curtin Accelerate is a free program that runs over ten weeks for aspiring or established business owners wanting to grow their entrepreneurial capabilities and acquire tools to take their innovative product or service to market quickly and effectively.

Applications closes 27/10/2023.



[Read More](#)

CUREator+

CUREator+ is a partnership between Brandon BioCatalyst, managed by Brandon Capital, Australia's leading biomedtech investment firm; and ANDHealth, Australia's leading digital health organisation. Selected by the Federal Government's Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) through a competitive process, CUREator+ will deliver the \$50 million 2021 MRFF BioMedTech Incubator (BMTI) program to medical research and medical innovation projects with commercial potential.

Expressions of Interest for CUREator+ are now open and will close on 6/10/2023.



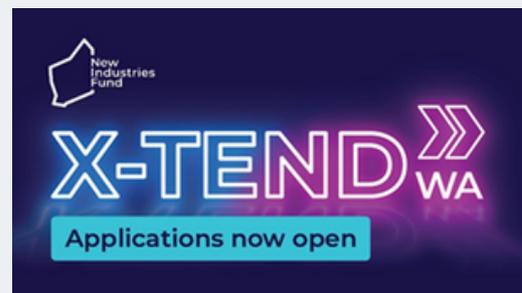
[Read More](#)

X-TEND WA

Businesses and organisations can now apply for X-TEND WA funding at any time during the year!

X-TEND WA is a competitive co-investment grants program, investing in organisations that deliver initiatives to assist and support the WA Innovation Ecosystem.

This incredible program aims to accelerate new and emerging businesses, supporting projects that build entrepreneurship, innovation and commercialisation.



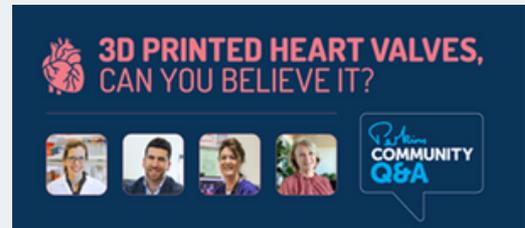
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Community Q&A: Engineers at the Heart of Cardiovascular Disease Solutions -

28/09/2023

Join leading biomedical engineer Dr Elena de Juan Pardo, cardiologist researcher Dr Abdul Ihdahid, and cardiac nurse Jenny Turner, to hear about our latest development, the 3D printed heart valve.

You might be surprised to hear that engineers are leading the charge to tackle a growing heart health issue aortic stenosis, or heart valve disease, a condition that narrows heart valves, and affects millions of people around the world.



[Register](#)

AMSA WA's Marine Snapchat

4/10/2023

Calling all WA Marine Scientists in Government, Industry, Consulting and Academia!

Come join AMSA WA and our guest speakers for a night of fun speed-talks from industry and academia.



[Register](#)

WA Health Hackathon

9-19/10/2023

Are you an innovator, developer, technologist, or software guru? Are you keen to improve West Australians' healthcare through technology and innovation? Get ready for the WA Health Hackathon 2023!

This year the WA Data Science Innovation Hub (WADSIH) and the Department of Health (DoH) are putting forward six Challenges for WA's innovators, technologists and software gurus to resolve.



Register

WiTWA Tech [+] Conference

9/11/2023

The much-awaited WiTWA Tech [+] Conference is coming to Perth this November. This year's event is extra special as WiTWA is turning 25! Join WiTWA in celebrating a quarter-century of tech innovation, inspiration, and empowerment.

Tickets on sale now.



Register

