



NEWSLETTER

Jul 2025

The Australasian Society for Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering

Dear ASBTE Community,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as ASBTE President for another term.

I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to the outgoing Executive Committee for their outstanding service. In particular, I want to acknowledge **A/Prof Khoon Lim**, who stepped down from the committee this year. Khoon has played a vital role in ASBTE over the years, serving as President, Vice President, and Ordinary Member, as well as Chair of the 2023 Annual Meeting in Christchurch, and contributing to the organisation of multiple ASBTE meetings. We're pleased that Khoon will continue to support the Society in his new role as the IUSBSE delegate.

Congratulations to the newly elected members of the Executive Committee. A warm welcome to **Dr Jiao Jiao Li**, joining the committee for the first time, and congratulations to our new Vice President, **Prof Jess Frith**. I would also like to recognise our IUSBSE and Asian Biomaterials Federation delegates, the STA Liaison Officer, and our State, ECR, and student representatives. You can find more details about your ASBTE representatives in the newsletter below.

Reflecting on our recent annual meeting in Brisbane, it was fantastic to see our community come together to share research, reconnect, and build new collaborations. Congratulations to **Prof Yi-Chin Toh**, **Dr Mark Allenby**, and **A/Prof Nathalie Bock** for organising an excellent program featuring both established and emerging leaders from Australia and abroad. Congratulations also to all the presentation award winners, your work reflects the outstanding research within our community.

During the meeting, we presented three ASBTE medals to members who have made exceptional contributions to the biomaterials and tissue engineering field and community. **Ms Veronica Glattauer** received the ASBTE Award of Excellence for her long-standing contributions to the field and to ASBTE. **Dr Jiao Jiao Li** was awarded the ASBTE Emerging Investigator Award, recognising her outstanding research and potential for future leadership. **Dr Kieran Lau** received the inaugural ASBTE Early Career Research Award for his emerging research and communication skills. Congratulations to all the award recipients and thank you to the selection panels for their time and effort in selecting the awardees. You can read more about the award recipients in the newsletter below.

We also awarded Lifetime Membership to four members who have made lasting contributions to ASBTE and have now retired from their primary roles, including **Profs Klaus Schindhelm, Thilak Gunatillake, Bruce Milthorpe, and Keith McLean**. Their achievements and impact on our community are highlighted in the newsletter.

Looking ahead to 2025/2026, we remain committed to supporting our members through a range of initiatives. Planning is underway for the next ASBTE Annual Conference, which will be held in **Adelaide April 7–10, 2026** (save the date!). We will continue to support students and ECRs through awards, mentoring programs, and networking opportunities.

Please stay connected with ASBTE through our newsletters, member updates, and social media. We've transitioned our social media activity to LinkedIn and Bluesky, so I encourage you to follow ASBTE on these platforms. Don't forget to renew your membership and encourage your colleagues and students to join as well. Membership is essential to maintaining a vibrant and active ASBTE community. If you have any questions about membership, strategic directions, or upcoming initiatives, please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Committee or your state representatives. It's an honour to serve as your President, and I look forward to working with you all to shape the future of ASBTE.

Jelena Rnjak-Kovacina, President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the president 1

ASBTE Executive Committee 2

ASBTE reps 3-4

ASBTE Awards 5-8

ASBTE conference 9-11

ASBTE conference awards 12-19

ASBTE AGM 20

New exec members 21

ASBTE Membership 22-23

Biomaterials Bites 24

Getting to know other Societies 25

Conferences 26



Mark Allenby



Jelena Rnjak-Kovacina
(President)



Anna Waterhouse
(Treasurer)



Jiao Jiao Li



Yu Suk Choi



Ferry Melchels



Veronica Glattauer
(Executive Officer)



Jessica Frith
(Vice-President)

<p>International Union of Societies for Biomaterials Science and Engineering (IUSBSE) Delegates</p> <p>Penny Martens</p> <p>Khoon Lim</p>	<p>Asian Biomaterials Federation (ABF) Delegates</p> <p>Sally McArthur</p> <p>Justin Cooper-White</p>	<p>Science and Technologies Australia (STA) Liaison Officer</p> <p>Kelly Tsang</p> <p>Sugandha Bhatia</p>
<p>State Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Jacqui McGovern	<p>ECR Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Shouyuan Jiang (NSW)o Theresa König (NZ)o Anjana Jayasree (QLD)o Rodrigo Curvello (VIC)o Kieran Lau (NSW)o Angus Weeks (QLD)	<p>Student Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Hien Tran (NSW)o Poppy Buissink (NZ)o Le Tuong Van Vo (SA)o Amy Xie (VIC)o George McColgan (WA)o Mustafijur Rahman (VIC)o Ria Shah (WA)o Dulani Sooriyaaratchi (VIC)o Resmarani Sahu (SA)o Ngoc Thien (Angela) Le (SA)
<p>ECR Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Habib Joukhdar (NSW)o Max Yavitt (NZ)o Aswathi Gopalakrishnan (QLD)o Kate Firipis (VIC)o Behzad Shiroud Heidari (WA)o Abid Hussain (SA)o Deepu Ashok (NSW)	<p>Student Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Ann Rose Baby (SA)o Kailas Mallappuram (SA)o Max Higham (SA)	

ASBTE delegates and state/ECR/student reps

IUSBSE delegates



Penny Martens



Khoon Lim

ABF delegates



Sally McArthur



Justin Cooper-White

State reps



Jacqui McGovern

STA liaison



Kelly Tsang

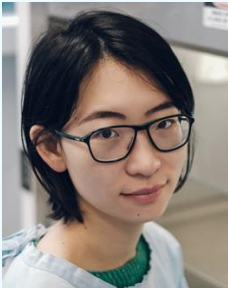


Sugandha Bhatia

ECR reps



Habib Joukhdar



Shouyuan Jiang



Kieran Lau



Max Yavitt



Theresa König



Aswathi
Gopalakrishnan



Anjana Jayasree



Angus Weeks

ASBTE delegates and state/ECR/student reps

ECR reps



Kate Firipis



Rodrigo Curvello



Behzad Shiroud Heidari



Deepu Ashok



Abid Hussain

Student reps



Hien Tran



Poppy Buissink



Le Toung Van Vo



Amy Xie



Mustafijur Rahman



Dulani Sajeewa
Sooriyaaratchi



George McColgan



Ria Shah



Max Higham



Ngoc Thien Le

ASBTE Award 2025

ASBTE Award of Excellence 2025

Veronica Glattauer, CSIRO

Veronica Glattauer is a Principal Research Scientist in the Biomedical Manufacturing Program at CSIRO Manufacturing. She graduated from La Trobe University with a Bachelor of Biological Sciences with Honours in Biochemistry. Subsequently, she received a Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Science from Monash University. Her expertise spans broad interdisciplinary knowledge in the area of biomaterial science and engineering. Her research project activities have involved a large number of commercially driven partnerships with Australian and overseas companies. The quality of her research contributions are reflected by ~70 journal publications and book chapters, 2 CSIRO Research Medals and her election in 2020 elected as Fellow, Biomaterials Science & Engineering (FBSE) by the International Union of Societies for Biomaterials Science & Engineering (IUSBSE). Her service to the society started more than 30 years ago and continues to this date. She currently serves as the Executive Officer of the ASBTE.

'...her exceptional service to the ASBTE, and more broadly her outstanding service to the field of biomaterials & tissue engineering. Her dedication is reflected by her society positions over several decades, the fact that she has organised and promoted many conferences and symposia, and importantly that she has also been a fantastic mentor and an inspiration for many young scientists...'



ASBTE Award 2025

ASBTE Emerging Investigator Award 2025

Jiao Jiao Li, UTS

As a biomedical engineer, Jiao Jiao works at the interface of engineering, science and medicine to deliver new regenerative therapies for chronic diseases, particularly musculoskeletal diseases such as osteoarthritis and bone injuries. Her research has led to 106 publications (80 since 2020), with citations placing her in the top 0.03% in Australia in 'Bone Regeneration' and 'Tissue Engineering' (Expertscape). Top-of-field inter/national recognitions include Tissue Engineering & Regenerative Medicine International Society award, Eureka Prize for Emerging Leader in Science, Metcalf Prize for Stem Cell Research, Premier's Prize for NSW Early Career Researcher of the Year, NSW Young Tall Poppy of the Year, and Australian winner of Falling Walls Lab. Her work has been supported by the Rebecca L Cooper Foundation AI & Val Rosenstrauss Fellowship, NHMRC Early Career Fellowship, and ARC Training Centre for Innovative BioEngineering where she served as Co-Deputy Director. Supporting her passion in STEM advocacy and diversity, she was elected Board Director of Science & Technology Australia by >235,000 scientists from 140 member organisations, and serve as Chair of its Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, building on her experiences of representing Australian women in STEM as a 2021-22 Superstar of STEM.

'...Dr Li's research vision is based on the firm belief that everyone is entitled to healthy ageing. Since her NHMRC Early Career Fellowship in 2017-2020, followed by establishing her own team at UTS in 2020 and commencing a prestigious Rebecca L Cooper AI & Val Rosenstrauss Fellowship in 2025, she has built a cross-disciplinary research program that pushes the boundaries of TERM...'



ASBTE Award 2025

ASBTE Early Career Research Award 2025

Kieran Lau, USyd

Kieran is a talented emerging researcher that has strong potential as a future leader in the field of biomaterials and tissue engineering. Upon beginning his postdoctoral research position at the University of Sydney in 2023, he has established his own research focus towards the development of sequential drug-eluting biomaterials towards vascular and neural tissue engineering applications. He has a strong track record in biomaterial characterisation and development as evidenced by this publication record, primarily in Q1 peer-reviewed journals. Together, thus far, Kieran's research has generated 12 publications, 12 conference presentation and 1 patent as the co-inventor. He is on an onward trajectory with a FWCI of 2.18 in 2024, indicating his work is being cited 118% more compared to other researchers in the same field. His high research potential is further endorsed by his recent success with a highly competitive Heart Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Aside from his dedication to good quality research, he is also a hardworking individual that has contributed consistently to teaching, training, and mentoring of the next generation of researchers. In addition to the course demonstrating over his research career since 2017 and his guest lecture in 2023, he has consistently mentored several honours (1-3/year), Master and PhD students. This year, he has also conceptualised an honours project as the co-supervisor, which has been awarded the 2025 Merck Honours Project Grant, a merit-based programme that supports innovative and sustainable research project.

'...Kieran is an excellent candidate for the ASBTE Early Careers award, having established himself as an outstanding individual amongst his peers. He has consistently demonstrated that he possesses the necessary attitude and skillset to deliver high-quality research outputs towards translational biomaterial research and development. Kieran has shown strong ambition in research and has shown he possesses the qualities to become a leader in the field...'



ASBTE Award 2025

ASBTE Lifetime Membership Award

Current ASBTE Life Membership



John Ramshaw



Jerome Werkmeister



Hans Griesser

2025 ASBTE Life Membership Awardee



Klaus Schindhelm

ASBTE President 2000-2002, 2003-2004
ASBTE Vice President 1999-2000, 2002-2003
Fellow, Biomat Sci and Eng, 2000



Thilak Gunatillake

ASBTE President 2010-2011
ASBTE Vice President 2009-2010, 2012-2013
Fellow, Biomat Sci and Eng, 2008
ASBTE Award of Research Excellence, 2018



Bruce Milthorpe

ASBTE President 1992-1993
ASBTE Vice President 1991-1992, 1993-1994
Fellow, Biomat Sci and Eng, 2004



Keith McLean

ASBTE President 2008-2010
ASBTE Vice President 2007-2008, 2010-2011
ASBTE Secretary 2004- 2007
Fellow, Biomat Sci and Eng, 2016
ASBTE Award of Excellence 2021

ASBTE 2025 conference

Conference Wrap-Up

Dear ASBTE Community,

Can you believe it's already been months since ASBTE 2025 in Brisbane? We'd like to thank you for supporting our wonderful society at the conference, we had over 250 attendees, with over 104 oral presentations and 83 posters, with fantastic plenary talks by Chwee Teck Lim, Nuria Monserrat, Chun-Xia Zhao, and Nicholas Voelcker. With sessions chaired and organised by EMCR and senior leaders alike were able to discuss advances in biofabrication, synthetic and natural biomaterials, tissue engineering, biointerfaces, commercial and clinical translation (with the TGA!), immunomodulation, mechanobiology, cancer, organoids, stem cells, and cell therapies. We would like to thank our presenters at our industry-facing EMCR workshop (Elena De Juan Pardo, Petra Kluger, Simon Cool, Rebecca Griffiths, Rupert Eckert, Monica Russel), and our fantastic award winners, listed below.

Importantly, we would like to thank our fantastic academic organising committee:

Academic Program: Ferry Melchels, Khoon Lim, and Max Yavitt

EMCR Program: Elena De Juan Pardo and Yinghong Zhou

Exhibition and Sponsorship: Serena Duchi

Communications: Pingping Han

Finances: Lan Xiao

Program: Aswathi Gopalakrishnan

Student helpers and volunteers: Dr Carmaine Onofrillo, Jessica Marsh, Jie Yi Kok

Yours Sincerely,

Yi-Chin Toh, Nathalie Bock, Mark Allenby



ASBTE 2025 conference

Conference Awards

Best Student Poster Presentation: Asawari Parulekar (UQ)

Best Early Career Researcher Poster Presentation: Anna Jaeschke (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Best Student Rapid Fire Presentation: Minne Dekker (QUT)

Best Early Career Researcher Oral Presentation: Timothy Mitchell (University of Sydney)

Best Student Oral Presentation: Zachary Och (UNSW)



ASBTE 2025 conference



ASBTE 2025 conference

Conference Attendance Awards

Max Yavitt

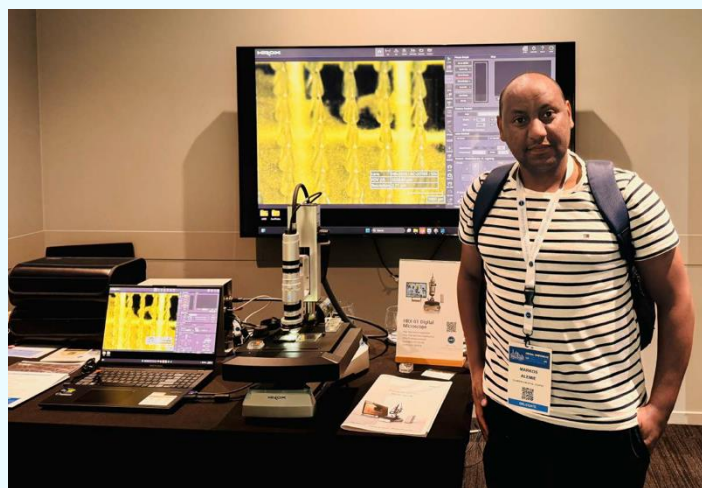
At the ASBTE Conference, I attended the ECR Workshop, as well as sessions on biofabrication, organoids, and synthetic biomaterials (among others), which are relevant to my research interests. I was also able to present my research as part of the ECR Awards session. Additionally, I co-chaired a session on Stem Cells and Cell Therapies. Most importantly, I was able to socialize and network with other attendees, both during and after conference hours. I also attended the AGM to vote on the ASBTE executive committee.

As a result of presenting my own research, attending sessions, and networking with conference attendees, I was able to generate several new research directions for my lab group. Notably, the connections that I made at the ASBTE Conference resulted in three new research collaborations. Also, I followed up with panellist in the ECR Workshop, who provided advice that resulted in tangible improvements to my CV/resume and job search approach, as I look to advance my career. Finally, I established numerous connections with industry representatives for important instruments in our lab, including AXT/CELLINK and Anton Paar.



Markos Alemie

As a final-year PhD student investigating the interplay between biomaterials and inflammatory responses to implants, I attended the Australasian Society for Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering (ASBTE) conference. I presented my publish research findings, engaged in scientific discussions, and attended a wide range of oral and poster presentations. I have a chance to meet with leading academics, early-career researchers, and industry professionals, gaining insights into emerging trends and technologies. I also explored industry exhibitions showcasing innovative products and applications. This immersive experience provided a valuable platform to share knowledge, receive feedback, and deepen my understanding of the field's current challenges and advancements.



Participation in the ASBTE conference was an exciting experience in my academic journey. Presenting my research enhanced my scientific communication skills and visibility within the biomaterials community. I received constructive feedback that will refine my ongoing work and inform future publications. Even though I was not successful to secure potential collaborations and postdoctoral opportunities, exposure to cutting-edge research and industry innovations broadened my perspective on biomaterial design and immune modulation. The conference reinforced the clinical relevance of my research and inspired new directions for investigation. Overall, it was

ASBTE 2025 conference

Conference Attendance Awards

Astrid Nausa

I attended the ASBTE 2025 conference as a PhD student and delegate, where I presented part of my research, "Engineering 3D microenvironments for early ex vivo erythropoiesis", during the Stem Cells and Cell Therapy session. I participated in a variety of activities, including the Early Career Researchers Workshop, the Poster Session, Mechanobiology, Organoids, and Biofabrication II sessions. I also attended the Conference Dinner and the Awards Ceremony. These events provided valuable opportunities to engage with ongoing research from peers across Australia and Asia, receive feedback on my work, and expand my understanding of current trends in bioengineering and tissue engineering.



A key outcome of attending ASBTE 2025 was meeting Prof. Thomas Scheibel in person. Although we had interacted virtually before, the conference offered the opportunity to attend his talk and then hold a two-hour private meeting. Together with Rose Ann Franco, we finalised the details of a recent grant submission under the Bavarian–Queensland agreement. During this meeting, we also coordinated two researcher visits from Dr. Scheibel's group to our lab in the second half of 2025. If the application is successful, I may have the chance to travel to Germany next year. This interaction was the highlight of the conference.

Hien Tran

It was a wonderful opportunity to travel to conference with my lab mates for the first time. We spent the evening before the presentation rehearsing together, sharing jokes and supporting each other. Meeting my mentors and colleagues at QUT was a highlight, as was connecting with new colleagues from universities like Monash University and Deakin. The ECR workshop provided valuable insights into research translation from academia to industry, including perspectives from CEOs on recruitment strategies. Additionally, the industry demonstrations were impressive, with numerous companies showcasing their innovations.



Attending the ASBTE Conference allowed me to connect with professors and colleagues working in areas closely related to my research. The plenary talks were incredibly inspiring, especially for early-career researchers, and sparked many new ideas that I found highly valuable. I also had engaging conversations about silk materials, deepening my understanding in that area. Additionally, I visited a lab at the University of Queensland, where I learned more about cyborg technologies. This visit opened my eyes to new applications for my research that I hadn't previously considered, offering fresh perspectives and potential directions.

ASBTE 2025 conference

Conference Attendance Awards

Aafreen Ansari

In April 2025, I attended the ASBTE 2025 Conference in Brisbane, where I gave an oral presentation under the Bioengineered Tissue Models theme titled "Visible light-responsive azobenzene hydrogels for testing mechanosensitivity of early and late passage mesenchymal stromal cells." I also joined the Early Career Researchers (ECR) Workshop and attended talks across several themes including Mechanobiology, Clinical and Commercial Translation, Tissue Engineering, and Biomaterials. The poster sessions and conference dinner were great for meeting peers and chatting about science in a more informal setting. I also managed to explore Brisbane and bit of Gold Coast.

Presenting my PhD work at ASBTE 2025 was a great experience and several attendees approached me afterwards with questions and suggestions, which helped me see my project from fresh angles. I also really enjoyed the poster sessions and chatting to other researchers working on biomaterials and stem cell mechanics. The ECR workshop gave practical advice on research careers, and the conference overall helped me feel more connected to the community. I left with helpful feedback, new contacts, and a clearer sense of direction as I wrap up my PhD and start planning for the next stage of my research career.



George McColgan

I was fortunate to have been granted the opportunity to give an oral presentation of my PhD research to date at the national conference. Whilst daunting, I found the experience extremely valuable for both my academic and personal growth. Aside from presenting, it was fantastic to be in the audience of many thought-provoking presentations. During session breaks, I had several stimulating conversations with other students and academics that prompted reflection on past, present, and future experimental designs.

I am appreciative of the breadth of questions received during the question time portion of my oral presentation. In taking this feedback on board, I now view several aspects of my project in a new light, which I am grateful for. Additionally, the wheels are in motion for a new collaboration, which will hopefully yield some promising data. I am sure that this would not have arisen had I not attended the national conference!

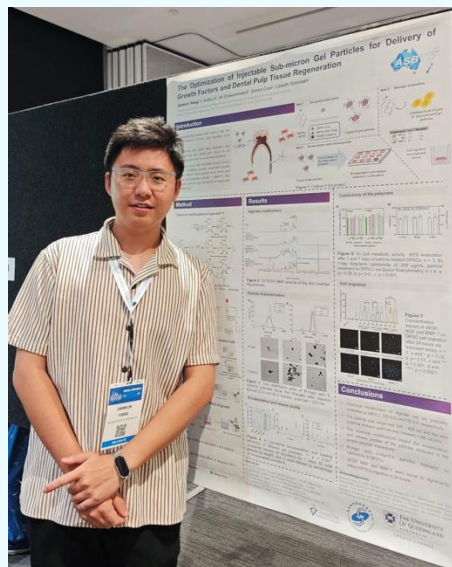


ASBTE 2025 conference

Conference Attendance Awards

Jiankun Yang

From April 22nd to 24th, 2025, I went to Australia to attend the 29th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering. The conference focused on cutting-edge fields such as biomaterials design, 3D bioprinting, targeted differentiation of stem cells, and clinical transformation of tissue engineering. More than 200 scholars from around the world shared their latest research achievements. I presented "The Optimization of Injectable Sub-micron Gel Particles for Delivery of Growth Factors and Dental Pulp Tissue Regeneration" at poster session. Through in-depth exchanges with Australian and international peers, not only the development trend of interdisciplinary integration in the field was understood, but also new ideas were provided for the functional optimization of materials and the regulation of in vivo degradation in subsequent research. This conference broadened the academic horizons and consolidated the foundation for international cooperation. Additionally, compared to previous ASBTE conferences, we have more industry partners joined.



During this conference, I was fortunate to meet several senior scholars in the field of biomaterials. Their sharing of practical experience in the clinical transformation of tissue engineering greatly inspired me. Have in-depth exchanges with new PhD colleagues from Monash, UNSW and Melbourne on the progress of the project, and spark innovative ideas in cross-scale material design. It is particularly delightful to reunite with the international colleagues I met at the ASBTE 2022 conference, witness the association's expansion in new fields such as bioprinting standardization and regenerative medicine ethics, and witness the continuous growth of the academic community. During the tea break at the sub-forum, my supervisor found a potential reviewer for my PhD thesis. Special thanks to the conference committee for your financial support, which has enabled me to have such a precious opportunity to build an academic network and engage in in-depth exchanges.

Veronica Perera

ASBTE 2025 was an excellent way to spend my first conference. Over this week I was given the opportunity to present my research to a wide range of scientific professionals. I was also able to attend numerous presentations within my field. This time allowed me to broaden my approach to research and presented alternatives to methods I may have been using previously. I was also able to network with several researchers and PhD students in stem cell research which may give rise to future collaborations within my project and or laboratory visits.



The 2025 ASBTE conference provided an opportunity to present my research to a new group of researchers. This was indispensable because it provided insight into the results generated and ways I could improve them. I was also able to attend many presentations. This allowed me to learn effective presentation techniques whilst also allowing me to broaden my knowledge of nanoparticle synthesis and specificity which I will be researching in association with Mesenchymal cells in the future. This conference also provided invaluable career advice in the early career researcher's workshop, which provided an insight into what employers are looking for.

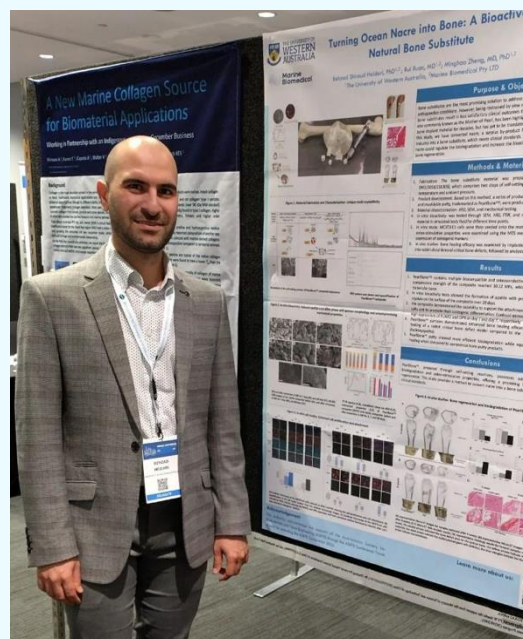
ASBTE 2025 conference

Conference Attendance Awards

Behzad Shiroud Heidari

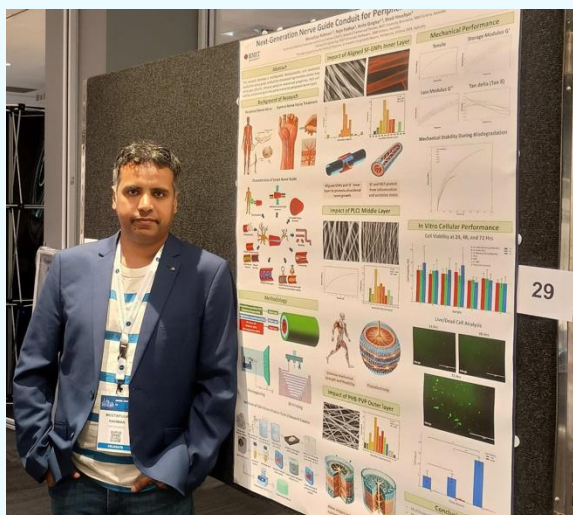
At ASBTE 2025, I presented a poster on PearlBone Technology, a Marine Biomedical innovation, which sparked a great deal of interest and discussion. This led to insightful conversations with attendees, including Ms Veronica Glattauer, where we explored opportunities for collaboration between Marine Biomedical and CSIRO. I also gave an oral presentation on my PhD research into hybrid biocompatible materials for tendon regeneration at The University of Western Australia. On 23 April, I co-chaired the Nature-derived Biomaterials session alongside A/Professor Brooke Farrugia. After the conference, I visited QUT's MMDS Laboratory to discuss potential future work in orthopaedic implant design.

The conference provided a rich environment for feedback, collaboration, and fresh perspectives. The attention received by the PearlBone Technology poster allowed me to engage in meaningful dialogue, with several researchers offering valuable suggestions for future directions. A particularly promising outcome was the discussion with Ms Veronica Glattauer, paving the way for potential collaboration with CSIRO. Prof Warwick Duncan's talk on oral biomaterials was a personal highlight and sparked new ideas. The lab-visit at QUT further expanded my network and helped identify possible research synergies, especially in the field of orthopaedic implants.



Mustafijur Rahman

At ASBTE 2025, I presented a research poster titled “Next-Generation Nerve Guide Conduit for Peripheral Nerve Regeneration”, showcasing recent findings on a multilayered nanofibrous conduit design. I attended technical sessions on biointerfaces, regenerative medicine, biomaterials, and neural tissue engineering, gaining deeper insights into cutting-edge research and translational challenges. I also participated in Early Career Researcher (ECR) networking events and represented the state of Victoria at the ASBTE Annual General Meeting. The conference offered excellent opportunities for knowledge exchange, engaging discussions with leading scientists, exploration of collaborative research, and shaping future directions aligned with my focus on nerve repair and regenerative engineering.



Attending ASBTE 2025 enhanced my professional visibility and provided valuable expert feedback on my research in biomaterials and tissue engineering. I engaged with researchers interested in collaborations, particularly on scaffold design for nerve regeneration and related fields of regenerative medicine. Exposure to innovative research and technical workshops deepened my understanding of translational challenges in biofabrication. As Victoria Representative, I contributed to strategic discussions shaping ASBTE's future. The conference fostered new research ideas, strengthened my professional network, and aligned my work with broader community goals in regenerative engineering. Overall, it was a productive and inspiring experience.

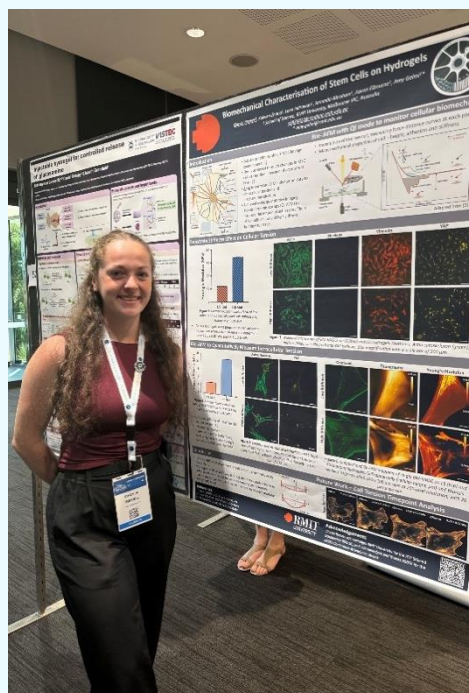
ASBTE 2025 conference

Conference Attendance Awards

Chayla Reeves

In attendance at the 29th Annual ASBTE Conference 2025, I was fortunate enough to present my research 'Biomechanical Characterisation of Stem Cells on Hydrogels' in a poster format. This opportunity heightened both old and new connections – showcasing my own research and skills, exploring new avenues of research, and revealing potential future collaborations with other HDRs/ECR, promoting multidisciplinary research. Ample presentations of high calibre and interest were listened to and admired, with lots of note taking happening. The conference dinner saw to a more social night, with good food and great company. Grateful for the opportunity to attend and present!

The ASBTE conference has left me with a heavily increased number of network connections with people from universities across Australia – thank you LinkedIn! This will allow me to stay in contact with others to support their research, correspond and network for future research opportunities, and continue to enhance my communication and networking skills. The most important outcome of this conference involved conversations with the Frith lab regarding the first results chapter of my thesis and how I can back up my pre-existing results. I leave this conference with an increased confidence in the research I have completed, and networks established.



Negar Mohammadi Rizi

My first experience attending an ASBTE conference commenced with the motivating Early Career Researcher workshop. It was exciting to hear from expert researchers in the field as well as key people from industry, about their expectations and advice to early career researchers. As a second-year PhD student, this was very valuable information. Also, I had an opportunity to give an oral presentation on my PhD research within the biomaterial session. I received comments, questions and had conversations about my presentation that will help me as I approach the next stage of my research.

To me, there are many significant outcomes of the conference. I got the opportunity to learn about all the exciting research in the biomaterials and tissue engineering field, which was very motivating.



In addition to the scientific value, I learnt from other researchers on how they presented their work, how they communicated the research gap they are addressing, and how they demonstrated their strategy to address these gaps. I learned so many different things in this conference, but the most significant outcome was that I had the opportunity to present my research and introduce myself to other people in the world of biomaterials and tissue engineering and let industry know that Negar Mohammadi Rizi is a part of this community!

This conference was like a gift box containing inspiration, motivation, excellent knowledge exchange and lots of networking in a field that I am passionate about. I am looking forward to the next ASBTE Conference in 2026.

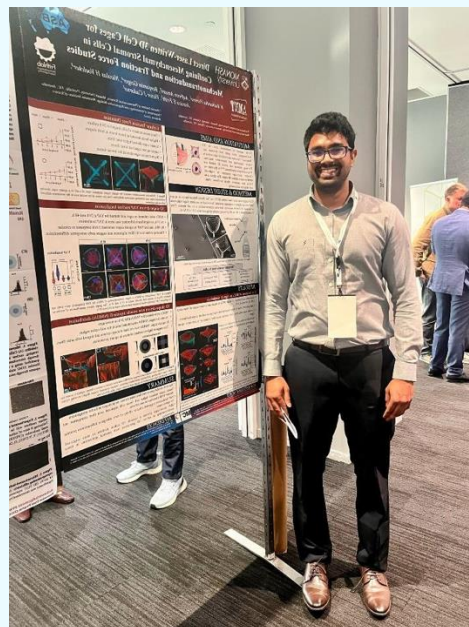
ASBTE 2025 conference

Conference Attendance Awards

Willoraaratchige Roshantha Perera

Last month, I attended the ASBTE 2025 Conference (Australasian Society for Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering) held in Brisbane. I presented a poster titled "Direct Laser-Written 3D Cell Cages for Confining Mesenchymal Stromal Cells in Mechanotransduction and Traction Force Studies," which drew interest and insightful feedback from peers and experts. I also participated in the Early Career Researcher (ECR) workshop, which provided valuable guidance on academic development and career planning. The conference dinner offered an enjoyable chance to network informally. Outside the conference, I explored some of Brisbane's city spots and spent a day visiting the Gold Coast.

Attending ASBTE 2025 significantly enriched my research perspective. I received constructive input on my poster, particularly regarding force quantification methods and 3D cell confinement strategies. The ECR workshop enhanced my understanding of funding pathways and collaborative research approaches. I also established valuable connections with other researchers working in cell mechanics, biomaterials, and 3D microenvironments. These interactions may lead to future collaborations or research visits. Moreover, exposure to ongoing work in related fields has sparked ideas for extending my current project. The overall experience was motivating and has positively influenced both my research direction and career development.



Shuqian Wan

At the 2025 ASBTE Annual Meeting, I was honored to deliver an oral presentation titled "Developing a 3D Hydrogel Microchannel for Directed Neuron Axon Outgrowth," highlighting my PhD research in neural tissue engineering. I attended the Early Career Researcher Workshop, gaining valuable insights into academic career development and building connections with fellow early-career scientists. The Welcome Reception and Conference Dinner offered excellent opportunities to network with senior researchers in an engaging, informal setting. These experiences enhanced my professional skills, expanded my understanding of emerging trends in biomaterials, and deepened my involvement in the ASBTE community through meaningful scientific exchange.



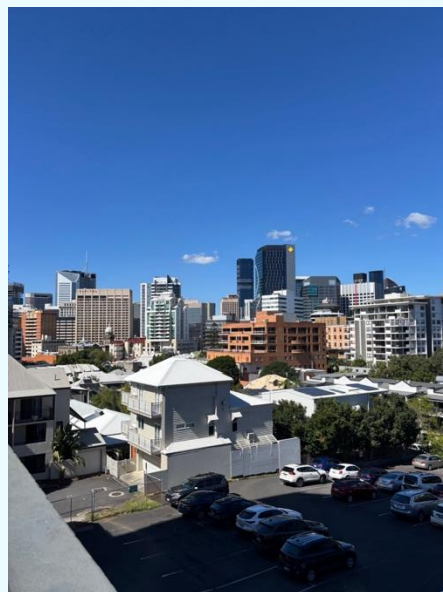
Attending the 2025 ASBTE Annual Meeting significantly advanced my academic and professional development. Through my oral presentation on 3D hydrogel microchannels for neuron axon outgrowth, I received valuable feedback that will inform future research directions. The Early Career Researcher Workshop provided practical guidance on academic progression and grant writing. Networking at the Welcome Reception and Conference Dinner led to meaningful discussions with senior researchers and potential collaborators. Exposure to cutting-edge research in biomaterials and tissue engineering broadened my knowledge and inspired new ideas. Overall, the conference strengthened my engagement with the ASBTE community and expanded my professional network.

ASBTE 2025 conference

Conference Attendance Awards

Clare Maher

With the support of the grant, I was able to travel from Newcastle to Brisbane to attend the ASBTE Bioengineering Conference, where I presented research from my Master of Philosophy degree. The conference was a great success, with beautiful sunny weather and an exciting lineup of presentations over three days. I especially enjoyed the sessions on Bioengineered Tissue Models, which explored the creation of biologically relevant 3D human neural stem cell models and the use of oral biomaterials in tissue engineering. Networking events and career development sessions also offered valuable insights into academic pathways and potential future research collaborations. Attending the ASBTE Conference provided a valuable opportunity to present my Master of Philosophy research and receive insightful feedback from leading experts. Sharing my work enhanced my confidence and refined my presentation skills. Sessions focusing on bioengineered tissue models and biomaterials, particularly the development of a novel composite mesh for pelvic floor repair, sparked new ideas for future research directions. The event also offered the chance to connect with fellow early-career researchers and gain advice and mentorship from more senior professionals. Overall, the experience strengthened my passion for a career in research and bioengineering, and deepened my appreciation for the role of innovative biomaterials in advancing regenerative medicine and clinical applications.



Amy Xie

At the ASBTE Conference in Brisbane, I participated in the Early Career Researchers Workshop, plenary talks, and various talk sessions. I presented my research in the 'Clinical and Commercial Translation' session and attended both the poster session and conference dinner. During breaks, I networked with colleagues and new contacts over lunch and dinner, fostering valuable professional connections. I also visited exhibitor booths and engaged with industry representatives to learn about emerging technologies and products relevant to my field. Attending the ASBTE Conference allowed me to connect with fellow PhD researchers from Melbourne whom I had not previously met, strengthening local academic networks. I also established new connections with international researchers, including those from New Zealand, through discussions on overlapping research interests. Contact details were exchanged for future collaboration. I engaged with company representatives to explore potential equipment demonstrations at our interinstitutional research facility. Additionally, I deepened existing relationships by spending time with my supervisors and lab group, sharing our discoveries at the conference, as we had coordinated to attend different concurrent talks to maximise exposure to new research.



ASBTE AGM

AGM 2025 Roundup

The Society's 35th Annual General Meeting was held during the conference in Brisbane on April 23rd. The meeting was well attended with 57 Society members.

Annual reports of the committee were presented and confirmed (President, Jelena Rnjak-Kovacina; Executive Officer, Veronica Glattauer; Newsletter, Yu Suk Choi; Website and social media, Jess Frith; Awards, Mark Allenby; ECR initiatives, Ferry Melchels) including STA report from our society delegate, Kelly Tsang.

Financial statement was presented by Treasurer Anna Waterhouse. Membership subscriptions were confirmed to continue at current rates. However, as noted, the rate has remained the same for many years. The committee will address a potential increase in fees for the Society to vote on next year.

Election of new committee members followed, with nominations received for open positions. A voting ballot was held for Ordinary members as 5 nominations were received for only 4 available positions.

New elected members,

President, Jelen Rnjak-Kovacina

Vice President, Jess Frith

Executive officer, Veronica Glattauer

Treasurer/Secretary, Anna Waterhouse

Ordinary members, Ferry Melchels, Jiao Jiao Li, Mark Allenby, and Yu Suk Choi.

New committee was congratulated with special shoutout to outgoing committee member Khoon Lim. Khoon has contributed to the committee for many years as vice president and president with excellent leadership and commitment to the continuing strengths of the Society.

Kelly Tsang continues as STA presentative joined by Sugandha Bhatia.

Penny Martens and Tim Woodfield will continue with roles as IUSBSE delegates. Sally McArthur and Justin Cooper-White as delegates on the Asian Biomaterials Federation.

Final items for discussion was the planning for ASBTE 2026 conference, which will be held in Adelaide, likely the week after Easter. Ferry Melchels and Bryan Coad will be conference co- chairs. Venue is still to be finalised with planning already underway. Other item that was discussed was the proposed change to the membership structure to aid in administrating payments and tracking of membership status. Committee will further investigate suitability of change during the coming year.

Veronica Glattauer

Meet the new exec member

Jiao Jiao Li, UTS

Some will remember JJ from lots of past TERMIS conferences – she has worked in the field of tissue engineering and regenerative medicine throughout her PhD at The University of Sydney (2015), NHMRC Early Career Fellowship at the Kolling Institute (2017-2020), and current role as lab head at UTS biomedical engineering (2020-).

JJ's main research interests are to develop new regenerative therapies using a combination of stem cells, extracellular vesicles, biomaterials, and organ-on-chip devices, mainly (but not exclusively!) to treat bone and joint disorders. She is passionate about science communication, working with people who have diverse backgrounds and experiences, and helping to raise the next generation of young researchers.

JJ considers herself fortunate to be supported by a Rebecca L Cooper Foundation Fellowship, and to have received several recognitions such as TERMIS Young Investigator Award, Metcalf Prize for Stem Cell Research, Eureka Prize for Emerging Leader in Science, and most recently the ASBTE Emerging Investigator Award.

Besides chasing her two-year old daughter and pet rabbits at home, JJ's dream is to help more people age healthily without pain.

<https://profiles.uts.edu.au/Jiaojiao.Li>



ASBTE conference 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

Australasian Society for Biomaterials & Tissue Engineering

30th Annual Conference

7-10 April 2026 | Adelaide



Update from the ASBTE Membership

Mentoring

We are pleased to announce the commencement of a new round of the mentoring program. All students and researchers are warmly invited to take part—whether as a mentor, a mentee, or both.

To express your interest, please complete the brief registration [form](#).

Mentor-mentee pairs who commenced in late 2024 and have already expressed their intention to continue do not need to complete the registration form. These participants have been contacted directly with further information.

Online workshops

Throughout the year, a series of online workshops—each approximately one hour in duration—will be offered monthly (when there is no other major event). These sessions are open to all, and will be specifically tailored to topics of interest for students/ECRs:

Friday 25 July: How to survive a PhD – and beyond ([Zoom](#))

Professor Ferry Melchels will present this session on finding a balance between productivity and wellbeing. The session is mainly targeted at PhD students but will also offer valuable insights for ECRs.

Time: 11:00 am (WA), 1:30 pm (SA), 2:00 pm (East Coast), 4:00 pm (NZ). Join here: [Zoom](#).

Monday 18 Aug: Online UK - Australasia networking workshop

A one-hour online networking workshop co-hosted by TCES and ASBTE in the field of biomaterials, tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. EOIs are invited through [this form](#) from HDR students and postdocs to give a 5-minute talk, or to attend without presenting.

Time: 8:00 am (UK), 3:00 pm (WA), 4:30 pm (SA), 5:00 pm (East Coast), 7:00 pm (NZ).

A joining link will be shared closer to the date.

Tentative future dates: 19 September 2025, 24 October 2025, 29 January 2026, and 6 March 2026.

MCRs, senior researchers, and professionals within ASBTE who are interested in speaking at a workshop are encouraged to get in touch to discuss participation and scheduling.

Regional Showcases

Following the outstanding success of last year's event, the ASBTE Student and ECR Representatives are excited to deliver the **Regional Showcase 2025**. Please block the date—**Friday, 28 November**—as the event is planned to take place across all regions on this day.

Save the Date!

AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR BIOMATERIALS & TISSUE ENGINEERING

REGIONAL SHOWCASES

NSW

NZ

QLD

SA

VIC

WA

ABSTRACTS OPENING SOON

FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2025



ASBTE membership and website

ASBTE on LinkedIn

ASBTE has a private group that members can request to join and share news and information. We also now have our own public page and are pleased to see this has reached >700 followers. We update this regularly with information on ASBTE activities including awards and conferences. It is also a great way to spread the word across our society (and beyond) so please tag us into your posts. We love to share good news of papers, travel, collaboration, prizes and more.



ASBTE on BlueSky

You can now follow ASBTE activities on Bluesky via @asbte.bsky.social – we will also use this platform to share your news, just tag us in your posts and we will share.



ASBTE membership and website

www.asbte.org

You can now sign up for **1, 2, or 3 year ASBTE Standard Membership** at <https://www.asbte.org/shop>

Any member wishing to supply news items, links, PhD scholarships, job listings, or other relevant information to the **website** should contact Jess Frith, jiao.jiao.li@uts.edu.au

ATA Scientific



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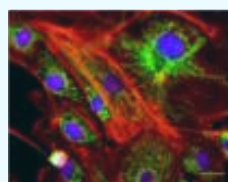
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Biomaterials Bites

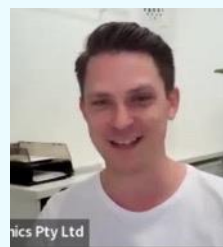
Biomaterials Bites- find out more about ASBTE members

This year we have interviewed more of our members for the Biomaterials Bites series. These are short interviews, designed for you to enjoy over a coffee break and find out more about the variety of research conducted by ASBTE members, as well as surprising insights into the personalities behind it.

Recent interviews include:

- Aafreen Ansari – a PhD student at Monash
- Ferry Melchels – a new Executive Member of ASBTE
- Danielle Vahala – a PhD student at UWA
- Christoph Meinert- founder and CEO of Gelomics
- Rae Moses – a Research Associate at Melbourne University who is developing 3D wound models with innovative methods based on the 3Rs (reduction, replacement and refinement)

These can all be found on our [Youtube channel](#), or via the ASBTE website <https://www.asbte.org/biomaterial-bites>. If you would like to be our next interviewee, please contact jess Frith (Jessica.frith@monash.edu).



TERMIS-AP 2026

SAVE THE DATE

TERMIS-Asia Pacific 2026

October 27 - 30th, 2026

ŌTAUTAHU CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

 **termis.**



Getting to know other Biomaterials Societies

Spotlight on the European Society for Biomaterials (ESB)



Celebrating International Collaboration: MoU between ASBTE and ESB

The Australian Society for Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering (ASBTE) is delighted to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **European Society for Biomaterials (ESB)**. This milestone reflects our shared commitment to fostering international collaboration, advancing biomaterials research, and supporting the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Founded in **1976 in Bologna**, the ESB was established by a visionary group of scientists, including Prof. Sergio Sandrolini Cortesi, Prof. Arturo Pizzoferrato and Prof. George Winter, pioneers in the field of biomaterials. Since its inception, the ESB has grown into a leading society in the discipline, promoting academic, clinical, and industrial research across Europe and beyond.

Over its nearly five-decade history, culminating in its 50th anniversary at the Annual ESB conference in Belgium next year, the ESB has played a pivotal role in promoting excellence in biomaterials science. Notable achievements of the society include:

- The establishment of the **Julia Polak European Doctorate Award**
- The development of strong partnerships with sister societies worldwide, fostering global cooperation.
- Consistently impactful **annual conferences** that attract over 1,200 delegates and showcase cutting-edge innovations in biomaterials and regenerative medicine

The ESB hosts its **scientific meetings annually**, rotating across different European countries, providing a dynamic platform for researchers of all career stages to connect, share discoveries, and build networks. The upcoming [ESB 2025](#) meeting will take place in **Turin, Italy**, continuing this rich tradition.

Today, the ESB boasts a vibrant membership of **over 1,200 members** from across Europe and around the world. The society places particular emphasis on supporting early-career researchers, offering awards, travel grants, and mentorship opportunities and has a very active Young Scientist Forum. We are also proud to celebrate the outstanding scientific achievements of our members, recognised annually through prestigious annual awards such as the George Winter Award, Jean Leray Award, Klaas de Groot Award, and the International Award, which honour excellence and innovation in biomaterials research and its translation to clinical practice.








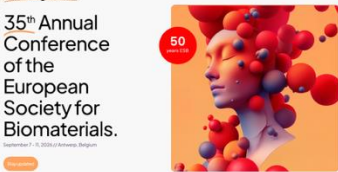

The ESB actively engages with the MedTech and BioPharma industries, partnering with leading companies and stakeholders to drive innovation and advance innovation in biomaterials for medical devices and regenerative medicine. Through conference symposia and webinars, the ESB aims to help students interact with industry, and serves as a bridge to exchange information between academia, industry, and regulatory experts, helping to translate scientific breakthroughs into impactful healthcare solutions across Europe and beyond.

This new partnership between ASBTE and ESB underscores our shared values and ambitions. Together, we aim to create greater opportunities for exchange, collaborative research, and global engagement within the biomaterials community.

For more information about ESB and upcoming events, visit <https://www.esbiomaterials.eu/>.

Professor Sandra Van Vlierberghe
Secretary of the European Society for Biomaterials
Ghent University

Upcoming conferences

Conference	Dates	Location	Link
	7-10 Apr 2026	Adelaide, Australia	Save the date!
	7-11 Sep 2025	Torino, Italy	https://esb2025.org/
	14-17 Sep 2025	Warsaw, Poland	https://biofabricationsociety.org/
	8-11 Oct 2025	San Diego, USA	https://www.bmes.org/future-annual-meetings
	16-19 Oct 2025	TERMIS-AP	https://ap2025.termis.org/
	27-31 Oct 2025	Lorne, Australia	https://mbsanz2025.smalltalkevents.com.au/
	21-24 Apr 2026	Palma de Mallorca, Spain	https://eu2026.termis.org/
	7-11 Sep 2026	Antwerp, Belgium	https://esb2026.org/
	27-30 Oct 2026	Christchurch, New Zealand	https://termis.org/chapters-asia-pacific

ASBTE NEWS is a biannual newsletter that covers news from The Australasian Society for Biomaterials & Tissue Engineering. If you have a news item that you wish to be included please contact the editor Yu Suk Choi (yusuk.choi@uwa.edu.au) or Executive Officer Veronica Glattauer (veronica.glattauer@csiro.au).

2025 Jul issue edited by Yu Suk Choi