

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the president,	1
ASBTE Committee, Student Reps STA Rep	2
TGA/CSIRO Symposium	3
InnoHealth 2018	4
STA update	5
Award Winners	6-7
Grants and Fellowships	8
CReaTE	9
ASBTE ECR & Strategy day	10
BiTERM	11
Spotlight on conferences	12-14



## *From the President ,*

Hello All and Greetings from the Presidency.

As this year wraps up, I wish you all a very happy holiday season and a most enjoyable break.

Since our last newsletter a couple of exciting things have happened. The one thing I am most excited about is that we have an official Inclusion, Diversity and Gender Equity policy (<https://www.asbte.org/policies>). This is a great policy for our society, and I strongly encourage all of you to look it over. I also encourage everyone to think carefully about the conferences you attend and whether or not they are being inclusive.

Next year's meetings are going to be a bit different. On the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> April we are going to run an ECR focused day, followed by a Society Strategy day. See details later in this newsletter. In October ASBTE, in conjunction with TERMIS-AP and the Asian Biomaterials Federation, will be holding a joint conference in Brisbane. It would be great to see our members at both of these events.

Please remember that we have our first ASBTE Early Career Award being offered this year (<https://www.asbte.org/awards>). Nomination deadline closes 31 January 2019. Make sure you nominate one of our amazing ECRs.

I would like to extend my congratulations to all of our members who have won awards, earned grants, or otherwise just been all around good people doing good science. Well done to all, keep up the good work.

As always, I love to chat, so you have any ideas or issues that you would like to discuss, please feel free to reach out – maybe on my new twitter account @Polymer\_Penny.

**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 editors. Veronica Glattauer ([veronica.glattauer@csiro.au](mailto:veronica.glattauer@csiro.au)) and Bryan Coad ([bryan.coad@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:bryan.coad@adelaide.edu.au))

## ASBTE committee members

**Penny Martens** (President)**Helmut Thissen** (Vice-President)**Bryan Coad** (Executive Officer)**Jelena Rnjak-Kovacina** (Treasurer)**Veronica Glattauer****Travis Klein****Khoon Lim****Neil Cameron**

Ordinary members

**Student Representatives****Location**

Ilze Donderwinkel

VIC

Alvaro Sanchez

QLD

Stephanie Lamont-Friedrich (Steph)

SA

Cesar Roberto Alcala Orozco

NZ

Rebecca Sehnert

NSW

Huan Ting Ong (Ting)

WA

Azin Azadi

WA

(vacant)      ACT

**International Union of Societies for Biomaterials Science and Engineering (IUSBSE) Delegates**

Justin Cooper-White

Lisbeth Grondahl

**Science and Technologies  
Australia (STA) Liaison Officer**

Kelly Tsang

## TGA/CSIRO Symposium Roundup

### Symposium on Regulatory Fundamentals in Medical Devices

A Symposium on Regulatory Fundamentals in Medical Devices was held in Melbourne at the CSIRO Clayton site. With approximately 120 attendees, including 30 industry representatives and people attending not only from Victoria but also Queensland, South Australia and the ACT this has been an outstanding success. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) sent 10 people to this event from Canberra with the aim to engage with and to better educate the biomedical device community. The TGA presentations throughout the day were excellent – and the speakers managed to keep the audience engaged for an entire day. The attendees also used the opportunity to join guided tours of the Biomedical Materials Translational Facility and the additive manufacturing Lab 22. The day was capped off with a panel discussion and an opportunity for networking. The success of this symposium clearly reflects the need for this kind of event, and more education and engagement in this space.

*Helmut Thissen, Veronica Glattauer, Kelly Tsang*



Kelly Tsang



#### Job Vacancies at the Therapeutics Goods Administration

<https://healthjobs.nga.net.au/cp/index.cfm?event=jobs.home&CurATC=TGA&CurBID=7B2A37D5-2360-4BDA-783F-7728934793E1&persistVariables=CurATC,CurBID>

## InnoHealth Tour 2018 – Helmut Thissen

The InnoHealth Australia initiative is an initiative by the German Ministry of Education and Research with the aim of strengthening the network between the German and Australian healthcare research sectors, organised by the Fraunhofer Society – Germany's 25,000 people strong equivalent of CSIRO. After a successful visit of German scientists and SME representatives in Australia earlier in 2018, a group of 16 Australian scientists were given the opportunity to visit research institutes and companies representing the German healthcare sector from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. Helmut Thissen took part in this tour, which included visits of the Fraunhofer Headquarters in Munich, Medical Valley in Erlangen, Fraunhofer Institute for Interfacial Engineering and Biotechnology (IGB) in Stuttgart, Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation (IPA) in Mannheim, Max-Planck-Institute (MPI) for Experimental Medicine in Göttingen, Fraunhofer Institute for Toxicology and Experimental Medicine (ITEM) in Hannover, Fraunhofer-inHaus-Center in Duisburg, and Stryker GmbH. The tour, which has resulted in multiple new opportunities, was timed to also give participants the opportunity to visit MEDICA, the world's largest medical trade fair, in Duesseldorf.



## Science & Technology Australia update

### 2019 Superstars of STEM announced

The new Superstars of STEM have been released last week to mash gender stereotypes by being public examples of the diverse range of people working in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and being role models to encourage girls to consider a career in STEM. I'm not sure if anyone from ASBTE have been named but if so congrats! We can all learn something from the program in how we can all represent STEM and the important work of what we do and why we do it particularly in education and media.

<https://scienceandtechnologyaustralia.org.au/new-constellation-of-superstars-of-stem-discovered-in-australia/>

List of 'superstars' <https://scienceandtechnologyaustralia.org.au/list/2019-Superstars/>

Some of the highlights of the first program include:

- Over 12 months, the Superstars achieved **more than 1,400 media mentions globally**, with an estimated **advertising equivalent of \$3 million in Australian media alone**.
- In total, their news media stories were seen an **estimated 82.5 million times**.

The Superstars' collective social media presence grew across all platforms by **53.19%** – with a combined audience of **60,830** followers.

Inaugural Superstars of STEM also reported strong growth in personal confidence. On entry to the program, just 10% of participants felt confident speaking with the media. By the end, this had increased to 80%, and nine out of ten rated their media communications as proficient, advanced, or superstar.

During their time as Superstars of STEM, the group also visited a total of 83 schools in Australia (as well as a few in Asia) and reached more than 12,000 students.

### Federal Election Update

<https://mailchi.mp/e32a914d9155/sta-federal-election-update-templates-and-resources?e=e6d6b98e45>

*Kelly Tsang*

**ASBTE STA Liason Officer**



## Congratulations Award Winners

### Professor Tony Weiss (The University of Sydney)



**2018 Johnson & Johnson Eureka Prize for Innovation in Medical Research!**

You can read more about it here:

<https://australianmuseum.net.au/2018-eureka-prizes-winners>

**NSW Premier's Prize for Leadership in Innovation in NSW**

<https://sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2018/10/30/five-wins-at-the-nsw-premiers-prizes-for-science-engineering.html>

### Dr Jelena Rnjak-Kovacina, UNSW



**2018 NSW Tall Poppy**

<http://newsroom.unsw.edu.au/news/general/unsw-researchers-win-prestigious-tall-poppy-awards>

Jelena was recognised for research into effective treatments for damaged heart tissue caused by heart attacks. Her research explores the use of bioengineered tissues, such as cardiac patches, that can replace dead and damaged heart tissue.

*Prof Laura Poole-Warren and Dr Jelena Rnjak-Kovacina.*

### Dr Nicholas Welch, (CSIRO)

Fellowships were announced. Holding up the ASBTE flag was Nicholas Welch from CSIRO Manufacturing, who was awarded a 2018 VESKI Victoria Fellowship in the Life Sciences category for his work in *"Antifibrotic Surface Coatings for Biomedical Devices"*.

In addition to this he was also awarded the **Australian-French Association for Science and Technology Award**. Both awards provide funding for travel to collaborators in Switzerland, Germany and France. This award will allow him to further boost his outstanding work as a postdoctoral fellow.



## Congratulations Award Winners

### Professor Mia Woodruff, QUT, recipient of 2 awards



- Women in Technology Life Sciences Research Leader Award
- Global Congress on Manufacturing and Management (GCMM) Research Innovation Award

### Professor Dietmar W Hutmacher, QUT



The **Ramaciotti Medal for Excellence** is an annual award of \$50,000 to a researcher that has made an outstanding discovery in clinical or experimental biomedical research. This year, the honour was awarded to **Professor Dietmar W Hutmacher**, Professor and Chair in Regenerative Medicine of the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) for pioneering the field of 3D printing in medicine as well as his track record in developing clinically relevant disease models.

## ASBTE Website [www.asbte.org](http://www.asbte.org)

Any member wishing to supply news items, links, PhD scholarships, job listings, or other relevant information to the **website** should contact the Executive Officer ([Bryan.Coad@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Bryan.Coad@unisa.edu.au))

## Grants and Fellowships

### Congratulations!

**Dr Anna Waterhouse , The University of Sydney**, was awarded a 2018 Health Investment Grant for her work titled Reducing blood clotting complications from cardiovascular medical devices.

**Dr Khoon Lim, University of Otago, NZ, received 2 grants,**

- **2019** Health Research Council of New Zealand – Sir Charles Hercus Fellowship (\$500k, 4 years) - 3D Bioassembly of Functional Bone Grafts: A Lego Approach
- **2019** Royal Society of New Zealand – MARSDEN Fast Start (\$300k, 3 years) – Harnessing macromolecular chemistry to mimic vascular developmental biology

**Dr Nicolas Welch, CSIRO**

Received CASS Foundation funding for the development of anti-fibrotic drugs. The \$46,000 in funding will go towards students, chemicals, in vitro and in vivo tests over the course of 11 months beginning in January. This work will be used to enhance and develop collaborations with the Florey Institute and Monash University.

**Dr Jeremy Balwin, QUT**

Awarded a Fulbright Future Fellowship from the Australian Fulbright Commission.

<https://www.fulbright.org.au/current-scholars/#Jeremy-baldwin>

### *In the News,*

The hidden human toll of lax controls on the booming medical device industry

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-26/implant-files-shine-light-on-medical-device-industry/10521480>



## CReaTE 3D Printing Summer Course



The Christchurch Regenerative Medicine and Tissue Engineering (CReaTE) Group is running a **"3D Printing in Medicine"** Summer Course in **Christchurch on Feb 11-14<sup>th</sup> 2019**. We have assembled a prestigious collection of international and national experts and clinicians to deliver keynote lectures, including **Prof Jason Burdick, Prof Peter Choong, Prof Hala Zrekiat, Prof Jürgen Groll and Prof Tim Woodfield**.

Please visit [www.otago.ac.nz/3dprintmedicine](http://www.otago.ac.nz/3dprintmedicine) for more information and registration.

## ASBTE ECR Workshop and Strategy Day



We are very pleased to announce that ASBTE is running a special **two day** symposium next year (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019).

**Day 1** will be an inaugural Early Career Researchers (ECR)/ Student workshop, including career advice sessions, publishing, CV building, commercialisation/translation of research.

**Day 2** will be the **annual AGM**, focussing on our society's aims, strategic partnership and future approaches to expand ASBTE. We encourage all ASBTE members (ECR and senior members) to attend this fantastic event.

Day 2 is very important and we would like to **highly encourage ALL of our members to attend**. We be discussing the direction of our society, and your input is valuable.

For more information, please contact A/Prof Penny Martens ([p.martens@unsw.edu.au](mailto:p.martens@unsw.edu.au)) or Dr Khoon Lim ([khoon.lim@otago.ac.nz](mailto:khoon.lim@otago.ac.nz))

## The next joint India-Australia meeting



The next, 8<sup>th</sup> Indo Australia joint BiTERM meeting will be held in Kanpur, India on November 28 – December 1, 2019.

Kanpur is the location of a major Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campus, and is south-east from New Delhi and south from Lucknow.

Why not extend your conference visit by a few days for some tourism? Kanpur is interesting in itself, as is nearby Lucknow. However, if you base yourself in Delhi then there are many interesting tourist venues, including the Red Fort. Also, there are several opportunities for day trips to the Taj Mahal in Agra (not Fridays) and/or the Pink Palace in Jaipur. Plus many other opportunities.



## ASBTE memberships for 2019 now open. Time to renew now!

All current ASBTE memberships will expire at the end of 2018.

To renew your membership or encourage colleagues to join for 2019, please go to <https://www.asbte.org/join-renew>

New and renewal memberships costs:

Full Member \$80, Student Member \$40

### Benefits:

International Biomaterials Societies also often recognise ASBTE as an affiliated society, and thus you should also get reduced rates for most of the meetings hosted by these societies.

### Other benefits include:

Listing of jobs and scholarship opportunities

Networking opportunities (national and international)

Update on government policies from Science and Technology Australia (formerly FASTS).

ASBTE Newsletters

Support for students and early-career researchers through conference and travel awards,  
<https://www.asbte.org/awards>

Listing of jobs, postgraduate research and scholarship opportunities

Announcements and updates on up and coming Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering conferences around the globe

## Spotlight on Conferences

Please check the Web to get further information and also details on due dates

CONFERENCE	DATES	LOCATION	WEBSITE
 Christchurch Regenerative Medicine and Tissue Engineering (CReaTE) Research group	February 11-14, 2019	Christchurch NZ	<a href="http://www.otago.ac.nz/3dprintmedicine">www.otago.ac.nz/3dprintmedicine</a>
4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Expo on Biomaterials	February 25-26, 2019	London, UK	<a href="https://biomaterials.conferenceseries.co">https://biomaterials.conferenceseries.co</a>
5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Biomaterials	March 11-12, 2019	Nice, France	<a href="https://biomaterials.materialsconferences.com/">https://biomaterials.materialsconferences.com/</a>
 2019 ASBTE Symposium and AGM	TBC (March/April) 2019	Sydney, NSW	<a href="https://www.asbte.org/">https://www.asbte.org/</a>
 2019 Society For Biomaterials Annual Meeting &	April 2-6, 2019	Seattle, WA	<a href="https://www.biomaterials.org/events/future-meetings">https://www.biomaterials.org/events/future-meetings</a>
 BioMAT 2019 - 5 <sup>th</sup> European Symposium and	May 8 – 9, 2019	Weimar, Germany	<a href="https://biomat2019.dgm.de/home/">https://biomat2019.dgm.de/home/</a>
 4 <sup>th</sup> International Congress on Biomaterials and Biosensors	May 12-18, 2019	Oludeniz, Turkey	<a href="http://www.biomatsencongress.org/">http://www.biomatsencongress.org/</a>
Global Congress & Expo on Biomaterials	May 13-14, 2019	Kuala Lumpur Malaysia	<a href="https://scientificfederation.com/biomaterials-2019/">https://scientificfederation.com/biomaterials-2019/</a>
 13th International Symposium on Frontiers in Bio-	May 19-23, 2019	Canary Islands, Spain	<a href="http://fbps2019.org/en">http://fbps2019.org/en</a>
ICBE 2019 : 21st International Conference on Biomaterials Engineering	May 21 - 22, 2019	Berlin, Germany	<a href="https://waset.org/conference/2019/05/berlin/ICBE">https://waset.org/conference/2019/05/berlin/ICBE</a>
 35 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of The Canadian Biomaterials Society	May 21 - 24, 2019	Québec City, Canada	<a href="http://cbs2019.org/">http://cbs2019.org/</a>



## Spotlight on Conferences


 <b>25th Annual Meeting of the Swiss Society for Biomaterials and Regenerative Medicine</b>	May 22-23, 2019	Muttenz, Switzerland	<a href="https://ssbrm.ch/">https://ssbrm.ch/</a>
 <b>2019 TERMIS-EU Conference</b>	May 27 - 31 2019	Rhodes, Greece	<a href="https://termis.org/eu2019/">https://termis.org/eu2019/</a>
 <b>Bone-Tec 2019</b>	TBC	Oman	<a href="http://www.bone-tec.com/">http://www.bone-tec.com/</a>
 <b>Gordon Research Conference – Tissue Repair and Regeneration</b>	June 9 - 14, 2019	New London, NH	<a href="https://www.grc.org/tissue-repair-and-regeneration-conference/2019/">https://www.grc.org/tissue-repair-and-regeneration-conference/2019/</a>
 <b>Scandinavian Society for Biomaterials 2019 Conference</b>	June 12–14, 2019	Kirkkonummi Finland	<a href="https://events.uta.fi/scsb2019/">https://events.uta.fi/scsb2019/</a>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit on Biomaterials and Biopolymers</b>	July 17-18, 2019	Osaka, Japan	<a href="https://www.meetingsint.com/conferences/biomaterials">https://www.meetingsint.com/conferences/biomaterials</a>
<b>ICTERM 2019 : 21st International Conference on Tissue Engineering &amp; Regenerative Medicine</b>	July 18 - 19, 2019	Paris, France	<a href="https://waset.org/conference/2019/07/Paris/ICTERM">https://waset.org/conference/2019/07/Paris/ICTERM</a>
 <b>Gordon Research Seminar - Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering</b>	July 27 - 28, 2019	Castelldefels Spain	
 <b>Gordon Research Conference - Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering</b>	July 28 - August 2, 2019	Castelldefels Spain	<a href="https://www.grc.org/biomaterials-and-tissue-engineering-conference/2019/">https://www.grc.org/biomaterials-and-tissue-engineering-conference/2019/</a>
 <b>Biomimetics in Bioengineering Conference</b>	August 4-6, 2019	Brisbane, QLD	<a href="https://www.biomimeticsinbioengineering2018.com/">https://www.biomimeticsinbioengineering2018.com/</a>
 <b>3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress on Advanced Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering</b>	<b>August 26-27, 2019</b>	Madrid, Spain	<a href="https://biomaterials-tissue-engineering.pulsusconference.com/">https://biomaterials-tissue-engineering.pulsusconference.com/</a>



## Spotlight on Conferences

 <b>30th Annual Meeting of the European Society for</b>	September 9–13, 2019	Dresden, Germany	<a href="http://www.esb2019.org/">http://www.esb2019.org/</a>
 <b>2019 TERMIS-AP Conference and</b>	October 14–18, 2019	Brisbane	<a href="http://www.brisbane2019.com/">http://www.brisbane2019.com/</a>
 <b>8<sup>th</sup> India-Australia joint BiTerm Meeting</b>	November 28 – December 1, 2019	Kanpur, India	(To be announced)
 <b>2019 TERMIS-AM Conference</b>	December 2–5, 2019	Orlando, FL	<a href="https://www.termis.org/am2019/index.php">https://www.termis.org/am2019/index.php</a>

## And future meetings to plan ahead for in 2020

 <b>11th World Biomaterials Congress, 2020</b>	May 19–24 2020	Glasgow	<a href="http://www.wbc2020.org">www.wbc2020.org</a>
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**Thank you to all ASBTE members and friends.  
 Have a restful and festive end of the year  
 See you back in 2019!**

