



International Bioactives Conference 2026

September 22 – 24 2026
Macquarie University

PROGRAM

We Work on Sacred Ground

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE
MANY LANDS ON WHICH WE LIVE AND WORK, AND
THEIR ENDURING CONNECTION TO IT.

TODAY WE MEET ON THE LANDS OF THE
WALLUMATTAGAL PEOPLE OF THE DHARUG NATION.

WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR STEWARDSHIP OF THE
LAND THAT NOW SUSTAINS US AND PAY OUR RESPECTS
TO THEIR ELDERS PAST AND PRESENT.



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Welcome to IBC 2026

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the International Bioactives Conference 2026 at Macquarie University, on Wallumattagal land.

The conference was established to bring together researchers, industry representatives and other organisations working across the broad and rapidly evolving field of bioactives, from discovery and characterisation through to health applications, product development and translation.

Over the next three days, we hope to create opportunities to share new research, exchange ideas and build connections across disciplines and sectors. The program reflects the breadth of the field and the value of bringing different perspectives together to explore emerging science, practical applications and future opportunities for bioactives research and innovation.

We are particularly pleased to welcome an outstanding group of plenary and invited speakers, alongside researchers, students and industry participants from Australia and overseas. Their contributions will provide a strong foundation for discussion throughout the conference. We also warmly welcome the many early-career researchers and students presenting their work through oral presentations, lightning talks and posters. Supporting the next generation of researchers and creating opportunities for them to develop new professional connections are important aims of this meeting.

As an inaugural conference, this event has also been made possible through the commitment of many people and organisations. I extend my sincere thanks to our Scientific and Organising Committees, sponsors and partners, speakers, session chairs and volunteers for their generous support and contribution to the program.

I encourage you to take full advantage of the scientific sessions, poster presentations and social events over the coming days. Please introduce yourself to someone new, contribute to the discussions and explore opportunities for future collaboration.

I am delighted to welcome you to Macquarie University and hope this inaugural meeting marks the beginning of an enduring forum for Australia's growing bioactives community and its international partners.

Professor Anwar Sunna
Conference Chair
Director, ARC Training Centre for
Facilitated Advancement of
Australia's Bioactives (FAAB)
Macquarie University



Delegate information

VENUE

**Michael Kirby Building, 17 Wallys Walk
Macquarie University, NSW 2109**

You can find maps of the university campus on the [university website](#).

REGISTRATION

Registration desk will be open from
8:00am-9:00am on 22 September
8:30 – 9:00am on 23 and 24 September.

The registration desk will also be staffed during meal breaks for any assistance you require.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Michael Kirby Building has an accessible entrance via Central Avenue, central lift service to all floors and accessible toilets. There are accessible parking options in the South 2 and East 3 carparks.

A quiet space will be available on the ground floor. Attend the registration desk during breaks or ask a volunteer for directions or assistance.

TRANSPORT

The closest public transport hub is **Macquarie University Metro Station**. Buses also stop along University Avenue and at the nearby Macquarie Centre bus interchange. Plan your public transport route: [Transport for NSW Trip Planner](#).
By Car: <https://www.mq.edu.au/about/locations/parking/visitor>

CONTACT

faab@mq.edu.au
www.bioactives2026.com



IBC PROGRAM 2026



*Connecting Science, Industry and
Innovation for a Healthier Future.*

DAY 1 TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER **THEME: Discovery and Foundations**

Welcome

Opening Plenary Professor Mary Ann Lila (North Carolina State University, USA)

Discovery, Bioavailability & Mechanisms of Bioactives | Foodomics, Analytical Technologies & Disease

Prevention | Plant Bioactives & Sustainable Food Systems | Lightening Talks

Poster Presentation & Networking Evening

DAY 2 WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER **THEME: Applications & Translation**

Morning Plenary Professor Michelle Colgrave (Edith Cowan University, CSIRO, Australia)

Bioactives Product Development & Translation 1 & 2 | Food Bioactives & Clinical Translation | Integration,
Ethics & Societal Impact

Conference Cocktail Function, Taronga Zoo Function Centre, Mosman

DAY 3 THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER **THEME: Future & Integration**

Morning Plenary Professor Philip Yongxin Li (The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong)

Health Futures: Precision Modulation | Emerging Bioactive Therapeutics & Future Translation | Future

Bioactive Discovery Technologies | Lightening Talks

Closing Plenary Professor Elaine Holmes (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong)

Conference Close

SESSION LENGTH

Plenary talks (40 min)*: 35 min talk + 5 min Q&A

Keynote talks (30 min): 25 min talk + 5 min Q&A

Contributed Oral Presentation from Abstracts (15 min): 12 min talk + 3 min Q&A

Lightning Talks (5 min)**: Combined Q&A at end of session

IBC PROGRAM 2026

Tuesday 22 September

Discovery and Foundations



TIME	PROGRAM	G25 Lecture Theatre
8:00 am	Registration Opens Ground Floor Foyer, Wally's Walk Entrance	
9:00 am	Welcome and Opening Welcome and Acknowledgement, Professor Anwar Sunna, Organising Committee Chair & Director FAAB Official Opening, Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte, NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer	
9:25 am	Opening Plenary Lecture Prof Mary Ann Lila (North Carolina State University, USA) – <i>Plant Bioactives That Protect Human Health - The Call of the Wild</i>	
10:05 am	Morning tea Networking and exhibition	GROUND FLOOR FOYER
10:35 am	Session 1: Discovery, Bioavailability & Mechanisms of Bioactives Chair: Professor Anwar Sunna (FAAB, Macquarie University) 10:35–11:05 A/Prof Hafiz Suleria (University of Melbourne) – <i>Understanding Food Bioactives from Digestion to Absorption: Integrated in vitro, Cellular, and in vivo Porcine Models</i> 11:20–11:35 Dr Sophie Selby-Pham (University of Melbourne) – <i>Modelling phytochemical intestinal absorption to enable functional fingerprinting of complex plant extracts</i> 11:05–11:20 Latheesha Abeywardana (Deakin University) – <i>Electrospun Multi-Encapsulation of Vitamin A for Edible 3D Printing and Personalised Nutrition</i> 11:35–12:05 Prof Ana Rodriguez-Mateos (King's College London, UK) – <i>Bioavailability and Beyond: Understanding Biological Responses to Dietary (Poly)phenols</i>	
12:10 pm	Lunch Break Networking and exhibition	GROUND FLOOR FOYER
1:10 pm	Session 2: Foodomics, Analytical Technologies & Disease Prevention Chair: Professor Jayashree Arcot (UNSW) 1:10 – 1:40 Prof Philippe Schmitt-Kopplin (Technical University of Munich, Germany) – <i>Food Functional Metabolomics in a Nutshell: Bioactives from Biotic and Abiotic Chemistry</i> 1:40 – 1:55 Dr Madhuri Hande (FAAB, Macquarie University) – <i>Rapid Targeted Analysis of Hydrolyzed Plant Polysaccharides by DREAMTIME NMR Spectroscopy</i> 1:55 – 2:10 Amaha Adhanu (Edith Cowan University) – <i>Source-specific nitrate and nitrite intake and the incidence of chronic kidney disease in the Danish Diet, Cancer, and Health Cohort</i> 2:10 – 2:40 A/Prof Catherine Bondonno (Edith Cowan University) – <i>The Strange Case of Nitrate: The Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde of Human Health</i>	

IBC PROGRAM 2026

Tuesday 22 September

Discovery and Foundations



TIME	PROGRAM	G25 Lecture Theatre
2:45 pm	Afternoon Tea Networking and exhibition	GROUND FLOOR FOYER
3:15 pm	Session 3: Plant Bioactives & Sustainable Food Systems Chair: Professor Jaswinder Singh (McGill University, Canada) 3:15 – 3:45 Prof Rachel Burton (Adelaide University) – <i>Bioactive Bonanza: Rich Pickings in Australia's Emerging Crops</i> 3:45 – 4:00 Raquel Carvalho (FAAB, Macquarie University) – <i>The Use of Green Solvents to Obtain Bioactive-rich Extracts from Broccoli Leaves</i> 4:00 – 4:15 Temitope Adebayo (Western Sydney University) – <i>From Leaf to Bioactive: Optimising Processing of Vernonia amygdalina (Bitter Leaf) for Functional Tea Development</i> 4:15 – 4:45 Prof Yasmina Sultanbawa (University of Queensland) – <i>Opportunity Crops and Bioactive Compounds: Driving Innovation for Industry Applications</i> 4:45 – 5:00 Dr Keshav Raj Paudel (Western Sydney University) – <i>Kakadu Plum Extract Disrupts Proliferation and Metastatic Hallmarks of Lung Cancer.</i>	
5:00pm	Lightening Talks Chair: Dr Hasinika Gamage (FAAB, Macquarie University) 5:00–5:05 Tina Kayeye (FAAB, Macquarie University) – <i>Understanding Fat, Protein and Carbohydrate Rearrangement of Plant-Based Milk Alternatives in Coffee</i> 5:05 – 5:10 Himani Gamage (Edith Cowan University) – <i>Applying Discovery Proteomics Coupled with In-Silico Data Mining to Understand the Bioactive Potential of Cucumis Sativus (Lebanese Cucumber) Tissue Extracts</i> 5:10 – 5:15 Sofia Kokkinis (University of Technology Sydney) – <i>Liposomal Encapsulated Curcumin Attenuates Lung Cancer Proliferation, Migration and Apoptosis</i> 5:15 – 5:20 Olumide Fawale (University of Queensland) – <i>Comparative Metabolomic and Chemometric Analysis of Wild and Commercially Cultivated Yams in Australia</i> 5:20 – 5:25 Lara Taggart (Western Sydney University) – <i>Cardiovascular-Relevant Bioactivity Profiling of Native Australian Acacia Species: Antioxidant, Phenolic and Anti-Inflammatory Properties</i> 5:25 Group Q & A Session	
5:40 PM	Poster Networking Evening Poster presentation session with networking and light refreshments	LEVEL 3, 330X FUNCTION ROOM

IBC PROGRAM 2026

Wednesday 23 September

Applications and Translation



TIME	PROGRAM	G25 Lecture Theatre
8:30 am	Registration Opens Ground Floor Foyer, Wally's Walk Entrance	
9:00 am	Morning Plenary Lecture Prof Michelle Colgrave (Edith Cowan University/CSIRO) – <i>Bioactive Peptides and Proteins: Using Machine Learning, Proteogenomics and Analytical Validation to Move from Discovery to Impact</i>	
9:40 am	Session 1: Bioactive Product Development & Translation Chair: A/Prof Alfonso Garcia-Bennett (FAAB, Macquarie University) 9:40–10:10 Prof Munish Puri (Massey University, New Zealand) – <i>Redefining Industrial Biotechnology: Intelligent Biomanufacturing of Future Foods and Bioactive Ingredients</i> 10:10–10:25 A/Prof Quan Vuong (University of Technology Sydney) – <i>Challenges and Opportunities in Translating Leptospermum Bioactives into Functional Products</i> 10:25–10:40 Dr Mitchell Low (Western Sydney University) – <i>Synergistic Anti-Inflammatory Effects of Celery Seed and Botanical Extracts: Bioactivity-Guided Identification and Optimisation of Multi-Herb Combinations</i>	
10:40 am	Morning Tea Networking and exhibition	GROUND FLOOR FOYER
11:10 am	Session 2: Bioactive Product Development & Translation (continued) Chair: Dr Mitchell Low (Western Sydney University) 11:10–11:40 Dist. Prof Colin Barrow (Deakin University,) – <i>High Value Bioproducts from Organic Waste to Promote a Circular Economy</i> 11:40–11:55 Dr Yilun Weng (University of Queensland) – <i>Oral Delivery of Food Bioactive Compounds</i> 11:55–12:10 Aaron Bennett (University of Technology Sydney) - <i>The Comparative Analysis of Various Ionizing Bioburden Reduction Methods for Medicinal Cannabis</i>	
12:10 pm	Lunch Networking and exhibition	GROUND FLOOR FOYER

IBC PROGRAM 2026

Wednesday 23 September

Applications and Translation



TIME	PROGRAM	G25 Lecture Theatre
1:10 pm	Session 3: Food Bioactives & Clinical Translation Chair Prof Abishek Santhakumar (Charles Sturt University) 1:10 – 1:40 A/Prof Karen Murphy (Adelaide University) – <i>Translating Food Bioactives into Healthy Ageing Outcomes: Insights from Mediterranean Diet Intervention Trials</i> 1:40 – 1:55 Dr Elizabeth Barber (Monash University) – <i>Impact of Nutrient-dense Spinach-enriched Bread on Postprandial Glycaemia, Satiety and Sensory Acceptance: A Randomised Controlled Crossover Trial in Healthy Adults</i> 1:55 – 2:10 Dr Hasinika Gamage (Macquarie University) – <i>Unravelling a Butyrate-linked Gut-brain Axis in Machado Joseph Disease</i> 2:10 – 2:40 Dr Xuyu Liu (University of Sydney) – <i>From Kitchen to Bench to Bedside: Investigating the Antithrombotic Potential of Brassica Vegetable-Derived Antiplatelet Agents</i> 2:40 – 3:10 Prof Miranda Miroso (University of Otago, New Zealand) – <i>Translating Bioactives from the Circular Food Economy</i>	
3:10 pm	Afternoon tea Networking and exhibition	GROUND FLOOR FOYER
3:40 pm	Session 4: Integration, Ethics & Societal Impact Chair Lorna Munro (Food Standards Australia New Zealand) 3:40 – 3:55 Dr Nural Cokcetin (University of Sydney) – <i>Promising, not (yet) Proven: Balancing Evidence and Enthusiasm when Communicating Bioactive Research</i> 3:55–4:10 Dr Carla Lopes (Macquarie University) – <i>Promoting Bioactive-Rich foods in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations</i> 4:10 – 4:25 Dr Paul Mason (Macquarie University) – <i>More than Food, Not Quite Drug: Stress-testing Pharmacological Models of Bioactive Compounds</i> 4:25 – 4:55 Prof Karen Charlton (University of Newcastle) – <i>Navigating the Regulatory Landscape for Food Bioactives</i>	
7 – 9 pm	Cocktail function Cocktail dinner to be held at Taronga Function Centre, Mosman. Bus transport will be provided and will depart Macquarie University. Guests should arrive at the bus departure point no later than 6pm. Buses will return to campus after the function.	TARONGA ZOO FUNCTION CENTRE, MOSMAN

IBC PROGRAM 2026

Thursday 24 September

Future and Integration



TIME	PROGRAM	G25 Lecture Theatre
8:30 am	Registration Open Ground Floor Foyer, Wally's Walk Entrance	GROUND FLOOR FOYER
9:00 am	Morning Plenary Lecture Prof Philip Yongxin Li (The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong) – <i>Decoding the Cryptic Chemistry of Microbiota for Drug Discovery</i>	
9:40 am	Session 1: Health Futures: Precision Modulation Chair: Prof Alison Rodger (FAAB, Australian National University) 9:40–10:10 Prof Jayashree Arcot (University of New South Wales) – <i>Bioactives in Foods: Their Interactions, Bioaccessibility and Bioavailability can Influence their Bioactivity</i> 10:10–10:25 Dr Erin Clarke (University of Newcastle) – <i>From Fed to Free-living: Integration of Dietary Biomarkers and Metabolomics into Precision Nutrition</i> 10:25–10:55 A/Prof Andrew Holmes (University of Sydney) – <i>Promises and Pitfalls for Precision Nutrition</i> 10:55–11:10 Jenani Sutharsan (University of New South Wales) – <i>Fermentation Enhances the Bioaccessibility of Xanthophylls and the Prebiotic Potential of Vegetables</i>	
11:10 am	Morning Tea Networking and exhibition	GROUND FLOOR FOYER
11:40 am	Session 2: Emerging Bioactive Therapeutics & Future Translation Chair: Dr Jennifer McLennan (SFI Health) 11:40–12:10 Prof Kamal Dua (Western Sydney University) – <i>Emerging Next-Generation Bioactive Therapeutics for Lung Diseases through the Integration of Phytochemistry, Biology and Advanced Drug Delivery Systems</i> 12:10–12:25 A/Prof Ting Huyan (Northwestern Polytechnical University, China) – <i>Pre-immunized NK Cell-Derived Exosomes as Bioactive Messengers for Transferring Antigen-Specific Memory-like Anti-tumor Immunity</i>	
12:25 pm	Lunch Networking and exhibition	GROUND FLOOR FOYER

IBC PROGRAM 2026

Thursday 24 September

Future and Integration



TIME	PROGRAM	G25 Lecture Theatre
1:25 pm	Session 3: Future Bioactive Discovery Technologies Chair: Prof Corinne Smith (University of Warwick, UK) 1:25 – 1:55 Prof Björn Hamberger (Michigan State University, USA) – <i>Inspired by Nature's Principles: Discovery and Portability of Terpene Biosynthesis</i> 1:55 – 2:10 Saroj Dulal (University of Newcastle) – <i>Bridging Ethnobotany and Biotechnology: Pharmaceutical and Industrial Bioactives from a Single Microbacterium Endophyte</i> 2:10 – 2:40 Dr Fabien Plisson (Ingenie Bio) – <i>Lessons from Integrating Machine Learning into the Bioactive Discovery Pipeline</i> 2:40 – 2:55 Krutika Purohit (FAAB, Macquarie University) – <i>AI-guided Discovery of Multifunctional Bioactive Peptides from Edible Rhizomes and Root Vegetables</i>	
2:55 pm	Afternoon tea Networking and exhibition	GROUND FLOOR FOYER
3:25 pm	Lightening Talks Chair: Dr Zahra Khabir (FAAB, Macquarie University) 3:25 – 3:30 Jonathan Rosenzweig (University of New England) – <i>Antimicrobial Activity of Hericium erinaceus (Bull.) Persoon Extracts Against Neurodegeneration-Associated Bacterial Pathogens: Bioactive Profiling and Cultivation Optimisation</i> 3:30 – 3:35 Atnaf Abate (FAAB, Macquarie University) – <i>Functional Characterisation of Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids and their Metabolites at GPR55 Receptor Using the TRUPATH Assay</i> 3:35 – 3:40 Damian Hall (Western Sydney University) – <i>Tryptamine Derived Pictet–Spengler Metabolites in Australian Acacia Species: Spontaneous or Enzymatic Origin?</i> 3:40 – 3:45 Emmanuel Ofose Mensah (FAAB, Macquarie University) – <i>Anticancer Properties of Fucoidan and its Potential Molecular Targets</i> 3:45 – 3:50 Zarnab Asif (FAAB, Adelaide University) – <i>Understanding the Digestibility of Meat Fat Analogues: Implications for Nutraceuticals Absorption</i> 3:50 Group Q & A Session	
4:00 pm	Closing Plenary Lecture Prof Elaine Holmes (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong) – <i>From Molecules to Meaning: Bioactives, Metabolism and the Future of Precision Health</i>	
4:40 pm	Conference close Professor Anwar Sunna, Organising Committee Chair & Director FAAB	

Invited Speakers



OPENING PLENARY

Mary Ann Lila

**DAVID H. MURDOCK
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR**

**North Carolina State
University**

Professor Lila advances the use of food crops as sources of health-promoting bioactives. Her research integrates metabolomics, nutrigenomics, plant breeding and translational food science. A Fellow of the Institute of Food Technologists, she has led research initiatives across multiple continents and works at the intersection of crop science, nutrition and human health.



DAY 2 PLENARY

Michelle Colgrave

**PROFESSOR OF FOOD AND
AGRICULTURAL
PROTEOMICS**

**Edith Cowan University
and CSIRO**

Professor Colgrave applies proteomics and mass spectrometry to food and agriculture research that supports human health. She is a Chief Investigator in the ARC Centre of Excellence for Innovations in Peptide and Protein Science and Deputy Director of CSIRO Agriculture and Food, where she leads translation and commercialisation of sustainable agrifood research.



DAY 3 PLENARY

Yongxin Li

PROFESSOR

**The University of Hong
Kong**

Professor Li investigates natural product discovery using genomics-guided approaches and bioengineering of microbiome-derived peptides. His group combines bioinformatics, synthetic biology and deep learning to identify new bioactives and understand microbial chemical interactions. He received the Young Peptide Scientist Award and ACS Rising Star Award in 2024.



CLOSING PLENARY

Elaine Holmes

**AUSTRALIAN LAUREATE
FELLOW AND PROFESSOR
OF CHEMICAL BIOLOGY**

**Murdoch University and
Imperial College London**

Professor Holmes is internationally recognised for her work in molecular phenomics, systems biology and precision nutrition. Her research integrates metabolic phenotyping, spectroscopy and computational medicine to investigate chronic and infectious diseases. A major focus is host-microbiome interactions and the application of molecular phenomics to disease prevention and translational health research.

Invited Speakers



Philippe Schmitt-Kopplin

**DIRECTOR, ANALYTICAL
BIOGEOCHEMISTRY**

**Helmholtz Munich and
Technical University of Munich**

Professor Schmitt-Kopplin is an analytical chemist and metabolomics researcher specialising in high-resolution molecular profiling across food, environment and health. He leads the Comprehensive Foodomics Platform at the Technical University of Munich, combining advanced mass spectrometry, NMR and data science to characterise complex chemical systems.



Bjoern Hamberger

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
BIOCHEMISTRY AND
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY**

Michigan State University

Associate Professor Hamberger investigates how terpenoid biosynthetic pathways generate chemical diversity in plants and how these principles can be applied in synthetic biology. His team studies enzyme flexibility, pathway organisation and plant genomics to engineer high-value terpenoids for resilient and biosustainable production.



Colin Barrow

**DEAKIN DISTINGUISHED
PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF
BIOTECHNOLOGY**

Deakin University

Professor Barrow leads research across food, agricultural and marine biotechnology and directs Deakin's Centre for Sustainable Bioproducts. He is a Clarivate Highly Cited Researcher, a member of the ARC College of Experts and a member of the Therapeutic Goods Administration Advisory Committee on Complementary Medicines.



Miranda Miroso

**PROFESSOR OF FOOD
SCIENCE AND HEAD OF
DEPARTMENT**

University of Otago

Professor Miroso specialises in agrifood marketing and consumer behaviour, sustainable food systems, alternative proteins and food waste reduction. Her interdisciplinary and cross-cultural research provides evidence for decision making across industry, government and society. She also directs the University of Otago Food Waste Innovation Research Theme.



Ana Rodriguez-Mateos

**PROFESSOR OF HUMAN
NUTRITION**

King's College London

Professor Rodriguez-Mateos studies the health effects of plant foods and phytochemicals, particularly polyphenols. Her research examines the gut microbiome, precision nutrition and metabolomics-based biomarkers of dietary intake. She received the Nutrition Society Silver Medal Award for excellence in nutritional sciences.



Andrew Holmes

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND
MICROBIAL ECOLOGIST**

The University of Sydney

Associate Professor Holmes studies the human gut ecosystem and how the gut microbiota may be understood and manipulated to improve health. Based in the School of Life and Environmental Sciences and affiliated with the Charles Perkins Centre, he has held research positions in Australia and the United Kingdom and serves on leading microbiology editorial boards.

Invited Speakers



Catherine Bondonno

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

**Nutrition & Health Innovation
Research Institute, Edith
Cowan University**

Associate Professor Bondonno investigates dietary strategies for cardiovascular and cognitive health. Her research focuses particularly on dietary nitrate from vegetables and flavonoids from fruit. This work has contributed to international evidence and policy concerning nitric oxide pathways, dietary patterns and chronic disease risk.



Yasmina Sultanbawa

**DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR
NUTRITION AND FOOD
SCIENCES**

The University of Queensland

Professor Sultanbawa works across food processing, preservation, safety and nutrition, with a focus on bioactive delivery and translational food innovation. She partners with industry and communities to develop practical solutions, including work on opportunity crops and native foods that support sustainable and resilient food systems.



Hafiz Suleria

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
FOOD CHEMISTRY**

The University of Melbourne

Associate Professor Suleria researches the isolation, purification and characterisation of bioactive compounds from plant, marine and animal sources. His work combines advanced analytical technologies with in vitro bioactivity, cell culture and animal studies to translate new discoveries into functional foods, nutraceuticals and industry applications.



Munish Puri

**RIDDET-BSI CHAIR IN
ALTERNATIVE PROTEINS**

Massey University

Professor Puri leads research in precision fermentation, synthetic biology and cellular agriculture. His work develops microbial cell factories for high-value metabolites and applies food biotechnology to nutraceutical and novel food development. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and is recognised among Australasia's leading biotechnology researchers.



Karen Murphy

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN
NUTRITION AND DIETETICS**

Adelaide University

Associate Professor Murphy is a dietitian whose randomised controlled dietary trials examine how foods, nutrients and lifestyle patterns, including the Mediterranean diet, influence chronic disease risk and healthy ageing. Her research focuses on cardiovascular health, cognition and dementia risk. She also leads a global taskforce advancing reporting guidelines for nutrition trials.



Karen Charlton

**ARC FUTURE FELLOW,
NUTRITION SCIENTIST AND
ACCREDITED PRACTISING
DIETITIAN**

University of Newcastle

Professor Charlton has more than 25 years of experience in public health nutrition. Her research examines plant bioactives and anthocyanins in cognition, cardiovascular health and healthy ageing. She leads multidisciplinary work spanning systematic reviews, randomised trials, epidemiology and mechanistic studies, with more than 260 peer-reviewed publications.

Invited Speakers



Xuyu (Johnny) Liu

**CARDIOVASCULAR-
PROTECTIVE SIGNALLING
GROUP LEADER**

**The University of Sydney and
Heart Research Institute**

Dr Liu leads research that decodes how heart-healthy vegetables influence thrombosis prevention. Following postdoctoral training at Cornell University and EPFL, he established his independent laboratory as an ARC DECRA Fellow. His work has appeared in Nature Chemistry and ACS Central Science and has received support from major Australian health funders.



Kamal Dua

**PROFESSOR OF
PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES**

Western Sydney University

Professor Dua develops innovative drug-delivery systems for inflammatory diseases. His research integrates pharmacology, immunology and translational science, with a strong focus on phytochemicals and nutraceuticals. He aims to advance therapeutic formulations for airway diseases and cancer that deliver clinical and community health benefits.



Fabien Plisson

FOUNDER

Ingenie Bio

Dr Plisson is a drug-discovery scientist and AI and machine-learning specialist with extensive academic and industry experience. His work combines analytical chemistry, structural bioinformatics, protein engineering and machine learning to discover and design natural products and peptide therapeutics. He previously led the Laboratory of Peptide Therapeutics at CINVESTAV-IPN in Mexico.



Rachel Burton

**PROFESSOR OF PLANT
SCIENCE**

**Adelaide University, Waite
Campus**

Professor Burton is a plant scientist and molecular biologist who develops new crop options for modern agriculture, including agave, Plantago, industrial hemp and chia. She has served as a Chief Investigator in two ARC Centres of Excellence and has led both Plant Science and Food Science departments within the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine.



Conference Networking Events



Join us in continuing the conversation, making new connections and sharing ideas beyond the formal program.

**TUE
22 SEP**

Poster Session

Explore the poster presentations and meet researchers from across the conference program.

TIME: 5:40pm – 6:40pm

**LOCATION: Level 3, Room 330X Function Room
17 Wally's Walk, Macquarie University**

INFORMATION:

The session will commence directly after the program finishes for the day. Level 3 can be accessed via the stairs or lift. Light refreshments will be served.

People's Choice voting for Best Poster Presentation will be available through the conference portal.



**WED
23 SEP**

Cocktail function at The Taronga Centre

Enjoy an evening of networking with your colleagues overlooking stunning Sydney Harbour.

TIME: 7:00pm – 9:00pm

**LOCATION: Taronga Zoo Function Centre
2a Bradleys Head Road, Mosman NSW 2088**

INFORMATION:

Included in your conference registration, this is a relaxed event with no formalwear required. Poster prizes will be presented during the evening.

TRANSPORT

Buses will be provided between the university and the venue. Buses will depart University Avenue. Please arrive at the nominated departure point **no later than 6:00 pm**. Return buses will leave after the function.

Paid parking will be available in the Zoo carpark. Follow the parking signs as you arrive at the Zoo on Bradleys Head Road.

Public Transport options include bus and ferry. You can plan your trip at <https://transportnsw.info/> using 'Taronga Zoo' or 'Taronga Zoo Wharf' as your destination.



Conference Prizes



FAAB People's Choice Prizes

Chosen by conference delegates in recognition of the presentations they found most engaging, informative and impactful.



**BEST ORAL
PRESENTATION**
\$300

**BEST LIGHTNING
PRESENTATION**
\$300

**BEST POSTER
PRESENTATION**
\$300

Delegates may vote once in each category through the conference portal. You may vote in all three categories or only those you choose.

Judged Omics Prizes

Provided by our valued Partner the Multi-omics Research Centre at Macquarie University.



**BEST ORAL
PRESENTATION**
\$400

**BEST LIGHTNING
PRESENTATION**
\$250

**BEST POSTER
PRESENTATION**
\$350

Awarded by the judging panel for the strongest omics related presentation in each category, in recognition of outstanding research, scientific quality and significance.

Poster prize winners will be announced during the Cocktail Function on 23rd September. All other prizes will be announced during the Conference Close on 24th September.

Conference Code of Conduct



Our shared commitment We want everyone at the International Bioactives Conference 2026 to feel welcome, safe and able to take part. By attending, each delegate agrees to help create a respectful, inclusive and professionally constructive conference.

How delegates will contribute

Delegates will:

- treat everyone with courtesy, dignity and professional respect
- help people of all backgrounds, identities, disciplines and career stages feel welcome
- listen to different views and make space for others to contribute
- discuss ideas, evidence, methods and conclusions constructively
- respect personal boundaries and ask before initiating physical contact
- follow reasonable guidance from conference organisers, session chairs, volunteers and venue staff
- support a safe conference by raising concerns early and offering help when it is safe to do so
- follow relevant laws, venue requirements and conference policies.

Constructive scientific discussion

Open discussion and thoughtful challenge are central to the conference. Delegates will focus questions and criticism on the research, not the person presenting it. They will ask concise questions, allow others time to speak and recognise differences in expertise, experience and perspective.

Speakers and poster presenters are responsible for protecting personal, clinical and confidential information and for having permission to present the images, data and other material they use.

Inclusive participation

Delegates will communicate clearly and respectfully, recognising that language, culture, disability, communication style and professional experience can affect how people participate. Session chairs will support fair discussion, invite a range of voices and step in when a conversation needs to be redirected.

Delegates who need accessibility support or reasonable adjustments are encouraged to contact the organisers using the details below or in the conference information.

Sharing information and taking photographs

Presentations, posters and discussions may include unpublished or commercially sensitive work. Delegates are responsible for checking with the presenter before recording, photographing, quoting, reproducing or publicly sharing scientific content. When permission is given, they will represent the work accurately and acknowledge its contributors.

Public conference information, such as the program, published abstracts and official posts, may be shared with appropriate attribution. Delegates will ask permission before taking or publishing an identifiable photograph of another attendee. Official conference photography will be identified, and delegates can tell organisers if they prefer not to be photographed.

Conference Code of Conduct



If you have a concern

Delegates are encouraged to speak with a conference organiser if they experience or witness conduct that affects respectful, inclusive or safe participation. If they feel comfortable, they may also address a minor issue directly and respectfully.

A delegate may bring a support person and may raise a concern verbally or in writing. For an immediate safety risk, contact venue security or emergency services first, then advise the conference organisers.

How organisers will respond

Organisers will listen, respond promptly and sensitively, and share information only with people who need it to understand the concern, support those involved or protect safety. They will consider the wishes of the person raising the concern, manage conflicts of interest and take fair, proportionate steps to restore a safe and respectful environment.

Delegates can also raise a concern with their employer, institution, professional body, police or another appropriate authority.

By registering for or attending the conference, delegates agree to uphold this Code of Conduct.

Conference Chair: Professor Anwar Sunna
Convening Body: FAAB ARC Training Centre
faab@mq.edu.au

Conference Leadership



Conference Organising Committee

Chair, Professor Anwar Sunna, FAAB Director, Macquarie University

Professor Alison Roger, FAAB Training Director, Australian National University

A/Professor Alf Garcia-Bennett, FAAB Research Director, Macquarie University

Frances Cook, Centre Manager, FAAB, Macquarie University

Conference Scientific Committee

Chair, A/Professor Alf Garcia-Bennett, FAAB Research Director, Macquarie University

Professor David Craik, AO FRS FAA, University of Queensland, AU

Professor Corinne Smith, University of Warwick, UK

Dr Kornelia Kaczmarek, Hort Innovation, AU

Dr Fabrizio Camponovo, SFI Health, AU



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