

It's Our Time to Shine

It's time to celebrate - Victoria holds rank as Australia's capital of health and biomedical research. But how will the sector evolve in 2017?

We recently learned that Victorian health and medical researchers, a majority from BioMedVic member organisations, secured over 40% of the NHMRC funding pie - and we celebrate this wonderful news wholeheartedly. Part of our success can be attributed to our well-established ability to work collaboratively in Victoria. One exemplar of this claim was the recent recognition of a longstanding collaboration between Jim McCluskey from the University of Melbourne and Jamie Rossjohn from Monash University. An international recognition was the Nature Index ranking Melbourne as one of the 10 centres around the world with the most intra-city research partnerships in 2015.

But we mustn't rest on our laurels.

While it's no secret that Melbourne thrives on collaborations and is inspired by innovation, we need to share not only our research infrastructure and skills, but our voice - particularly to government. A collaborative culture is needed to tackle the big challenges head-on, and to ensure our sector shines brightly and to its full potential. Because while we hear of grand political gestures, we need our combined expertise to come together to future-proof these plans.

BioMedVic has strong ties with the State Government which we use to advocate on behalf of our Members. We offer leadership in the sector and a robust connection to government decision-makers which withstands the pressures of short-term political cycles.

I want to remind Members that a collective voice is more powerful than that of any single member. This year, we saw just how powerful this voice can be.

In the run-up to the last state election, we met with policy makers from both parties, advocating for a long-term, well-coordinated Victorian innovation plan and suggested methods for establishing state-wide priorities and governance arrangements.

This year, we saw our advocacy platforms paying off with BioMedVic's vision that Victoria become a global leader in health and medical innovation featuring in the Victorian Health and Medical Research Strategy 2016-2020. This strategy responded to many of the recommendations submitted by BioMedVic, and we are proud to see a collective vision of our Members reflected.

Like the Western Bulldogs, BioMedVic is going for back-to-back performance in 2017.

I sincerely thank you for your support this year and wish you all the best for the festive season, and hope that you return refreshed and inspired for the New Year.

Jan Tennent



Strengthening Victoria's relationships with Osaka



Prof Jan Tennent & Prof Masafumi Wasa

BioMedVic CEO Prof Jan Tennent bolstered international bridges for clinical research and trials this month, as she hosted a delegation from Osaka to discuss professional exchange opportunities abroad for Victoria's clinicians and scientists.

The delegation from Osaka University Hospital included Prof Masafumi Wasa, director of the Postgraduate Medical Training Center; Prof Akira Myoui, clinical professor at the Medical Center for Translational and Clinical Research; and Noriko Inoue, assistant professor and

assistant director at the Graduate School of Medicine.

One of Prof Wasa's official duties was to present Jan Tennent with her award of Collaborative Professorship to Osaka University for her efforts to strengthen relationships between the organisations.

The delegates engaged in fruitful discussion with Jan and BioMedVic Chair Dr George Morstyn about emerging opportunities for Victorian scientists to collaborate with Osaka under the new grant scheme provided by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED).

A highlight was the delegation visit to the Monash University Central Clinical School, based at the Alfred Hospital, where two medical students from Osaka University will be conducting clinical rotations in January to February 2017. Here, the visitors discussed further educational opportunities with Prof Stephen Jane, head of the Monash University Central Clinical School and members of the BioMedVic Hospital Research Directors Forum, Prof Michelle Leech and Prof Nellie Georgiou-Karistianis.

Ms Keiko Haneda, Consul-General of Japan, hosted the delegates and Jan on a courtesy call.

Prof Rick Pearson, head at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and BioMedVic Scientific Advisory Council member, also kindly led the visitors on a tour of the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre.

"It's great to see how inspired our international colleagues were by Victoria's world-class capabilities and infrastructure," said Jan Tennent. "We're looking forward to a continuing, productive relationship with Osaka in the future."

Congratulations to all our Members that secured NHMRC funding in 2016

Over 1,900 researchers around Australia will share in \$483 million of NHMRC funding. As Australia's biomedical research capital, Victoria has received over 40% of the funding pie, with four Victorian organisations among the top ten highest paid institutions. [NHMRC round outcomes](#)

BioMedVic VCRN Awards Celebrate Leaders in Clinical Research



The unsung heroes of Australian medical research were applauded loudly last Thursday, as BioMedVic held the 2016 VCRN Awards & Networking Event at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

While research-active health professionals – doctors, nurses and allied health workers – are needed to translate basic biomedical research to the frontline of clinical practice, they face challenges. Heavy clinical workloads, lack of funding and a lack of institutional support for research activity make engaging in research more and more difficult for hospital-based researchers.

In 2010, Biomedical Research Victoria established the Victorian Clinician Researcher Network (VCRN) to provide a voice for this group, and to advocate for them and for change aimed at improving the capacity for clinicians to conduct research. To recognise and support some of those who have committed themselves to careers as clinician scientists, BioMedVic presents a series of annual awards.

One of the challenges facing clinician researchers is the access to mentorship, which inspired the criteria for the **BioMedVic VCRN Career Recognition Award**. Nominations are not only assessed on the nominee's own record in clinical studies but their achievement in mentoring other clinician researchers. This

year, BioMedVic was pleased to honour and present this award to **Prof Leonard Harrison**, a [pioneer in type 1 diabetes research](#) in Australia.

The award presentation was preceded by words from his nominator, Prof Ingrid Winship from Melbourne Health, who spoke about what inspired her nomination. Prof Tom Kay from the St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research, one of Len Harrison's former students, next recalled how Prof Harrison's mentorship shaped his career as a clinician researcher and shared several anecdotes from the award recipient's past.

While he was delighted to have his career recognised with this Award, Prof Harrison pointed out that he was anything but done. He also had a few words of advice to young clinician scientists – to not be scared, to find a mentor and to stick with research.

This guidance was well received by the attending **BioMedVic VCRN Early Career Clinician Researcher Award** recipients.

Special guest Kathleen Philip, Chief Allied Health Advisor of Victoria, presented the winners and commendees in the Medical and Allied Health Categories with certificates and prizes, and spoke about the bright future facing these promising researchers.

BioMedVic sincerely congratulates:

Dr Simon Joosten, Monash Health, Monash University – Winner Medical Category
Dr Jeanette Tamplin, Austin Health, University of Melbourne – Winner Allied Health Category
Dr Yet Hong Khor, Austin Health, University of Melbourne – Commendation Medical Category
Dr Alice Burnett, Royal Children's Hospital, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute – Commendation Allied Health Category

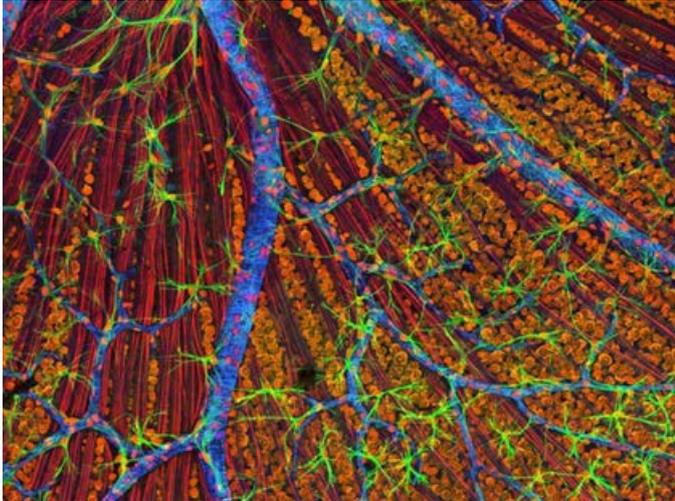
Read about the outstanding work of these Victorian clinician scientists [here](#). We look forward to celebrating many more such achievements in future years.



Join the Victorian Clinician Researcher Network (VCRN) Facebook Group!

[Join](#) to discuss how to overcome the challenges facing clinician scientists, find and post relevant articles, discover and share funding opportunities and network with your peers in the sector.

UROP Science to Art Competition



All current UROP scholars are invited to get creative over the festive season!

Send us an eye-catching (edited or non-edited) scientific image to enter. The best image entries will be on show at the UROP Welcome Forum, held at the Melbourne Town Hall in February 2017. There will be prizes for the Competition Winner and the People's Choice Award. [Details](#)

Our Events & Activities coming up in 2017

17 Jan | STEMM Central - IP Management
2 Feb | Scientific Advisory Council Meeting
7 Feb | STEMM Central - Finding Funding
16 Feb | Hospital Research Directors Forum
23 Feb | UROP Welcome Forum
2 Mar | Scientific Advisory Council Meeting
7 Mar | STEMM Central - Licensing and Negotiation

24 Mar | BioMedVic Board Meeting
6 Apr | Scientific Advisory Council Meeting
4 May | Scientific Advisory Council Meeting
11 May | Hospital Research Directors Forum
1 Jun | Scientific Advisory Council Meeting
6 Jul | Scientific Advisory Council Meeting
21 Jul | UROP Conference Day and Victorian Honours & PhD Expo

BioMedVic December Scorecard



Speaking to Government
3 Briefings

Listening to Members
6 Meetings



Connecting Clinicians with
Industry & Academia
2 Events

Training for Innovation
2 Workshops &
Placements



Celebrating the Sector
3 Events

Promoting Victoria Globally
4 Conferences & Events



All of us at BioMedVic thank you for your support throughout 2016 and send warm wishes for the festive season and the New Year.

Our office will be closed from 23 December to January 6 inclusive.

BioMedVic Events Diary

If you haven't yet subscribed to our weekly Events Diary, sign up and check out what our members and others are up to at www.biomedvic.org.au/events.

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