



ASBTE NEWS

AUGUST 2020

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Dear ASBTE Members,

I'd like to begin by saying thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as President. It is an honour and I am very much looking forward to serving you in this capacity.

2020/2021 Goals and Focus Areas

Building upon Penny's incredible **2019 Society Strategy Day** initiative, I'm enthusiastic about continuing to roll out the fantastic ideas that were developed including:

- **Mentoring and outreach activities**
- **Exploring partnerships with other Biomaterials Societies**
- **Strengthening our local membership bases with state/region activities**

Conferences. One of our society's major activities is conferences; either supporting our members with travel awards, or hosting regular ASBTE conferences. It will come as no surprise that the continued (and resurgent) impact of COVID-19 has changed how conferences are being run and attended. Therefore, it will be a goal of the executive to discuss ways to support and connect our members with conference activities in a post-COVID world. The success of the weekly "**Pandemic Prime Time Series**" hints that virtual interactions can be an effective way connect our community. We will also learn from other on-line conferences, including WBC2020, about what works (and what doesn't) for hosting/participating in virtual conferences.

We will be welcoming of any news that predicts when it will be safe again to resume face-to-face meetings, but be mindful, as Nils Bohr said, that "prediction is very difficult, especially if it's about the future".

ASBTE on-line. It is clear that staying connected on-line is more important than ever. Don't forget to stay connected to ASBTE's online presence at our [Website](#), on [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#). **If you are on twitter and want to promote your latest paper or research achievement, don't forget to add @ASBTE1 to get a like/retweet.**

Awards. Supporting our members and recognising achievement is one of our society's most important goals. Please pay attention to our communications for information on announcements of awards, application details and deadlines.

As always, the executive will continue to update the membership with progress throughout the year all of these activities via regular **member update emails** and **newsletters**. **I would like all members to know that the ASBTE executive is open to hearing your ideas/suggestions/feedback.** Please do not hesitate to get in touch with members of the executive, your state/ECR reps (listed in the Newsletter and on our website <https://www.asbte.org/people>).

Stay well and be safe,
Bryan

Bryan Coad, President

ASBTE Committee Members



Bryan Coad
(President)



Penny Martens
(Vice-President)



Veronica Glattauer
(Executive Officer)



Jelena Rnjak-Kovacina
(Treasurer)



Khoon Lim



Anna Waterhouse



Daniel Heath



Jessica Frith

(Ordinary members)

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

Helmut Thissen

Tim Woodfield

Science and Technologies

Kelly Tsang

State Representatives

- Nathalie Bock (QLD)
- Yu Suk Choi (WA)
- Kelly Tsang (ACT)

ECR Representatives

- Farhad Soheilmoghaddam (QLD)
- Katie Sizeland (NSW)
- Aaron Gilmour (NSW)
- Ash Murphy (VIC)
- Amy Gelmi (VIC)
- Thomas Michl (SA)
- Paul Joyce (SA)
- Gabriella Lindberg (NZ)

Student Representatives

- Maureen Ross (QLD)
- Behzad Shiroud Heidari (WA)
- Ilze Donderwinkel (VIC)
- Hazem Alkazemi (VIC)
- Bram Soliman (NZ)

2020/2021 State Representatives

Nathalie Bock, QLD



I am a Senior Research Fellow and Deputy Director of the Regenerative Medicine Program at the Queensland University of Technology, at the Translational Research Institute (Brisbane, Australia).

My research is about developing biomimetic 3D cell culture model systems using advanced biomaterials and tissue engineering technologies, to study bone biology and bone metastases. One of our goals includes the development of *in vitro* preclinical models for personalised drug testing in prostate and breast cancer. I have expertise in drug delivery, biofabrication, hydrogels and fibre-based scaffolds, additive manufacturing, 4D imaging and cancer biology.

Yu Suk Choi, WA

Senior Lecturer / Future Leader Fellow of Heart Foundation (2010 PhD). Lab head of Stem cell mechanobiology lab in the School of Human Sciences at the University of Western Australia.

My team is interested in understanding biomechanical interaction between cells and their microenvironment. By presenting various extracellular matrix elasticity (stiffness) to cells (stem, cancer, and cardiac cells), we manipulate cellular mechanotransduction, process cells transduce biomechanical sensation to biochemical signalling. Main focuses of my team currently are 1) expanding our understanding of mechanotransduction from 2D to 3D, 2) developing bioinspired platform with spatiotemporally dynamic stiffness, and 3) investigating intracellular mechanism how cells actually feel the environment.



Kelly Tsang, ACT and Science and Technology Australia (STA) representative



I am an Assistant Director at the Therapeutic Goods Administration- Medical Device Conformity Assessment section.

My work delivers across a number of core TGA functions including leading the engineering team, performing detailed assessments for high risk medical devices and driving business improvement and innovation processes. I also provide input related to hydrogels, biomaterials and polymers in our regulatory considerations and assessment of emerging technologies.

2020/2021 ECR Representatives



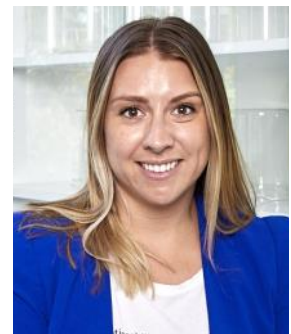
Farhad Soheilmoghaddam, QLD

I'm a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN), UQ. My research focuses on synthesising novel glycan-binding polymers that can mimic the function of lectins to invoke a perivascular stem cells adhesion, spreading, and expansion in the multipotent state on substrates mechanically matched to the perivascular niche. Benefiting from Advanced Manufacturing, specifically the high-performance materials, I'm also working on fabricating robust, reliable and scalable 3D printed scaffolds for functional organ replacement using our developing novel polymer based "bioinks". These novel bioinks that are synthesised using high throughput, automatable methodology enables the bioprinting of an individual's 'own' multicellular organ for use in patient-specific drug or biotherapeutic screening discovery, and ultimately functional organ replacement.

Our projected outcomes from this research will offer a possible path to such patient-specific regenerative solutions through the removal of fundamental materials design and processing roadblocks that we will focus on in this proposal. My project will furthermore lead to a higher quality of life in those requiring cell therapy through the provision of higher quality, higher functioning bio-printed starting points in the tissue engineering pipeline.

Katie Sizeland, NSW

I am a Research Program Manager in Human Health at ANSTO. My research aims to understand the hierarchical nanostructure of collagen, one of nature's very own building blocks, in biomaterials such as medical scaffolds and heart valve leaflets. Using synchrotron techniques, I can reveal the nanostructure and biomechanical response of collagen through simultaneously coupling small angle X-ray scattering measurements with in situ mechanical testing. With this knowledge it is possible to manipulate manufacturing processes to optimise the final properties of the medical material or device. I love working on real world problems and connecting the medical industry with synchrotron science.



Aaron Gilmore, NSW



I am a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Sydney in the School of Biomedical Engineering, Bilek group. My research focuses on the development of applications for low pressure and atmospheric Plasma modified materials for both biomedical devices and basic science research tools. I am involved in a range of projects including 1) cytocompatibility of plasma crosslinked hydrogels, 2) development of lab-n-chip neural networks, 3) development of growth factor immobilised cell culture (2D and 3D) surfaces for automated stem cell differentiation, 4) development of in vitro models of tissue device interfaces for high throughput assessment of biomaterials. My background has been in the development of complex cell culture models of the CNS for assessing novel electrode material compatibility.

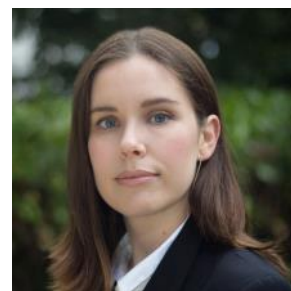
2020/2021 ECR Representatives

**Ash Murphy, VIC**

I am currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at CSIRO in the Cell-Material Interactions Team having recently completed my PhD at Monash University. My research focusses on both *in vitro* and *in vivo* tissue engineering approaches to study and treat disorders of the retina such as Age-Related Macular Degeneration. My research interests lie at the intersection of materials science, stem cell biology and device engineering.

Amy Gelmi, VIC

My research focuses on understanding how stem cells respond to external, controlled stimulus so that we can direct stem cell fate for tissue engineering applications. I do this both with using live single cell temporal AFM measurements, coupled with custom fabricated high throughput cell culture devices. I'm currently a Vice Chancellor's Research Fellow at RMIT University, using this fellowship to develop and build the Gelmi Lab.

**Thomas Michl, SA**

Research Fellow (completed PhD in 2015), Vasilev group, School of Engineering / University of South Australia

Plasma polymerization is capable of coating a broad variety of substrates with pinhole-free, nanometer-thin coatings. My research explores how we can use these plasma polymer thin films to change how biological systems interact with a given material. For example, we are looking at ways to prevent microbes colonizing a surface without harming the human cells present, a prerequisite for preventing implant-related infections.

Furthermore, we have also coatings that down-regulate inflammation to help chronic wounds heal. Last but not least, I am currently working on an industrial project that is developing selective cell capture of bladder cancer cells to greatly simplify and automate bladder cancer screening from urine.

Paul Joyce, SA

I am a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of South Australia's newly established Cancer Research Institute. My research specialises in designing and pre-clinically optimising novel nanomedicine approaches towards treating and curing diseases, including a broad range of cancers, infectious diseases and metabolic disorders. Positioned at the interface between materials engineering and pharmaceutical sciences, my research is specifically focused on controlling bio-nano interactions through changes in biomaterial nanostructure and surface chemistry. My research is largely industry-focused, as I attempt to create viable 'real-world' solutions to unmet clinical needs.



2020/2021 ECR Representatives



Gabriella Lindberg, NZ

Research Fellow in the Christchurch Regenerative Medicine and Tissue Engineering (CReaTE) Group at the University of Otago in New Zealand (2017 PhD).

I'm passionate about developing cell-instructive photo-polymerisable bioinks and bioresins that mimics the complex 3D-organisation of native tissues. This allows me to work at the interface of biology, chemistry, material science and technology, looking to engineer and integrate structure-function relationships to regenerate damaged tissues. In this pursuit of a blueprint to bridge the gap between engineered and native tissues, I specifically strive make the cells the engineers themselves. My research is part of larger collaborative projects involving both national and international collaborators in the likes of Germany, Netherlands, USA and Australia. More details about my research and publications can be found at <https://www.otago.ac.nz/christchurch/departments/orthomsm/people/gabriella-lindberg.html>

2020/2021 Student Representatives

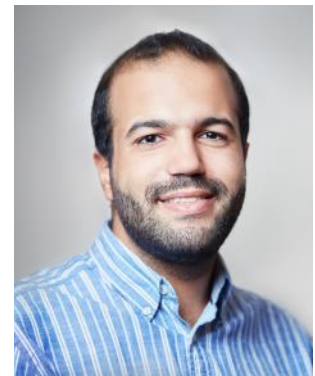


Maureen Ross, QLD

I am a thrid-year PhD student with the Biofabrication and Tissue Morphology Group at QUT with a background in medical engineering and biomedical science. My PhD project is investigating 3D bioprinting and melt-electrowriting for hybrid material scaffolds in ear cartilage reconstruction. The project has incorporated areas of medical imaging segmentation, mechanical testing, 3D printing, histology and cell culture. I also collaborate on a number of medical imaging and 3D model comparison projects within the group that are developing platforms for patient-specific treatments.

Hazem Alkazemi, VIC

I am in the first year of my PhD in the Tissue Engineering group at the University of Melbourne. I received my master's degree in Biofabrication from the University of Bayreuth in 2019. My PhD research focuses on engineering of vascularized tissue. During my PhD candidature, I will be investigating new techniques to achieve *in vitro* vascularization of three-dimensional constructs, which would be a step forward in the field of tissue engineering by enabling engineering of large tissues.



2019/2020 Student Representatives



Ilze Donderwinkel, VIC

I am a third year PhD student at Monash University. From early on I have had an interest in the workings of the human body on the molecular level, which led to me obtaining a Master's degree in Molecular Life Sciences. I am currently exploring this interest further in tissue engineering. My project focusses on creating tissue engineered hydrogel scaffolds to study bone-tendon interface development. With which we aim to increase the limited knowledge on artificial bone-tendon regeneration.

Behzad Shiroud Heidari, WA

I am a first-year PhD candidate at Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research and University of Western Australia (UWA). I received a Master Degree in Polymer Engineering from the University of Tehran in 2014. I started my PhD journey in VASCLAB by winning the Industrial Transformation Training Centre (ITTC) PhD Scholarship and Science Industry PhD Fellowship in 2018. My PhD project, which is involved in an industrial partnership, is focused on developing different biodegradable scaffolds for tendon and ligament tissue engineering. I am trying to fabricate and functionalise the scaffolds based on the specific properties of the native tissues .



Bram Soliman, NZ



I am a third-year PhD student in the Christchurch Regenerative Medicine and Tissue Engineering (CReaTE) group at the University of Otago in New Zealand. In 2017, I received a Master's degree in Regenerative Medicine from Utrecht University in the Netherlands. During this time, I was fortunate enough to experience science within the New Zealand branch of ASBTE as part of the CReaTE group, where my research focused on biomaterial development for 3D printing. I returned for my PhD, in which I am investigating and building on novel biofabrication techniques to achieve control the macro- and microenvironment of engineered constructs. Within these engineered constructs, I hope to replicate the heterogeneous nature of osteochondral tissue to drive complex tissue differentiation and maturation.

ASBTE Website www.asbte.org

You can now sign up for **1, 2, or 3 year ASBTE 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, jessica.frith@monash.edu

Annual General Meeting of the Society

The 30th Annual General meeting of the Society was for the first time in its history held virtually. The meeting was attended by around 60 members via ZOOM and most agreed it ran smoothly (and was fun!). The meeting was coordinated and chaired by Penny Martens who has led the society in her presidency over the past 2 years.

Penny briefly summarised her President Report, highlighting the very busy year for the committee, largely in part with actions arising from last year's Society Strategy Day. Resulting in many initiatives, mentoring and outreach program, partnering with other societies, a financial strategy for the coming years, conference guidelines, and review of society name and logo. Special mention to the great success of the Asian Biomaterials/TERMIS-AP conference and thanked Justin Cooper White and Yin Xiao for their efforts and achievements in this event.

This was Penny's last year as President and she thanked everyone in the Society. Executive Officer Veronica Glattauer summarised yearly activities, regular executive meetings, correspondence through member updates including information around ECR initiatives, conferences, memberships, awards and funding opportunities.

A Financial Report was presented by Treasurer and Secretary, Jelena Rnjak-Kovacina, highlighting our healthy balance sheet and proposed Strategic Financial Plan for the society which will be finalised in the coming year. Other key areas of activity were presented by other committee members, Bryan Coad on Strategy day outcomes and planning, Website and Social Media by Travis Klein, Awards by Neil Cameron, Newsletter by Anna Waterhouse and ECR initiatives by Khoon Lim. STA report was presented by Kelly Tsang (delegate), reminding everyone that this is a parent peak body that looks after Science and STEM organisations providing a voice for us all.

A key discussion followed with IUSBSE report from Helmut Thissen and Lisbeth Grondahl. The main topic was around the planning and eventual outcomes from the WBC 2020 that was planned to be held in May. Due to COVID-19 global pandemic, the conference did not proceed as planned. Numerous late night (Australian time) meetings were held by the IUSBSE committee to discuss and put together recommendations to assist the conference organisers on an alternate solution. More information to follow in the coming months. As rescheduling was still not clear the ASBTE decided to postpone its annual meeting to 2022.



Elections were held for the 2020 ASBTE Committee. Bryan Coad was elected as incoming President and Penny Martens was elected to Vice President. Once again Veronica Glattauer was elected to Executive Officer and Jelena Rnjak-Kovacina as Treasurer and Secretary. There were 6 nominations for 4 Ordinary member positions, so a vote was held, with Khoon Lim, Anna Waterhouse, Jess Frith and Daniel Heath elected.

Non-elected positions were assigned for, student, ECR and state reps across Australian states and New Zealand. STA representative was once again represented by Kelly Tsang. This year Lisbeth Grondahl stepped down as IUSBSE representative and Tim Woodfield taking on this position alongside Helmut Thissen. Penny Martens thanked serving members, Lisbeth Grondahl, Travis Klein and Neil Cameron for their outstanding contributions.

The ASBTE Research Excellence Award was presented to Professor Tim Woodfield in recognition of his significant contributions to the fields of biomaterials and tissue engineering. Congratulations Tim on this award and being the first New Zealander recipient!

Veronica Glattauer, Executive Officer

ASBTE Research Excellence Award

Professor Tim Woodfield

Winner of the ASBTE Research Excellence Award

CONGRATULATIONS!

This award recognizes a member of ASBTE who has made a significant contribution to the discipline of biomaterials and tissue engineering. Any member of the Society in good standing may nominate candidates for the award.

The nominators believe that the recipient would be an excellent choice for this award based on their outstanding contributions to the discipline of Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering. Their CV and publication record reflect their outstanding academic contributions, international standing and lasting impact on many early career researchers in our field. Importantly, the nomination also reflect their innovative contributions to the field of bioprinting.

The recipient also deserves this award as they has been a very active supporter of the ASBTE, including in their role as president. Last but not least, it is worth pointing out that this person would be the first recipient of this award from New Zealand, reflecting his dominance in this field in this country.

Congratulations to Tim Woodfield!

Professor Woodfield leads the Christchurch Regenerative Medicine and Tissue Engineering (CReaTE) Group which is associated with the University of Otago's Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and its Centre for Bioengineering & Nanomedicine. The Department's location at the Christchurch hospital campus helps him maintain strong connections with the city's medical and surgical staff, and the Centre draws upon talent across several disciplines based out of the University's Dunedin, Christchurch, and Wellington locations in New Zealand.

His CReaTE Group is pursuing stem cell and biomaterial-based strategies for musculoskeletal tissue regeneration, and is primarily investigating their application in the clinical translation of orthopaedic medical devices & cell-based therapies. The Group's research technology platform includes complex 3D Biofabrication and Additive Manufacturing of biomaterial scaffolds and titanium medical devices applied to regenerative medicine of cartilage and bone, including: novel bio-ink/bio-resin development, delivery of novel biofilm inhibitors, advanced 3D tissue culture models, and high throughput screening.

Tim is a Principal Investigator within the New Zealand Medical Technology Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE), and he is an adjunct Associate Professor in the Institute of Health & Biomedical Innovation, Queensland University of Technology, in Australia, as well as for the Auckland Bioengineering Institute, in the University of Auckland, New Zealand. He has published over 100 peer reviewed journal articles, book chapters and proceedings (h-index: 30), and has acted as coordinator of the recent European Commission 'skelGEN' consortia project. He has attracted over NZ\$26 million in competitive research funding as Principal or Named Investigator through grants from the Royal Society of New Zealand, MBIE, HRC, AO Foundation. Tim is a previous recipient of a prestigious Rutherford Discovery Fellowship, awarded to him by the Royal Society of New Zealand.

A few words from Tim:

"I am extremely honoured to have received the ASBTE Research Excellence Award for 2020. The ASBTE and the entire Biomaterials Science community is such a vibrant, inclusive and supportive group that it is very humbling to have been nominated and receive the award, especially considering the long line of previous award winners who I view as pioneers and legends in Biomaterials Science and Tissue Engineering. Many thanks to the ASBTE and Awards committee and I hope, despite all the challenges of 2020, that we can all get together in the near future to celebrate all the successes within ASBTE and to the continued growth of this great society and exciting research within the ASBTE community."

Penny Martens, Vice-President



Congratulations: Grants and Awards



Professor Tony Weiss, University of Sydney

Congratulations to Professor Tony Weiss for being awarded an NHMRC Investigator Grant, Leadership 3, titled: “Repairing soft tissues with engineered elastic biomaterials.”

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2020/05/20/sydney-researchers-awarded-63-million-investigator-grants.html>

Professor Tony Weiss was awarded \$2.9 million to address the unmet clinical need for implantable soft materials that harmonise with surrounding elastic tissue and promote repair. This work will use tropoelastin based biomaterials to develop platform technologies for next generation elastic surgical products.



Dr Khoon Lim, University of Otago Christchurch

Congratulations to Dr Khoon Lim for being awarded a project grant worth \$730,000 from the Health Research Council of New Zealand (<https://www.hrc.govt.nz/resources/research-repository/smart-delivery-growth-factors-treating-osteonecrosis-femoral-head>).

Avascular necrosis (AVN), also known as osteonecrosis, is a condition when there is a severe disruption in blood flow to the bone, leading to bone death. Extreme cases of AVN lead to the collapse of bone and the surrounding joint, as well as severe pain that interferes with joint mobility. This project will aim to develop new hydrogels to deliver bioactive growth factors, that can aid the regeneration of the disrupted blood vessels to not only prevent the progression of AVN, but also to simultaneously repair the damaged bone. The project team comprises of a mixture of biomaterial scientist, molecular biologist, mechanical engineer, as well as orthopaedic and spinal surgeons. Dr Lim will be recruiting new PhD students and postdocs to join his team next year, please email khoon.lim@otago.ac.nz for more information if interested.



Associate Professor Steven Wise, University of Sydney

Congratulations to Associate Professor Steven Wise for being awarded a NSW Cardiovascular Research Capacity Program Grant titled “Establishing a Centre for Pre-clinical Evaluation of Cardiovascular Devices”

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2020/06/29/26-million-for-cardiovascular-and-cancer-research.html>

At present, large animal models required before first-in-human evaluation are commonly outsourced interstate or overseas, a resource and cost intensive approach yielding poor quality results. This project aims to establish a Centre for Pre-clinical Evaluation of Cardiovascular Devices in NSW, aiming to bridge the divide between the lab bench and first-in-human trials. With important components of these pathways already in place, the funding will close the current gaps, leveraging existing support and expertise from Sydney Local Health District, and access to world-class facilities.

Pandemic Primetime Seminar Series

The coronavirus pandemic has changed several things in our lives, and one of them has been our ability to travel to visit colleagues and collaborators, and attend conferences, to both disseminate our research, and hear about exciting research from members of our community.

So rather than missing out, the ASBTE community held the **ASBTE Pandemic Seminar Series**, an online seminar series during the pandemic while everyone was working from home. Every Wednesday from the middle of April until the end of July we gathered in zoomtopia to hear presentations from ASBTE members.

A huge thank you goes to everyone that presented as part of the seminar series!

An even bigger thank you to everyone that came a long to hear the presentations and take part in the fantastic discussion that followed each talk!

The series was attended by people academia and industry from across Australia and New Zealand as well as people who joined from the Netherlands, Germany, and Turkey, highlighting that even though we may not be able to physically visit friends and colleagues, and attend conferences, we are still able to keep connected and up to date on the fantastic research being carried out within the ASBTE community!

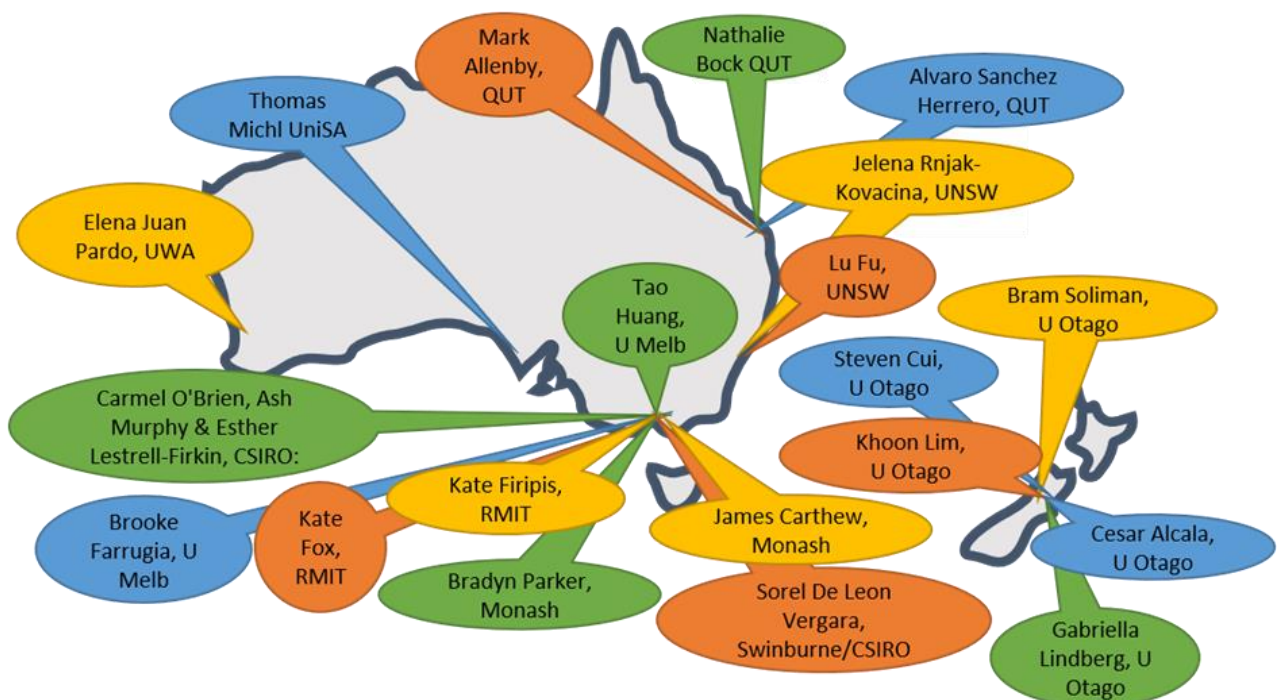


Figure 1: ASBTE members who presented as part of the ASBTE Pandemic Primetime Seminar Series

Dr Brooke Farrugia, Dr Khoon Lim & Prof Sally McArthur

Pandemic Primetime Seminar Series



Could we use 3D printing to manufacture scaffolds for soft tissue engineering?

THE HERSTON BIOFABRICATION INSTITUTE

Metro North Hospital and Health Service
Pitting people first

Imperial College London

TE Bioactors
Hemostasis

Columbus, Ohio

PEPPERONE
Contributions Modeling
Biochemistry

HRL

Biofabrication
Cardiovascular Eng.

Early Career Researcher

"The Luke" Prosthetic Arm

It's just a flesh wound

RMIT UNIVERSITY

Background

Autologous bone grafting

[adam.com]

- + Good regeneration potential
- Limited availability
- High morbidity upon harvest

Biofabrication of bone regenerative constructs

(I) Reporting (II) Maturation (III) Integration

Biofabrication

[Datta et al., Trends in Biotech 34(1), 2016]

- + Less invasive cell harvesting
- + Computer aided design and manufacture
- Limited tissue regeneration potential

Problematic: Biofabrication needs novel biomaterials that stimulate tissue formation, yet able to retain high shape fidelity and integrate with the host.

CREATe

The Mechanical Cell...

CMTC

James Carthew

ASBTE Strategy Day Updates

The ASBTE strategy day was held 5th of April, 2019 at the UNSW city campus in Sydney. This event was about listening to feedback from our members and involving everyone in forward strategic planning. This is an update of progress on each priority area that was identified and discussed by members, and actioned by the ASBTE executive committee:

1. Mentoring / Outreach

This was a high priority for many of our members, particularly ECRs. We are happy to report that a mentoring program has recently begun in July 2020! The ASBTE exec has also committed to having ECR events/focus at future annual meetings. Watch this space for future updates.

2. Society Finances

Following great suggestions from the Strategy Day, the Treasurer established a sub-committee which outlined a financial strategy that included funding for ECR/Student events as well as partnering activities.

3. Partnerships

Based on existing collaborations and some commonalities, Penny and Bryan reached out to the presidents of the Societies of Canada, Taiwan and S. Korea as potential partners. All were keen to discuss and Bryan and Penny had initial meetings or they were scheduled, however, due to COVID-19, this is on-going.

4. Conferences

Guidelines have now been written and will be given to all future chairs/organising committees of our annual meetings. These include guidelines around seed funding, organisation, and potential profit goals.

5. Name and Logo

A competition was set up to see if anyone wanted to change. There were no submissions, so we are assuming everyone loves our current logo. The story behind the logo was published in the Dec 2019 newsletter.

6. Field of Research Codes

7. Promoting Australian / New Zealand Biomaterials

Both of these were discussed, no real outcomes came from them.

Penny Martens, Vice-President

ASBTE on LinkedIn



The ASBTE group on LinkedIn provides the latest news and discussions for society members. If you are a LinkedIn member, search for "ASBTE - The Australasian Society for Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering" in groups and request to join the group. Or type in the following web address: www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=6512061

If you are not a member of LinkedIn, start by registering today. It's free! au.linkedin.com

STA Update

ASBTE has continued to engage with Science and Technology Australia (STA) through zoom cluster meetings, swapping tales with other societies on planning for and running conferences and staying connected. In this update we have some further information on STA and their key initiatives.

Watch this space for further information and updates from STA as they are available!

Indigenous STEM members- opportunity to assist Science and Technology Australia (STA)

STA is well advanced on work towards an inaugural STA Reconciliation Action Plan and an Indigenous STEM Professional Network. Members who are STEM professionals and interested to be part of the conversation on next steps, or be part of the initiative can contact ceo@sta.org.au with name, phone number and email.

Higher Education Update

STA has prepared an issues brief in response to the proposed package of sweeping changes to higher education funding released on 19 June. This resource may be useful for members in higher education sector considering the impacts and changes proposed and what it means.

Jobs Update

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has a number of vacancies available across different areas, including in medical devices, medicines and laboratories branch, details posted in link below or at <https://www.apsjobs.gov.au/s/> filtering by Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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

Science and Technology Australia (STA) – how it benefits ASBTE and its members

Science & Technology Australia (STA) is Australia's peak body in science and technology, representing more than 75,000 Australian scientists and technologists, belonging to more than 80 member associations (including the Australasian Society for Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering) and working across all scientific disciplines. STA's mission is to bring together scientists, governments, industry and the broader community to advance the role, reputation and impact of science and technology in Australia.

As well as providing a unified and respected voice for the STEM sector as a whole on issues of national importance, STA offers a range of resources and other benefits to its members to enhance their capability, efficiency and connections. A detailed description of STA and what it provides to its members can be found on the STA website (www.scienceandtechnologyaustralia.org.au), but in summary, STA:

Connects with Policy

- STA connects scientists and technologists directly with Parliamentarians through initiatives like **Science meets Parliament** and the **STEM Ambassadors Program**, and to Departmental decision-makers through strategic initiatives and networking events;
- STA also makes regular submissions to government, publishes statements on policy decisions, and contributes to national discussions around the future of Australian science and technology through Parliamentary Forums.

Connects with Business

- Through industry collaboration events, STA facilitates dialogue between STEM professionals and industry leaders, and addresses the obstacles scientists and technologists are faced with when moving into the commercial sphere.

Fosters Collaboration

- STA forms partnerships and alliances to promote and enhance the role of science and technology in Australia and facilitates introductions for its members to sector influencers.
- Through initiatives like the **National Research and Innovation Alliance**, STA brings representative bodies together to collaborate on issues facing research and development in Australia.

Empowers STEM Professionals

- STA offers a range of workshops, programs, and events which empower the members and staff of our member organisations, including **Superstars of STEM**, designed to propel Australian women of STEM into the spotlight, and **Super STEM Communicator Workshops**.
- **Superstars of STEM**: Applications close [31 August 2020](#).

Supports the growth and success of members

- Tailored advice, tools, how-to guides, templates etc assist members in crafting advocacy and communication strategies, attracting new members, enhancing back-end administration.
- Promotes equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) through active advocacy across the STEM sector, industry and government and through direct assistance to members in developing their own EDI policies and practices.
- Provide members (and their members, in turn) with access to a range of benefits designed to help science and technology associations, societies and other organisations to work smarter while saving time, money and resources, such as discounts, training, quality professional advice and exclusive offers from a range of service partners offering accounting & auditing, corporate governance and insurance, among other services.

As a respected and influential contributor to debate on public policy since 1985, STA provides a strong voice for the science, technology, engineering and mathematics sector. A thriving and diverse STEM sector is critical to Australia's future, with value extending beyond economics and innovation potential, to our wellbeing, prosperity, happiness and the environment.

Kelly Tsang, STA Liaison Officer

Spotlight on Conferences

CONFERENCE	DATES	LOCATION	WEBSITE
 <p>Biointerface 2020 Workshop & Symposium</p>	Dates in October TBA, 2020	Virtual	https:// www.surfaces.org/ BioInterface-2020
 <p>11th World Biomaterials Congress</p>	December 11–15, 2020	Virtual	https://wbc2020.org/ #About
 <p>TERMIS-EU Workshop</p>	TBA: Early 2021	Brno, Czech Republic	https://www.termis.org/ chapter-meetings/all
 <p>TERMIS 5th World Congress</p>	May 31— June 4, 2021	Maastricht, The Nether- lands	https://www.termis.org/ wc2021
 <p>Society for Biomaterials and Japanese Society for Biomaterials Joint Symposium</p>	July 29— 31, 2021	Honolulu, HI, USA	https://biomaterials.org/ events-future- meetings/2021-hawaii- joint-symposium-sfb- jsb

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 Anna Waterhouse (anna.waterhouse@sydney.edu.au) or Executive Officer Veronica Glattauer (veronica.glattauer@csiro.au).