



Happy New Year and welcome to 2014.

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1. AAMRI news

1.1 AAMRI pre-budget submission (Vic)

AAMRI has prepared a pre-budget submission for the Victorian Government. It can be viewed [here](#).

2.2. AAMRI member updates

AAMRI welcomes new member [Orygen Youth Health Research Centre](#).

AAMRI farewells the following member institute Directors:

- Professor Heddy Zola, former Research Director, SA Pathology (Hanson Institute)
- Professor Matthew Gillespie, former Director of the Prince Henry's Institute

AAMRI welcomes the following new member institute Directors:

- Professor Bob Heddle, Research Director, SA Pathology
- Professor Bryan Williams, Director, Prince Henry's Institute

2. Government update

2.1 New Government Health Policy Committee

The Federal Government has established a new Health Policy Committee. All legislation the government puts forward to the Parliament relating to health will be required to go through the committee. Federal Member for Lyne, Dr David Gillespie, will be the Secretary of the committee, while Queensland MP Andrew Laming will be Chair. The Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Chief Nationals Whip are also on the committee.

2.2 National Commission of Audit

The **National Commission of Audit** has been established to provide independent advice to the Federal Government on scope for efficiency and productivity improvements across all areas of Commonwealth expenditure, and to make recommendations to achieve savings sufficient to deliver a surplus of 1 per cent of GDP prior to 2023-24. The government will consider the report in setting its forward agenda and budgets, which could have implications for many sectors. **The deadline for the first report from the Commission has been extended to the 14 February. The second phase of the report is due the end of March.**

2.3 Federal Government review of Vic and SA manufacturing industry

The Federal Government is undertaking economic reviews for Vic and SA to inform transition of the manufacturing industry. The review includes developing a \$100 M growth fund for initiatives in regions facing pressure in their manufacturing sectors, and addressing ways to boost economic competitiveness, including encouraging investment and innovation in high growth sectors. For more information [see here](#).

2.4 Restructure of Federal Department of Health

Health & medical research will now sit under the Safety, Quality and Research Branch within the Acute Care Division of the Department of Health. Relevant contacts are:

- Ms Jane Anderson, First Assistant Secretary – Acute Care Division
- Ms Jenean Spencer, Assistant Secretary – Safety, Quality and Research Branch
- Mr Alan Philp, Director, Research Section

2.5 ATO seeking comment on medical equipment

The ATO is seeking comment on a draft list of effective lives for assets used in scientific medical and pharmaceutical research. They propose to add the list of effective life determinations to the Commissioner's schedule for new assets either purchased and first used, or installed ready to use, on or after 1 July 2014. See the draft list [here](#). Feedback is due by 28 Feb.

2.6 Comments sought on GM cholera vaccine trial

The Office of the Gene Technology Regulator is seeking comments on a draft risk assessment for a genetically modified cholera vaccine trial. More info [here](#). Feedback is due by 6 March.

2.7 Consultation on IP Laws Amendment Bill 2014

Public consultation is underway on proposals to amend the Patents Act 1990, the Trade Marks Act 1995, the Designs Act 2003 and the Plant Breeder's Rights Act 1994. The proposals include measures to implement the TRIPS Protocol and to allow for single patent processes for Australia and NZ. Find out more [here](#). Feedback is due by 7 Feb.

2.8 Qld Government research priorities

The Queensland Government has released its 10 science and research priorities, including rules for future investment decisions. Further details are available [here](#).

3. NHMRC & ARC

3.1 NHMRC Bibliometric Report

An NHMRC report assessing the biomedical publication output and impact of Australia's research sector is due for release in February.

3.2 Reminder: NHMRC survey on ethical conduct in human research

The NHMRC is undertaking a survey of users of the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research*. The survey will inform whether the statement is meeting researchers' needs and will inform future revisions. To participate see [here](#). Survey closes 7 Feb.

3.3 ARC consultation on ERA 2015

The ARC is seeking feedback on proposed changes to Excellence in Research Australia 2015. More information is available [here](#). Submissions close Fri 14 Feb.

3.4 ARC medical research policy update

The ARC has clarified its policy regarding medical research. In particular, the policy indicates that medical research projects may be eligible for the following schemes:

- Special Research Initiatives (SRIs), where a project has an emphasis on a commercial outcome; and
- Industrial Transformation Research Program (ITRP), where the primary aim is a commercial outcome, in addition to research and development.

As previously announced, medical research projects are no longer eligible for Future Fellowships or Linkage Projects. For more information, go [here](#).

4. Sector news

4.1 Australia Day Honours

Congratulations to all members/member researchers recognised in the Australia Day Honours 2014. See the full list [here](#).

4.2 CRC For Cell Therapy Manufacturing

The \$59 million **Australian Cooperative Research Centre for Cell Therapy Manufacturing** opened its doors at the University of South Australia's Mawson Lakes campus. It will bring together materials scientists, cell biologists, bioprocess engineers, clinicians and industry to increase the affordability and accessibility of cell therapies and position Australia in the vanguard of cell therapy manufacture.

5. Reports and resources

Australian IP Report – Quarterly data to on application activity for patent, trade marks, registered designs and plant breeder's rights is now available.

AQ: Australian Quarterly Magazine (a digital/print mag focusing on Science Policy from the Australian Institute of Policy & Science, who run the Tall Poppy Campaign) – **January edition 2014, dubbed 'The Great Grant Debate', is now available in print and online versions**; there is a small fee for subscription.

6. Funding & award opportunities

ARC Industrial Transformation Research Hubs

A new round of the ARC Industrial Transformation Research Hubs, which includes the 'medical devices and biotechnology' priority, has commenced. While funding rules exclude staff employed by MRIs for >50% of FTE from being a Chief Investigator on applications (see section 7.3 of the [funding rules](#)), they may be eligible to be a Partner Investigator (see section 7.4 of the [funding rules](#)). Applications close 26 Feb.

Wellcome Trust Pathfinder Awards

These awards provide pilot funding for academic-industry partnerships to develop early-stage applied research and development projects on orphan and neglected diseases. Applications close 3 March.

NSW Government Stage Two: Preliminary Applications for the 2014/2015 Medical Devices Fund (MDF) are now open. Up to \$7.7 million in funding is available to help encourage and support investment in the development and commercialisation of medical devices and related technologies in NSW. If you have any questions, please direct them to Anne O'Neill, Associate Director, Office for Health and Medical Research on (02) 9391 9252.

Science and innovation grants | Queensland Government

This new \$8.75 million funding program will offer grants of up to \$500,000 for new **collaborative research projects** led by a Queensland-based university or research organisation. The program will also offer **early-career and mid-career fellowships** of up to \$300,000 to Queensland researchers. Applications open soon.

EMBL Australia PhD travel grants

These grants provide up to \$3,500 for short trips of less than 6 weeks, or up to \$7,500 for a longer visit of up to 6 months. Applications for travel between 1 July 2014 and 31 December 2014 are now open until 4 April.

Australian Academy of Science Nancy Millis Medal

This is a new medal for women up to 15 years post-PhD from any branch of the natural sciences. Nominations are open and due by 10 Feb.

Australian Museum Eureka Prizes

The Eureka Prizes will be celebrating their 25th anniversary in 2014, with prizes for research and innovation; leadership and commercialisation; science communication and journalism; and school science. Nominations open 7 Feb and close 1 May.

Prime Minister's Prizes for Science

This includes a \$300,000 major prize, plus awards for early career research and science teaching. Nominations open early Feb and normally close in mid-March.

Fresh Science / FameLab

This is a national competition for early-career researchers wanting to share their work with the media and the public. In 2014 Fresh Science has partnered with the British Council to bring FameLab to Australia. Nominations close 27 Feb.

L'Oréal Australia & NZ for Women in Science Fellowships

These fellowships are awarded to three early-career female researchers. Nominations open 3 March and close 16 April.

Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowships

These fellowships provide funding for Australians to travel overseas to conduct research for 4-8 weeks. Applications are assessed based on merit, a demonstrated need for the proposed research, the perceived benefit to Australia and a willingness to share the overseas findings and knowledge with the Australian community. Applications close 19 Feb.

Embassy of France in Australia – Early career researcher travel grants

The aim of this travel grant is to facilitate and develop collaboration between these two countries. Closes 9 Feb.

Find out which prizes you, your colleagues or your staff could be eligible for with the searchable [Inspiring Australia science prize calendar](#).

7. Upcoming conferences & events

Save the Date: AAMRI 2014 National Convention, Canberra, 27-28 October. The AAMRI Convention is a free event for AAMRI member organisations only. **We encourage MRI Directors to attend and to invite a representative from their Board, their COO and/or another member of their executive (e.g. CFO, Deputy Director). Further details will be provided shortly.**

Inaugural Centenary Institute Conference – Future of Experimental

Medicine: *Inflammation in Disease and Ageing*, Sydney, 16- 19 March 2014.

AusBiotech's State Investment Series: Broker Meets Biotech.

Following the success of this event in Perth during the past three years, it has been expanded to include Perth, Brisbane and Adelaide in 2014. To register your interest, email Mel Nelson (mnelson@ausbiotech.org).

Science Communications Conference Breakfast Event: Evolution of Science Communication in New Zealand and Australia, Tuesday 4 Feb.

ARMS 2014 Conference: *THINK Impact and Influence*, Canberra, 17-19 Sept 2014.

The National Foundation of Medical Research (NFMRI) events:

- NFMRI launch in Sydney on Wed, 19 Feb, 4:30-6:00 pm. Register [here](#).
- A New Approach to Philanthropy Supporting Medical Research and Innovation, in Melbourne on Wed, 26 Feb, 4:00-6:00 pm. Register [here](#).

Vic Gov't Department of State Development, Business and Innovation (DSDBI) Driving Business Innovation: Grant program info sessions. Melbourne, 12 & 13 Feb.

MedTech Melbourne presents mHealth in Melbourne: featuring 20+ speakers from industry, research & investment. 20 Feb.

The Deeble Institute: Short course on translating research findings into policy & practice This three-day course will assist academic researchers to make their work more accessible and useful to policymakers. 14-16 Apr

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