



EMCRA Collaborative Award Symposium:

Supporting Collaboration & Interdisciplinary Research

Thursday Nov 9, 2017

REGISTRATION

12.30-1.00 Registration

OPENING PROCEEDINGS

1.00-1.10 Welcome from the EMCRA co-chairs

1.10-1.30 **Prof. Fabienne Mackay**, head of School of Biomedical Sciences
"The rationale for SBS collaborative funding"

SESSION ONE: Presentations by Collaborative Funding Awardees

1.30-1.50 **Dr. Zoe Dyson** (Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology) & **Dr. Danielle Ingle** (Department of Microbiology & Immunology)
*"Phage-host co evolution and biocontrol of bacterial pathogen *Klebsiella pneumoniae*"*

1.50-2.10 **Dr. Sophie Paquet-Fifield** (Department of Pathology) & **Dr. Andrew Jarnicki** (Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics)
"Identifying Optimal Pluripotency in Stem Cells for Repairing Lung Damage"

AFTERNOON TEA BREAK

2.10-2.40 Tea/Coffee and light snacks

SESSION TWO: Presentations by Collaborative Funding Awardees

2.40-3.00 **Dr. Sacha Pidot** (Department of Microbiology & Immunology) & **Dr. Margaret Lam** (Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology)
*"Investigating the diversity of iron-scavenging pathways in *Klebsiella* bacteria"*

3.00-3.20 **Dr. Sidonia Eckle** (Department of Microbiology & Immunology) & **Dr. Eleanor Saunders** (Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology)
"Immune protection from parasites by a novel immune cell type"

PANEL DISCUSSION: With the SBS Heads of Department and Head of School

3.30-4.30 **Professor Fabienne Mackay (HoS), Prof. Janet Keast (Anatomy & Neuroscience), Prof. Ian van Driel (BCMB), Prof. Andrew Brooks (Microbiology & Immunology), Prof. Roberto Cappai (Pathology), Prof. Daniel Hoyer (Pharmacology & Therapeutics), Prof. Andrew Allen (Physiology)**
"Why collaborate? How to find a collaborator? What makes a good collaboration?"

CLOSING REMARKS

4.30-4.35 Closing words from the EMCRA co-chairs

SOCIAL RECEPTION

4.30-6.30 Drinks and nibbles

EMCRA: Early-Mid Career Research Association of the School of Biomedical Sciences

The School of Biomedical Sciences (SBS) is comprised of the departments of Anatomy & Neuroscience, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Microbiology & Immunology, Pathology, Pharmacology and Physiology. In October 2016, the Head of School, Prof. Fabienne Mackay, with the support of the SBS research committee, made funding available to begin an association for the level A and B postdoctoral researchers in the school. The intent was for this to be a self-governing body, lead and run by postdocs in the school, tasked with promoting networking and collaborations at the postdoc level within the school. There are currently 20 members of the EMCRA steering committee, with even balance across department representation, gender, and level A/B.

Research funding to promote inter-department collaboration: In 2017, \$60k was provided to be distributed as seed-funding for postdocs to lead collaborative, inter-school research projects. Funding rules specified that projects must be proposed by postdocs in the school who had not previously had funding together and were from two different school departments. This was intended as a mechanism to promote research independence for early and mid-career postdocs; providing early support to generate data for publications and future independent funding. In 2017, four projects were funded at \$10-20k each.

Representation of postdoc issues: The EMCRA steering committee has a standing place in the School Research Committee (RC) Agenda. A report is prepared and delivered at each RC meeting, and included in minutes of RC meetings. This has provided an excellent opportunity for EMCRA to directly communicate postdoc issues, interests and suggestions to the RC.

Networking and social activities: In addition to its research activities, EMCRA has focused on creating more social interactions between postdocs in the SBS. This has included development of an active social media presence (Facebook & Twitter) to directly communicate with postdocs, and several face-to-face events. In 2017, EMCRA has held:

- Social drinks at a variety off-campus pubs (March, May)
- Networking lunch (April)
- Morning tea (July)
- Research symposium to celebrate seed-funding awardees (November)

Next year we will be back better than ever!

- Workshops for career development in academia and beyond
- Return of the seed-funding
- Regular pub-nights: get to know and unwind with your fellow postdocs

Contact us with ideas or to be part of the EMCRA committee:

Email: sbs-emcra@unimelb.edu.au;

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sbsemcra/>

Twitter: @sbsemcra