

ASBTE NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear ASBTE Community,



It is truly a privilege to serve as President of ASBTE, and I'm very thankful for the opportunity to represent such a vibrant and supportive community. I'd like to start by acknowledging the outstanding work of our outgoing President, Jelena Rnjak-Kovacina, whose leadership over the past two years has been exceptional. Jelena has strengthened our support for early career researchers, refined our membership model, and continued building valuable connections with international biomaterials societies. These are big footsteps to follow, and I'm incredibly grateful for the strong foundation she leaves behind. I would also like to thank Yu-Suk Choi for his many years of service to the committee, including his stellar work co-ordinating the ASBTE newsletter.

Looking ahead, our newly elected committee is in great shape with **Jelena** continuing as Vice-President, **Anna Waterhouse** as Treasurer, and **Veronica Glattauer** as Executive Officer. It's fantastic that **Ferry Melchels** will continue leading our ECR initiatives, **Jiao Jiao Li** will oversee our web and social media presence, **Mark Allenby** will take on responsibility for the newsletter, and we welcome **Daniel Heath** back to the committee to lead the awards program. I'd also like to thank our IUSBSE and Asian Biomaterials Federation delegates, as well as our STA liaison officer, for their continued support. I'm very excited to see an incredible number of volunteers stepping into roles as State, ECR, and student representatives. It's wonderful to see so much enthusiasm, especially from our ECR community, which continues to be a strength of ASBTE.

It was a pleasure to attend our 30th Annual Conference in Adelaide earlier this year. A huge thank you to **Bryan Coad** and **Ferry Melchels** (or "Bryan Ferry" as they were affectionately known) and the entire organising committee for delivering a fantastic event. 30 years of ASBTE was a special milestone, and it was great to reflect on how far the society has come while enjoying the cutting-edge research being presented. A highlight was the Hans Griesser Symposium, which showcased not only Hans's incredible contributions to the field, but also the power of curiosity, collaboration, and mentorship in shaping future generations. The National Wine Centre and the trip to Hahndorf provided some memorable opportunities to connect more informally, something that continues to make ASBTE conferences so valuable for building connections. I also want to shout out to all the students and ECRs who presented their research – this can be nerve-wracking, but the quality of the talks and posters was truly outstanding! We're already looking ahead to ASBTE 2027 in Sydney, and I hope to see many of you there.

We also had the pleasure of recognising fantastic achievements in our awards program. Congratulations to **Justin Cooper-White** (Award of Research Excellence), **Jacqui McGovern** (Emerging Leadership Award), and **Amy Jiang** (Early Career Research Award). I'd also like to acknowledge the outstanding shortlisted nominees for the ECR Award, including **Max Yavitt** (runner-up), **Kallyanashis Paul** and **Ngoc Huu Nguyen**. We were also delighted to award Lifetime Membership to **Helmut Thissen**, recognising his long-standing contribution to both ASBTE and the broader biomaterials field.

As we move into the second half of the year, there's plenty to look forward to. Our ECR events will continue to be a major focus, and with such a strong and enthusiastic group of student and ECR representatives, I'm excited to see what they have in store. Finally, thank you to all of our members for your ongoing support. Your involvement is what makes ASBTE such a vibrant and welcoming society. I look forward to working with you all in the year ahead.

Warm regards,

Prof. Jess Frith
ASBTE President

Australasian Society for Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering

Executive Committee

Adelaide

Ferry Melchels
Committee Member

Brisbane

Mark Allenby
Committee Member

Sydney

Jelena Rnjak-Kovacina
Vice President

Anna Waterhouse
Treasurer

Jiao Jiao Li
Committee Member

Melbourne

Veronica Glattaeur
Executive Officer

Jess Frith
President

Daniel Heath
Committee Member



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

Penny Martens
Khoon Lim

Asian Biomaterials Federation (ABF) Delegates

Sally McArthur
Justin Cooper-White

Science and Technologies Australia (STA) Liaison Officer

Kelly Tsang
Sugandha Bhatia

Queensland Representatives

- o Jacqui McGovern (State Rep - QUT)
- o Aswathi Gopalakrishnan (ECR - UQ)
- o Anjana Jayasree (ECR - UQ)
- o Aya Sedik (ECR)
- o Akriti Nepal (ECR - Griffith)
- o Marco Enriquez Matinez (ECR - UQ)
- o Rose Ann Franco (ECR - Lifeblood)
- o Uptal Chandra Das (HDR - QUT)
- o Minh Anh Huynh (HDR - Griffith)
- o Diane Young (HDR - UQ)
- o Charlotte Heffernan (M/UG - UQ)
- o Sanjai Ravichandran (M/UG - UQ)

New Zealand Representatives

- o Max Yavitt (State Rep - UOtago)
- o Poppy Buissink (HDR - UOtago)
- o Harrison Porritt (HDR - Auckland)
- o Maede Hasannasab (HDR - Auck)

Western Australia Representatives

- o Pramod Dorishetty (ECR - UWA)
- o Haritha Kirla (ECR - Perkins)
- o George McColgan (HDR - UWA)
- o Breah Milford (HDR - UWA)
- o Yasaman Boroumand (HDR - ECU)

Victorian Representatives

- o Stephanie Doyle (State Rep-Monash)
- o Kate Firipis (ECR - St Vincent's)
- o Dulani Sorriyaaratchi (HDR - UMel)
- o Chayla Reeves (HDR - RMIT)

South Australia Representatives

- o Le Tuong Van (May) Vo (HDR - AU)
- o Ann Rose Baby (HDR - Adelaide Uni)
- o Kailas Mallapuram (HDR-Adelaide U)
- o Max Higham (HDR - Adelaide Uni)
- o Vanessa (HDR - Flinders)

New South Wales Reps

- o Anyu Zhang (ECR - Newcastle)
- o Deepu Ashok (ECR - USyd)
- o Yuan Fang (HDR - USyd)
- o Wade Bocking (HDR - USyd)
- o Zach Och (HDR - UNSW)
- o Zhaorui Peng (M/UG - UNSW)

ASBTE DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES

IUSBSE delegates



Penny Martens



Khoon Lim

ABF delegates



Sally McArthur



Justin Cooper-White

State Representatives



Jacqui McGovern
(QLD – QUT)



Max Yavitt
(NZ – UOtago)



Stephanie Doyle
(VIC – Monash)

STA liaison



Kelly Tsang



Sugandha Bhatia

Early Career Representatives



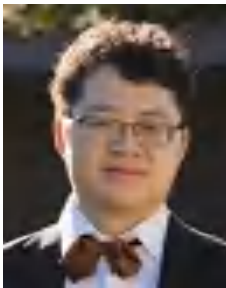
Akriti Nepal
(QLD – Griffith)



Anjana Jayasree
(QLD – UQ)



Aya Sedik Moussa
(QLD - Griffith)



Anyu Zhang
(NSW - Newcastle)



Kate Firipis
(VIC – SVI)



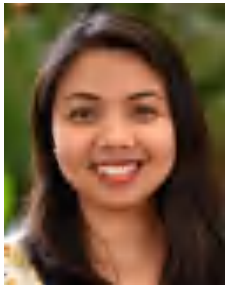
Haritha Kirla
(WA – UWA)



Aswathi Gopalakrishnan
(QLD - UQ)



Marco Enriquez Martinez
(QLD - UQ)



Rose Ann Franco
(QLD - Lifeblood)



Deepu Ashok
(NSW - USyd)



Pramod Dorishetty
(WA – UWA)

Interested in joining? Please send your EOI by email to [Ferry Melchels](mailto:ferry.melchels@adelaide.edu.au) (ferry.melchels@adelaide.edu.au) with a brief introduction and motivation for being an ASBTE Student/ECR rep.

ASBTE DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES

HDR Representatives



Uptal Chandra Das
(QLD - QUT)



Dulani Sajeewa Sooriyaaratchi
(VIC - UMel)



Poppy Buissink
(NZ - UOtago)



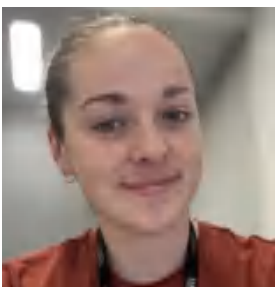
Le Tuong Van (May) Vo
(SA - Adelaide U)



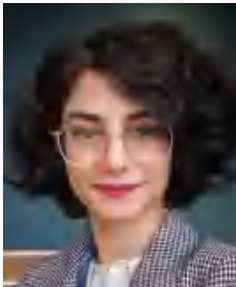
Yuan Fang
(NSW - USyd)



Minh Anh Huynh
(QLD - Griffith)



Chayla Reeves
(VIC - RMIT)



Maede Hasannasab
(NZ - Auckland)



Kailas Mahipal Malappuram
(SA - Adelaide U)



Wade Bocking
(NSW - USyd)



Diane Young
(QLD - UQ)



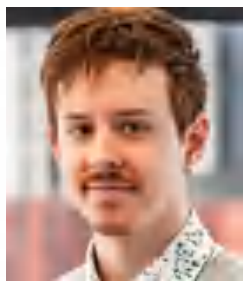
Harrison Porritt
(NZ - Auckland)



Ann Rose Baby
(SA - Adelaide U)



Max Higham
(SA - Adelaide U)



Zach Och
(NSW - UNSW)



George McColgan
(WA - UWA)



Breah Milford
(WA - UWA)



Yasaman Boroumand
(WA - ECU)



Vanessa
(SA - Flinders)

Interested in joining?

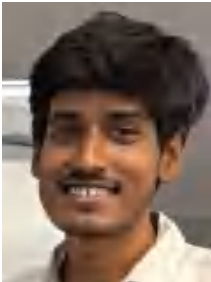
ASBTE reps are the main drivers behind coordinating the ASBTE Regional Showcases across states, as well as helping with other events and programs such as the annual conference.

If interested, please send your EOI by email to [Ferry Melchels](mailto:ferry.melchels@adelaide.edu.au) (ferry.melchels@adelaide.edu.au) with a brief introduction and motivation for being an ASBTE Student/ECR rep.

Masters and Undergraduate Representatives



Charlotte Heffernan
(QLD - UQ)



Sanjai Ravichandran
(QLD - UQ)



Zhaorui Peng
(NSW - UNSW)

ASBTE AWARDS 2026

ASBTE Award of Research Excellence 2026

Justin Cooper-White, The University of Queensland

Professor Justin Cooper-White is Head of School, School of Chemical Engineering at the University of Queensland (UQ) in Brisbane, Australia. Justin's research has made significant contribution to the discipline of biomaterials and tissue engineering where his research has become an important part of the scientific literature. He has published over 270 scientific documents, including >250 journal articles, 11 invited reviews and 7 book chapters. His publications have received 21,500 citations (h-index 75). Justin has attracted over \$58m in funding from a range of sources. Since 2004, Justin graduated 41 PhD students, 17 masters students and >60 honours students and supervised and mentored 38 postdoctoral fellows. Justin has six worldwide patent families that have reached National Phase Entry in USA, Europe and Australia in areas of formulation design for agriproducts, microbioreactor arrays and tissue engineering scaffolds.

'Justin has been an integral part of ASBTE since 2001, and over that period has had significant impact on our society through his contributions to strategic initiatives and operations.'

"Justin served as Vice President (2004 – 2006), President (2006 – 2008), then Vice President (2008 – 2010) of our society. He has made many contributions to our society, the most notable was generating significant financial income to our society from chairing the 2019 TERMIS-AP and the 7th Asian Biomaterials Congress. This ... allowed ASBTE to offer new initiatives, including better support and mentoring schemes for early career researchers.



ASBTE AWARDS 2026

ASBTE Emerging Leadership Award 2026

Jacqui McGovern, Queensland University of Technology

Jacqui McGovern is a Senior Research Fellow and Group Leader at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), heading the Human Extracellular Matrix Program at the Max Planck Queensland Centre. Jacqui serves as the Deputy Leader of the ARC ITTC for Cell & Tissue Engineering Technologies Education and Training Program and Lead Internal Engagement at QUT's Centre for Biomedical Technologies. With an experience in bioengineering and biomedical sciences, Jacqui has secured over AUD \$17.8 million in funding and authored >49 peer-reviewed papers with over 1,795 citations (h-index of 23). Jacqui's research program integrates extracellular matrix design, regenerative engineering and translational oncology to advance precision disease modelling and therapeutic biomaterials, with sustained funding from NHMRC, Cancer Australia and the Kids Cancer Project. Jacqui has been invited to present at 20+ national and international conferences and supervised >20 staff and students throughout her career.

'Jacqui has established herself as an internationally recognised leader in extracellular matrix-derived hydrogels and their application to advanced bioengineered cancer models. Her research is distinctive in its integration of tissue engineering principles with clinically relevant oncology models, particularly in bone cancer. She has been instrumental in advancing ECM-derived biomaterials from passive scaffolds to functional regulators of tumour behaviour, positioning matrix design as a central variable in cancer modelling. This conceptual shift is increasingly influencing how biomaterials are applied in complex disease systems.'

'...Jacqui is already shaping the next phase of biomaterials-driven translational research in Australasia. Her scientific achievements, transformative service to the Society, and unwavering commitment to developing others place her at the forefront of our field's future.'



ASBTE AWARDS 2026

ASBTE Early Career Researcher Award 2026

Amy Jiang, The University of Sydney

Amy is a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Sydney who obtained her PhD in Biomedical Engineering from UNSW in 2023. Amy's research focusses on translational biomaterials and tissue engineering for cardiovascular applications where she has had 8+ years of experience, with deep expertise in molecular biology, biomaterials, and small animal surgery.

Amy's emerging research impact in the cardiovascular devices field is evidenced by her excellent track record for her career stage. She has published 10 peer-reviewed papers, including 4 first-author articles in leading journals such as *Advanced Healthcare Materials* (IF 10) and *Trends in Biotechnology* (IF 17.3), as well as a second-author publication in *Advanced Functional Materials* (IF 18.5). These outputs reflect both the quality and impact of her research. This is further reinforced by her strong conference presence, with 12 national and international presentations and 5 competitive awards, including the Australia/New Zealand Dennis Lowther Award, Runner-up award in her Faculty 3 Minute Thesis competition, and 5 merit-based travel grants.

Amy ensures her research has a clear translational focus, demonstrated by her success in securing \$100,000 competitive funding to drive innovation, including an \$80,000 University of Sydney (USyd) Proof-of-Concept Fund award to develop a sensor prototype, \$10,000 Usyd Biomanufacturing Incubator Seed Funding to explore new blood-based scaffolds for wound healing treatment with collaborators at the AO Research Institute Davos and is a co-inventor on a patent (platform for biomolecule immobilisation in microfluidics, 2024).

'Beyond her research achievements, Amy has shown sustained commitment to developing her leadership skills, mentorship, and professional service, demonstrating her potential for a distinguished career. She has held five leadership roles on scientific committees, including currently ongoing roles such as the NSW Early Career Researcher Representative for ASBTE (2024-present), and as an organiser of the NSW ASBTE Regional Showcases in 2024 and 2025.'



ASBTE AWARDS 2026

ASBTE Early Career Research Award 2026 – Highly Commended

Max Yavitt – The University of Otago

Max is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Christchurch Regenerative Medicine and Tissue Engineering (CReaTE) Research Group, within the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Musculoskeletal Medicine and Centre for Bioengineering & Nanomedicine at the University of Otago Christchurch (OUC).

Max is an outstanding emerging researcher with a recognised reputation as a future leader in the field of biomaterials and tissue engineering. Max has an excellent track record in undertaking novel, high-impact research, as shown by his impressive publication record in high impact journals, including, Science (IF: 44.7), Science Robotics (IF: 26.1), Advanced Materials (IF: 27.4), and JACS (IF: 14.5). Max has received competitive funding grants from the Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Fund (Fast Start Award, PI), Horizon Europe (AI), US National Institutes of Health (F31 Predoctoral Fellowship, NZD\$200k) and Department of Education (Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Fellowship, NZD\$200k). Finally, Max has mentored 7 undergraduate and junior PhD students during his PhD, and now as a postdoc he is co-supervisor to 5 PhD and 1 master's student.

“Max has helped the students in our group to advance their technical research proficiencies, and to refine their research aims and critical thinking skills. He has made a tremendous impact on the success of the students in the CReaTE lab ...

Max has also made major contributions and service to the biomaterials and tissue engineering fields as the ASBTE ECR Representative for NZ and as a member of the Organizing Committee for the ASBTE Annual Conference 2025 and the TERMIS-AP Annual Conference 2026. Through these roles, he has contributed to numerous initiatives to support the career development of new and emerging researchers.”



ABSTE 2026 Conference Awards

Best Early Career Researcher Oral Presentation:

Kate Firipis (St Vincent's Institute)

Best Student Oral Presentation:

Itai Shaul (Monash)

Runner-Ups: Dulani Sooriyaaratchi (UMel) and Anton Maraldo (UNSW)

Best Rapid-Fire Presentation:

Holly Ung (Hudson Institute of Medical Research)

Runner-Up: Gagan Jalandrah (UNSW)

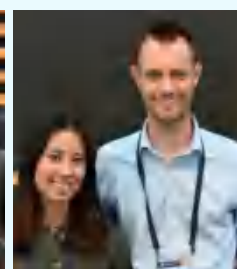
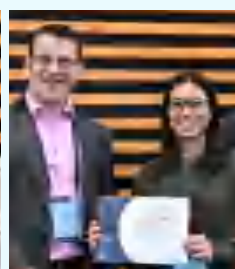
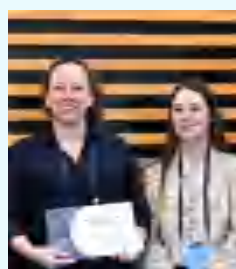
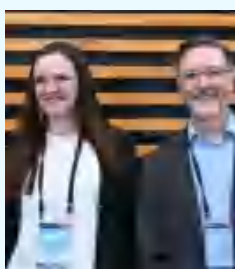
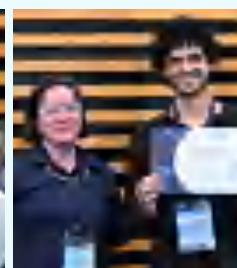
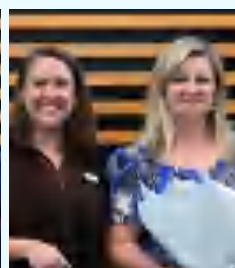
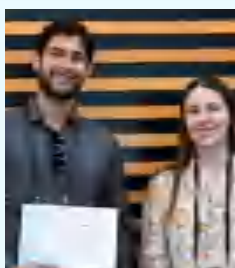
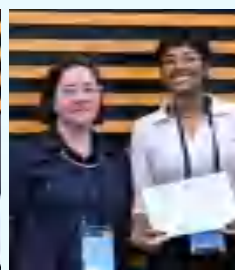
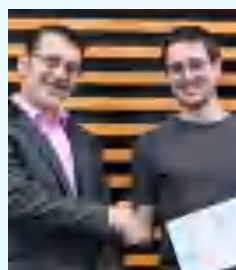
Best Early Career Researcher Poster Presentation:

Hatice Holuigue (NUS)

Best Student Poster Presentation:

Andrey Tala (Adelaide University)

Runner-Ups: Luke Martino (RMIT) and Alaa Bazeed (Adelaide University)



ASBTE AWARDS 2026

ASBTE Lifetime Membership Award 2026



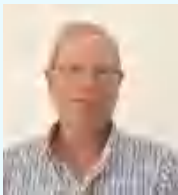
Helmut Thissen



Current ASBTE Life Membership



John Ramshaw



Jerome
Werkmeister



Hans Griesser



Klaus
Schindhelm



Thilak
Gunatillake



Keith
McLean



Bruce
Milthorpe

ASBTE AWARDS 2026

2026 Lab Travel Award Winners

William Humble – Rome, Bologna, Turin

While overseas, I focused on a dynamic cell culture system for tumor modelling in Rome. This included biofabrication of porous scaffolds, osteogenic differentiation, and time-lapse confocal microscopy to characterize cellular behaviour. I also taught cell culture to fellow students and reviewed a journal article.

In Bologna, I learned to culture and characterize a cell line derived from a patient tumor, visited the anatomy/pathology lab to see osteosarcoma first-hand, and delivered a seminar.

In Turin, I attended the European Society for Biomaterials congress, presented a poster, and expanded my professional network through various scientific and social activities.

ASBTE's support fostered cross-institutional collaborations between Australia and Italy which continue to inspire innovation in tackling osteosarcoma. The work I completed has given me great direction and excitement to finish my PhD.

(Photo - Dr. Lilith Cabellero-Aguillar, Dr. Enrico Lucarelli, and I having a spritz by the river Po in Turin)



Ryan McKinnon - Adelaide

Through the support of the ASBTE Domestic Lab Travel Award, I attended and presented at the Miniaturized Systems for Chemistry and Life Sciences – Micro-Total Analysis Systems (μ TAS 2025), the world's leading conference in nano- and micro-engineered systems. I established new national and international research connections and engaged with leaders in microfluidics, biomaterials, and biomedical engineering.

I also completed a laboratory visit with Professor Ferry Melchels, where I expanded my expertise in photochemical polymer synthesis and advanced biomaterials design. In parallel, I progressed several PhD manuscripts and strengthened translational pathways aligned with industry and commercialisation objectives.

2026 Lab Travel Award Winners

Amy Xie (Houston)

Astrid Nausa Galeano (Bayreuth)

Kailas Mahipal Malappuram (Vienna)

Stephanie Doyle (York)

We are looking forward to hearing about your travels!



ASBTE AWARDS 2026

2026 Lab Travel Award Winners

Max Yavitt – Sydney

I used the lab travel award to visit A/Prof. Khoon Lim at the University of Sydney, where I used his volumetric printer from Readily 3D. I worked with one of his PhD students to collect data for a publication. Additionally, I met with Khoon and his students to plan other experiments for future collaborations. Outside of the lab, I attended a workshop on commercialization hosted by Nucleate Australia, where I was able to network with other young researchers and entrepreneurs. I also socialized and networked with students and postdocs from the University of Sydney and University of New South Wales.

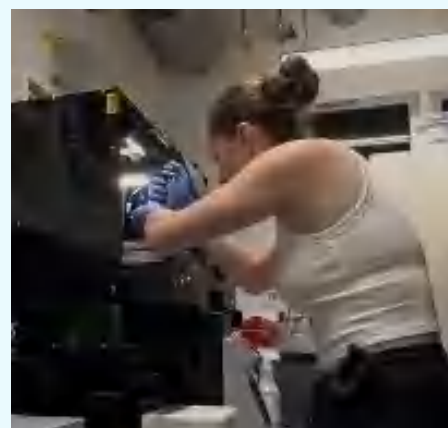
While in Khoon's lab, I was able to collect enough data to compile a figure for a publication. Our lab has identified a compound that rapidly consumes oxygen in solution. We have used this compound as an additive to improve the hydrogel crosslinking efficiency during radical-based photoinitiation reactions. Using the volumetric printer in Khoon's lab, I was able to show that this compound works to lower the light dose required for volumetric printing, enabling faster printing with less severe light doses. This data was compiled into a figure that will be included in a future publication.

Chayla Reeves - Lausanne

I was lucky enough to make the trip to EPFL University, Lausanne, Switzerland in July this year to visit Dr Orane Guillame-Gentil (Deplancke Lab), to learn how to operate the Cytosurge Omnium Fluidic Force Microscope (FluidFM) for single cell extraction and transcriptome analysis. Across the 2-week visit, I shadowed Dr Guillame-Gentil, learning the setup, pack-up and cellular extraction methodology of the Omnium. I was even fortunate enough to have a run at using the Omnium unsupervised to fully grasp the technique of FluidFM and how to efficiently and effectively extract cellular biopsies (RNA) of living cells whilst keeping them viable.

The opportunity to gain mentorship on the FluidFM and cellular extraction from Dr Guillame-Gentil has left me with a greater fundamental understanding of FluidFM and tips to take back to RMIT University to apply to our Add-On system. I take away a thorough FluidFM standard operating procedure that I plan to adapt to our system at RMIT in the hopes to successfully extract from single cells, despite at a lower throughput than the Omnium system. This first-hand experience and knowledge should serve to benefit all future FluidFM experiments and continue to flourish the professional working relationship with Dr Guillame-Gentil and the FluidFM for future projects.

"The operation of the FluidFM is both intricate and crazy cool. Dr Guillame-Gentil is highly knowledgeable and experienced in this field and I am immensely grateful to have had the opportunity to meet and pick her brain on the system"



ASBTE 2026 CONFERENCE

2026 ASBTE Conference Wrap-Up

The 30th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering, **ASBTE 2026**, was held from 30 March to 2 April 2026 at the **National Wine Centre in Adelaide, South Australia**. Across four days, the conference brought together researchers, students, and early career researchers to celebrate the strength and future direction of biomaterials and tissue engineering across Australia, New Zealand, and the wider international community.

A key highlight of the meeting was the Hans Griesser Symposium, which honoured Emeritus Professor **Hans Griesser**'s major contributions to biomaterials science, surface engineering, and his exceptional mentorship that has shaped a generation of biomaterials scientists. The symposium included a session on "Stories of Translation: Industry Impact and Legacy," which highlighted how biomaterials research can move beyond the laboratory and create industrial impact. The symposium also reflected the difference between being a supervisor and being a true mentor, the cultural context of mentoring, and the idea that "mentoring is a very rewarding, two-way process."

Scientific sessions were highly engaging, spanning organ-on-chip and in vitro tissue models, biointerfaces, implants, cancer and immunomodulation, hydrogels, stem cells and cell-matrix interactions, vascular and musculoskeletal tissue engineering, additive manufacturing, nanomaterials, drug delivery, wound healing, neural engineering, and mechanobiology. Plenary presentations from **Riccardo Levato**, **Leslie Yeo**, **Sarah Cartmell**, and **Fariba Dehghani** were accompanied with keynote and invited talks from leading researchers across biomaterials, biofabrication, tissue engineering, and biomedical technologies.

Students and early career researchers brought great energy to the conference through ECR networking, rapid-fire sessions, oral presentations, and poster sessions. The student and ECR awards celebrated presentations through talks, rapid-fire sessions, and posters. **Kate Firipis** received Best ECR Oral, **Itai Shaul** received Best Student Oral, with **Dulani Sooriyaarachchi** and **Anton Maraldo** named runners-up for Student Oral. **Holly Ung** received Best Rapid Fire, and **Gagan Jalandhra** was named runner-up. Poster awards went to **Hatice Holuigue** for Best ECR Poster and **Audrey Talà** for Best Student Poster, and **Luke Martino** and **Alaa Bazeed** were named runners-up for Student Poster. The main ASBTE awards also recognised people who made important contributions to the field. **Justin Cooper-White** receiving the Research Excellence Award, **Jacqui McGovern** the Emerging Leadership Award, **Amy Jiang** the Early Career Research Award, and **Helmut Thissen** recognised with Lifetime Membership.

Beyond the formal program, the welcome reception, poster sessions, ECR networking night, a tour to Hahndorf, the historic German-heritage village in the Adelaide Hills, and the conference dinner at Adelaide Oval created valuable opportunities for discussion and community building.

By **Bryan Coad**, **Jalal Karimzadehkhoei**, **Mahdiyeh Zahrabi**, and **Ferry Melchels**



ASBTE 2026 CONFERENCE

Conference Attendance Awards - 2026

Qiance Zhou

I presented my research poster on PEG–Dopa metal-coordinated hydrogels for diabetic chronic wound healing. I actively engaged with approximately seven to eight researchers during the networking session, answering their questions and receiving valuable feedback, which provided new insights into my future research direction. I attended a wide range of presentations from morning to evening, focusing on topics such as hydrogel optimisation, 3D printing, and personalised medicine. During breaks, I interacted with scholars from diverse backgrounds to exchange ideas and discuss research approaches. The conference offered an outstanding platform for academic exchange and professional networking within the biomaterials and tissue engineering.

Poppy Buissink

For the first time, I travelled overseas to attend and orally present at an international conference. It was also my first time being involved in a conference organising committee, and co-chairing a session. During the conference, as well as learning about interesting new techniques and ideas, I also met new inspiring people and reconnected with others, who gave me advice about my career and PhD project. While in Australia, I also visited labs of some collaborators and made plans to write a paper together and discussed potential opportunities for experimental work. I also had a great time as a tourist.

Veronica Perera

I would like to thank ASBTE for the opportunity to present an oral presentation at this year's conference and for supporting my attendance through the conference attendance award. This year's conference provided opportunities to learn about new and cutting-edge research, and was an invaluable opportunity to learn about how to improve career outcomes as an HDR. This is extremely valuable as a HDR student as it allows students to learn about increasing your likelihood to get a job from industry experts. This year's conference also provided numerous networking opportunities.

Dulani Sooriyaaratchi

During the conference, I engaged in a range of professional activities. A key focus was visiting sponsor exhibitors, several of whom showcased specialist instruments directly relevant to my research platform. This promised avenues for future integration. I delivered an oral presentation of my work to an engaged audience of researchers and industry professionals. Beyond my own presentation, I attended sessions across the programme, broadening my understanding of current directions in the field. Throughout the event, I actively participated in networking opportunities, initiating and building meaningful connections with peers, collaborators, and industry representatives.



ASBTE 2026 CONFERENCE

Conference Attendance Awards - 2026

Kate Firipis

The conference provided valuable feedback on my hiPSC vascular work and provided an opportunity for me to clarify my work whilst preparing my talk. Discussions with peers and senior researchers highlighted complementary expertise for potential collaboration and advice on career building. Further, exposure to emerging tools such as membrane tension probes and advances in degradable grafts was valuable. Beyond technical insights, the informal networking environments strengthened existing relationships and built new connections that will support future collaborations.

Kiara Qinthara

Attending the conference helped me gain more confidence in presenting my research and answering questions about my project. Through the poster and rapid-fire sessions, I received useful feedback that will help me improve my future work. I also met students and researchers from different universities who are working in related areas, which helped me understand who else is active in this research field. Because of these connections, I was able to visit another laboratory after the conference and learn more about their research environment. This helped me see how similar research is done in a different environment and gave me ideas for my own project.

Andrea Presutti

The conference deepened my understanding of current developments in the field, with particular focus on mechanobiology. Discussions with other researchers during the poster presentation provided me with extremely useful feedback on my research, and, in turn, gave me the opportunity to learn new techniques which I could implement for the advancement of my project. I also managed to create new connections and strengthen existing ones, with the possibility of future collaborations and knowledge exchange. All in all, I returned to Melbourne with fresh ideas, improved confidence in my project direction, and practical insight which will inform both my project advancement and my future conference presentations.

Max Yavitt

As a result of presenting my research, attending sessions, and networking with conference attendees, I was able to generate several new research directions for my lab group. Notably, I discussed plans to form new collaborations with several conference attendees, including a Plenary Speaker! I also presented in the ECR Award Session and was Highly Commended for the Early Career Research Award, which has helped to expand the visibility for my research program. Finally, I was able to connect with industry representatives from AXT, who supply and service instruments in our lab.

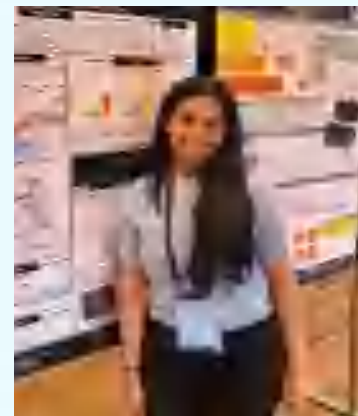


ASBTE 2026 CONFERENCE

Conference Attendance Awards - 2026

Isury Yasara

At the ASBTE 2026 conference, I had the opportunity to present part of my PhD research, "Steering MSC Fate – Interplay between Matrix Stiffness and Electrical Stimulation," through both a poster and a rapid-fire presentation. I also attended the ECR Networking Night and the Conference Dinner at Adelaide Oval, which provided exciting opportunities to network with peers, mentors, employers, and leading researchers in the field. I attended several oral sessions aligned with my research interests throughout the conference. Also, the excursion to the Adelaide Hills was an enjoyable experience. It was also a unique and memorable experience to be featured in a promotional video for the National Wine Centre during the conference.



Chayla Reeves

This conference provided me with the opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces on both a social and academic level (from past ASBTE and other conferences) as well as introducing and connecting with new faces. I look forward to potential collaborations with these individuals who either approached me off the back of my AFM presentation or that I approached to pick their brains on their analysis designs that I can hopefully work to coordinate into my future research analysis as I pivot my experimental design into new fields. This included not just ECRs but academics who I have known of but now have a professional relationship with. ***My favourite conference to date! The ASBTE community left me speechless at the extraordinary research being done in these fields on all platforms. To the ECR community, I'm glad I met you all.***

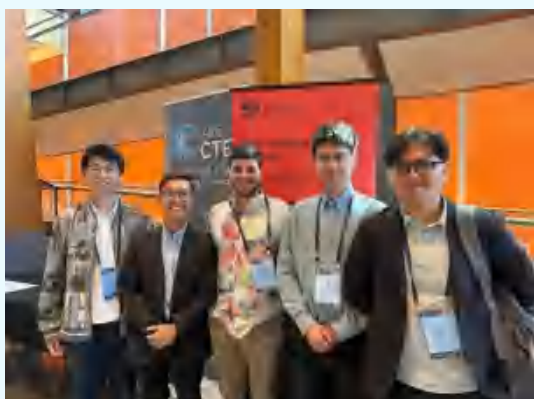


Matthias Pichler

Out of the everything that happened, a few things stand out. The conference dinner was a lovely event where we could relax and enjoy the food as well as engage in casual conversations. The trip to Hahndorf was quite nice. As an Austrian, visiting a German heritage village in Adelaide was quite an interesting experience. On a professional note, I really did enjoy the poster presentation. On the day after the conference, we went for a kayaking tour in the mangrove forest – dolphin sanctuary. Overall, the trip was a very positive experience.

Christopher Chen

On a personal note, the conference marked a culmination, and final opportunities to showcase outputs from my PhD – significantly aided by the support of the ASBTE. The return bus trip from Hahndorf even inspired the final completed revisions to my PhD thesis document - vollständig abgeschlossen! Super! I connected with peers, experienced researchers and new contacts across the poster session, ECR networking, exhibitors sessions, breaks, and attended plenaries and various stream sessions across the four days. Each of these opportunities continued to expand my knowledge, and further my enthusiasm for the possibilities of biomaterials and tissue engineering.



ASBTE 2026 CONFERENCE

Conference Attendance Awards - 2026

Khanh Vinh Doan

Attending ASBTE 2026 significantly advanced my research and professional development. Presenting my work enabled me to receive constructive feedback that will refine my ongoing project. Co-chairing a session improved my confidence in facilitating scientific dialogue. I established valuable connections with researchers working on microgels and granular hydrogels and other areas, creating potential avenues for collaboration and future career opportunities. Discussions with experts introduced new methodologies and perspectives relevant to my research. Participation in the ECR networking event further expanded my professional network and strengthened my involvement in the biomaterials and tissue engineering community. Overall, the conference provided meaningful academic and career benefits.

Jeremy Oon

Attending the scientific conference was a valuable learning experience that enhanced my academic and professional development. I participated in my own presentation whereby I presented my PhD work which I was able to experience learning how to present confidential work. I also participated in poster discussions and watching other keynote presentations, which increased my understanding of current scientific research and emerging technologies. Networking with researchers, students, and professionals helped me build communication skills and expand my professional network. I was also able to provide and receive inspiration for future experiments such as the reactions of my antibacterial molecules.

Brendan Hung

From the academic side, it an incredible opportunity to hear about world-class research, spanning the breadth of the fields of biomaterials and tissue engineering. I was able to build closer relationships with my fellow colleagues, catch up with local collaborators and researchers from Melbourne, but also meet many people from other states and internationally, whose work I had only seen through publications I revered. The Hans Griesser symposium was also an enlightening day, being exposed to the industry perspective, as well as the translational aspect of research.

Shouyuan Jiang

Attendance at the conference resulted in several valuable professional outcomes. I established a new connection with Dr Karyn Jarvis and initiated discussions regarding potential future research collaborations. Presenting my work and receiving the ASBTE 2026 Early Career Researcher Award also strengthened my academic profile and recognition within the field. Importantly, this achievement has been incorporated into my fellowship and grant applications, enhancing the competitiveness of these submissions. The conference additionally provided opportunities to increase the visibility of my research, exchange ideas with peers and senior researchers, and gain insights into emerging developments that will help inform and shape my future research direction.



Mustafijur Rahman was also successful in a conference travel award but has not yet submitted their report.

ASBTE 2026 CONFERENCE



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2026

AGM 2026 Roundup

The Society's 36th Annual General Meeting was held during the conference in Adelaide on 31st of March 2026. 45 Society members attended the meeting, consisting of long-term members along with newcomers.

Annual reports of the committee were presented and confirmed (President, Jelena Rnjak-Kovacina; Executive Officer, Veronica Glattauer; Newsletter, Yu Suk Choi; Website and social media, Jess Frith; Awards, Mark Allenby; ECR initiatives, Ferry Melchels) including STA report from our society delegate, Kelly Tsang.

Financial statement was presented by Jelena Rnjak-Kovacina on behalf of Anna Waterhouse (Treasurer).

All reports were passed by the members.

Brief discussion was then followed with proposed variation of membership fees with an increase for Full members from AUD \$80 to \$120 and Student members from AUD \$40 to \$50. It was generally agreed that the Society's fees had not increased for well over 10 years. All were in favour of approving this increase and this resolution was passed.

Election of new committee members followed, with nominations received for open positions.

New elected committee members:

President, Jess Frith

Vice President, Jelen Rnjak-Kovacina

Executive officer, Veronica Glattauer

Treasurer/Secretary, Anna Waterhouse

Ordinary members: Ferry Melchels, Jiao Jiao Li, Mark Allenby, and Daniel Heath.

New committee was congratulated with special mention of Jelena Rnjak-Kovacina excellent term as President of the Society. Yu-Suk Choi stepped down from the committee this year and his contributions were highlighted as Newsletter editor.

Kelly Tsang and Sugandha Bhatia continue as STA representatives.

Penny Martens and Khoon Lim will continue with roles as IUSBSE delegates. Sally McArthur and Justin Cooper-White as delegates on the Asian Biomaterials Federation.

Student and ECR representatives nominated to be involved this coming year,

State	Students	ECR	State Rep
VIC	Chayla Reeves	Stephanie Doyle Dulani Sooriyaaratchi	Stephanie Doyle Kate Firipis
NSW			
QLD	Anjana Jayasree		Jacqui McGovern
WA	Pramod Dorishetty		
SA	Le Tuong Van Vo		
NZ	Poppy Buissink	Max Yavitt	Max Yavitt

A call for more volunteers will follow. *(as updated in this newsletter)*

Final items for discussion included World Biomaterials Congress in Washington DC in 2028. Concern over attendance by internationals.

Tim Woodfield along with Andrea O'Connor are Co Charing TERMIS AP 2026 in Christchurch NZ. Tim mentioned that potentially part of profits made from TERMIS meeting would be transferred to ASBTE.

Veronica Glattauer

UPDATE FROM THE ASBTE MEMBERSHIP

Purchasing ASBTE Membership

You can now sign up for **1, 2, or 3 year ASBTE Standard Membership** at <https://www.asbte.org/join-renew>. Fees are:

- \$50 per year for Student Members.
- \$120 per year for Standard Members.

Follow ASBTE on LinkedIn

ASBTE's public page on LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/australasian-society-for-biomaterials-and-tissue-engineering>) now has >2000 followers! We post regularly on LinkedIn with information on ASBTE activities including conferences and events, as well as items and articles of interest to our biomaterials and tissue engineering community. It is also a great way to spread the word about our research/researchers so please tag us into your posts – we would love to share good news of papers, travel, collaboration, prizes and more.

Any member wishing to supply news items, links, PhD scholarships, job listings, or other relevant information to the **website** should contact Dr. Jiao Jiao Li, jiaojiao.li@uts.edu.au

Upcoming ASBTE EMCR Initiatives

Mentoring We are pleased to announce the commencement of a new round of the mentoring program. All students and researchers are warmly invited to take part—whether as a mentor, a mentee, or both. To express your interest, please complete the brief registration form here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIKGggoHT6pqHHpUfgXNBwMgJbmWdriTM8AsxWE8Qcal8F1g/viewform>

Mentor-mentee pairs who commenced in earlier rounds and intend to continue in this pairing are kindly requested to indicate this on the form as well.

The ASBTE Regional Showcases Although it was initiated under circumstances very different from today, these showcases have retained their popularity over the years and is still thriving. We anticipate this one-day in-person (or hybrid for multi-center regions) symposium to be held again around late November, again aiming for it to take place across all 6 regions on this day. For any questions, concerns or suggestions please email ferry.melchels@adelaide.edu.au.

ASBTE 2027 is coming to Sydney! Save the date: March 31 – April 2, 2027.

ASBTE2027

in Sydney!

SAVE THE DATE



MARCH 31 –
APRIL 2, 2027



SYDNEY,
AUSTRALIA



UPDATE FROM THE ASBTE MEMBERSHIP

Meet the new executive member.

Daniel Heath, University of Melbourne

I am really happy to be returning to the ASBTE Executive Committee after a five year break, this time to support our members through the awards portfolio. I managed the ECR portfolio previously where I restarted the Society's mentoring program and established the ASBTE regional showcases to promote early career researcher development and visibility.

In taking on the awards portfolio, I aim to recognise and support excellence across our community, with a particular focus on students, early and mid career researchers. I am looking forward to ensuring that our awards are transparent, inclusive, and aligned with ASBTE values.

<https://findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/profile/664526-daniel-heath>



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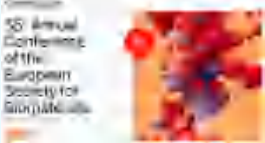
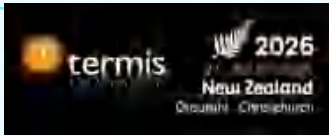
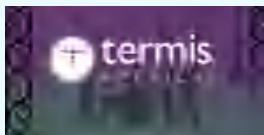
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UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Conference	Dates	Location	Link
	31 March – 2 April 2027	Sydney, Australia	Save the date! https://www.asbte.org/
	7-11 Sep 2026	Antwerp, Belgium	European Society for Biomaterials 2026: https://esb2026.org/
	October 21- 24, 2026	Orlando, Florida	USA Biomedical Engineering Society 2026: https://www.bmes.org/2026/annualmeeting
	27-30 Oct 2026	Christchurch, New Zealand	TERMIS-AP Chapter 2026: https://ap2026.termis.org/
	November 2-6, 2026	Monterrey, Mexico	Biofabrication 2026: https://biofabrication2026.org/
	November, 2026	Brisbane, Australia	Matrix Biology Society ANZ 2026: https://www.mbsanz.org/
	15-18 November 2026	New Orleans, USA	TERMIS-AM Chapter 2026: https://am2026.termis.org/
	5-7 December 2026	Canberra, Australia	ANZORS (Orthopaedic Research): https://anzors.org.au/
	17-20 October 2027	Shanghai, China	TERMIS World Congress 2027: https://termis.org/world-congresses/

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 Mark Allenby (m.allenby@uq.edu.au) or Executive Officer Veronica Glattauer (veronica.glattauer@csiro.au).

2026 June issue edited by Mark Allenby
Our new ASBTE Newsletter design was created by Dr. Amy Xie