

Do you have the next big idea for health innovation?

NanoPitch: Driving Health Innovation



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY
—
Nano Institute



Thursday 11 May
5pm – 7:30pm

Sydney Nano researchers are striving to make nanotechnology part of the solution to everyday problems. In health care, nanotechnology can improve outcomes for patients and save lives. At this event, Sydney Nano researchers will pitch their ideas to a panel of expert judges to find possible commercialisation partners.



Prof Steph Watson
Host



Prof Tony Weiss
Judge



Prof Julie Cairney
Judge



Dr John Kurek
Judge

Benefits:

- Successful applicants will be offered a series of one-on-one mentoring sessions to assist in the preparation of your pitch.
- There will be a monetary prize of \$5000 for first place and \$2500 for runner up.
- Networking opportunities with audience members and industry leaders on the night.

Submit your EOI to pitch [here](#). EOIs for pitches close **Monday 10 April 11:59pm**.



Prof Steph Watson
Mentor



A/Prof Alice Motion
Mentor



Rupal Ismin
Mentor



Nick McKay
Mentor



Dr Taylor Syme
Mentor



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Research Foyer, Sydney Nanoscience Hub (Building A31)



sydneynano.admin@sydney.edu.au

Register [here](#)

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Prof Steph Watson
Host & Mentor

Professor Watson is a corneal specialist known for her ground-breaking research in corneal therapies, appointed at the University of Sydney and Sydney Eye, Sydney Children's and Prince of Wales Hospitals. Professor Watson is Head of the Corneal Research Group and Head of the Corneal Unit, Sydney Eye Hospital. She is private practice in Bondi Junction. As Chair, Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia, Chair Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVOs) Advocacy and Outreach Committee, Expert Advisor to the \$150M Stem Cell Therapies Mission, and Editor for the Cochrane Eyes and Vision Group she contributes to policy. As a corneal specialist she is Head of the Corneal Unit at the Sydney Eye Hospital and Head, Corneal Research group, Save Sight Institute, The University of Sydney.

Prof Weiss is the McCaughey Chair in Biochemistry, an NHMRC Leadership Fellow, and a Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biotechnology. Tony founded the biotechnology clinical stage company Elastagen Pty Ltd which was sold to Allergan/AbbVie in one of the largest transactions ever completed in the Australian life science sector. He was recently awarded the Prime Minister's Prize for Innovation, the NSW Premier's Prize for Science and Engineering Leadership in Innovation, and the Eureka Prize for Innovation in Medical Research. He is also the President of the Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society (TERMIS).



Prof Tony Weiss
Judge



Prof Julie Cairney
Judge

Professor Julie Cairney is the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research – Enterprise and Engagement) at the University of Sydney. Leading the implementation of the University's industry, government and community research engagement strategy, Professor Cairney supports the Research Portfolio's work in growing research income across the University, fostering world-class research performance and mentoring, and recognising the impact of our research activities with industry, government and community partners. A Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, she serves on the Boards of the NSW Defence Innovation Network and the NSW Smart Sensing Network. She is also the CEO of Microscopy Australia, a national infrastructure project that provides open-access microscopy infrastructure across Australia.



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John is the Biotechnology Investment Manager at Uniseed, Australia's longest running venture fund. At Uniseed John is responsible for identifying new investment opportunities, and also covers Uniseed's overall biotechnology and life sciences portfolio. Uniseed has supported 61 start-up companies, being the seed investor in most of these, and has exited ten investments, to date. John brings 24 years of industry experience as a Biotechnology Manager with a focus on the strategic design and implementation of drug development programs. His experience extends from drug discovery to the clinical phase of drug development. He has acted as a Director on the Board of investee companies that have collectively raised AU\$300 million.



Dr John Kurek
Judge



A/Prof Alice Motion
Mentor

Alice Motion is a chemist and science communicator, and Interim Director of the University of Sydney Nano Institute. Alice's research focuses on open science and Science Communication, Outreach, Participation and Education (SCOPE). Finding ways to connect people with science and to make research more accessible is the overarching theme of Alice's interdisciplinary research.

Rupal is the Director of the Sydney Knowledge Hub, a research commercialisation centre that aims to scale the impact of research at the University of Sydney by serving as a bridge between researchers and industry partners. Opened in October 2019, the physical space is home to research-based startups, and industry partners seeking to collaborate with the world-ranking researchers, students, and facilities of the University. Rupal has helped launch and scale mission-oriented businesses, including City Innovative, a Bay Area startup working with city governments to improve services through technology, Hub Australia, a network of coworking spaces, and Andable, an ecommerce marketplace with a social mission, as founder. She started her career in the then emerging world of digital media in big ad agency land.



Rupal Ismin
Mentor



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Nick McKay
Mentor

Nicholas is the Associate Director for the Research Enterprise at the Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Sydney. He has extensive leadership experience in trade, research, investment, Government and education, in both a domestic and international context. Driving business development, strategy and policy, stakeholder relationship management, marketing and communications.

Taylor is the Commercialisation Theme Leader (Medicine and Health) at the University of Sydney. In this role, he identifies and promotes research, technology, and expertise suitable for commercial development. Taylor is a skilled communicator and problem solver with a background in medical science research. His passion lies in using strategy and building relationships to drive research and business development in both the public and private sectors.



Dr Taylor Syme
Mentor

Submit your EOI to pitch [here](#).
EOIs for pitches close **Wednesday 12 April 11:59pm**.

Apply to be a Sydney Nano Member [here](#).

Apply to be a Sydney Nano Participant [here](#).



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