

Get inspired by the next big ideas 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 partners to increase the impact of their work. This event will focus on key health areas including MedTech, Pharma, and BioTech, followed by a networking session with drinks and canapes.

Join this event on **Thursday 11 May from 5pm** to listen to the latest advances in nanotechnology that are driving health innovation at the University of Sydney. By attending this event, you will:

- Be the first to hear about the latest innovations coming out of the University of Sydney
- Have the opportunity to network with the presenters, researchers, and industry
- Learn the art of pitching
- Find your next research and commercialisation partners

[Register here](#)



**Prof Stephanie Watson**  
Host



**Prof Tony Weiss**  
Judge



**Prof Julie Cairney**  
Judge



**Dr John Kurek**  
Judge



Thursday 11 May 2023 5:00pm – 7:30pm



Research Foyer, Sydney Nanoscience Hub (Building A31)



[sydneynano.admin@sydney.edu.au](mailto:sydneynano.admin@sydney.edu.au)

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## Pitch Agenda

Speakers	Pitch title
Prof. Vesna Miletic (FMH)	New biocompatible dental materials
A/Prof. Ann Kwan (Faculty of Science)	Biocompatible coating for 3D printed implants
Dr. Md Mahbub Hassan (Faculty of Engineering)	Nanohydrogel for cellular and ocular therapies
Dr. Hien Duong (FMH)	Bacteriophage nanobots
Dr. Matthew Griffith (Faculty of Engineering)	Development of the affordable artificial retina
Dr. Clara Tran (Faculty of Engineering)	Plasma surface coating for Novel ImmunoDiagnostics platforms
A/Prof. Stefano Palomba (Faculty of Science)	Mobile sensing for improved diagnostic and cancer detection
Mr. Matt Hadden (Faculty of Engineering)	Determining the nanomechanical signature of human pathological tissues using advance analytical and bioengineering tools

FMH = Faculty of Medicine and Health. Note program subject to change without notice.

Networking and awards to follow the pitches.

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## Meet the judges



**Prof Stephanie  
Watson**  
Host

Professor Stephanie Watson OAM is a corneal surgeon known for her groundbreaking research in corneal therapies. For Sydney Nano she contributes to the executive leadership team as co-Deputy Director for Industry, Innovation and Commercialisation. She leads the Corneal Research Group at University of Sydney and is Head of the Corneal Unit at the Sydney Eye Hospital. As Chair, Australian Vision Research; Chair to the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology's (ARVO) Advocacy and Outreach Committee and Secretary to the Asia Pacific Ophthalmic Trauma Society, Professor Watson contributes to profession, policy and advocacy. The Medal of the Order of Australia was awarded for services to ophthalmology. In 2023, Professor Watson became a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) and in 2019 a Fellow of the Academy of Asia-Pacific Professors of Ophthalmology (AAPPO). Professor Watson was the only Australian to make the Power List of the Top 100 women in Ophthalmology in 2021 and in 2022 the only Australian woman on the Top 100 Power list for all ophthalmologists. She has received an Outstanding Service in Prevention of Blindness award from the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology ARVO Silver Fellowship (FARVO), New Zealand's Dorothy Potter Medal and an NSW Premier's Prize for Leadership in Innovation.

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



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## Meet the judges (cont.)



**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.

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