



International Bioactives Conference 2026

September 22 – 24 2026
Macquarie University

PROGRAM

Delegate information

VENUE

**Michael Kirby Building, 17 Wallys Walk
Macquarie University, NSW 2109**

You can find maps of the university campus on the [university website](#).

REGISTRATION

Registration desk will be open from
8:00am-9:00am on 22 September
8:30 – 9:00am on 23 and 24 September.

The registration desk will also be staffed during meal breaks for any assistance you require.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Michael Kirby Building has an accessible entrance via Central Avenue, central lift service to all floors and accessible toilets. There are accessible parking options in the South 2 and East 3 carparks.

A quiet space will be available on the ground floor. Attend the registration desk during breaks or ask a volunteer for directions or assistance.

TRANSPORT

The closest public transport hub is **Macquarie University Metro Station**. Buses also stop along University Avenue and at the nearby Macquarie Centre bus interchange. Plan your public transport route: [Transport for NSW Trip Planner](#).
By Car: <https://www.mq.edu.au/about/locations/parking/visitor>

CONTACT

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www.bioactives2026.com



IBC PROGRAM 2026



*Connecting Science, Industry and
Innovation for a Healthier Future.*

DAY 1 TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER **THEME: Discovery and Foundations**

Welcome

Opening Plenary Professor Mary Ann Lila (North Carolina State University, USA)

Discovery, Bioavailability & Mechanisms of Bioactives | Foodomics, Analytical Technologies & Disease

Prevention | Plant Bioactives & Sustainable Food Systems | Lightening Talks

Poster Presentation & Networking Evening

DAY 2 WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER **THEME: Applications & Translation**

Morning Plenary Professor Michelle Colgrave (Edith Cowan University, CSIRO, Australia)

Bioactives Product Development & Translation 1 & 2 | Food Bioactives & Clinical Translation | Integration,
Ethics & Societal Impact

Conference Cocktail Function, Taronga Zoo Function Centre, Mosman

DAY 3 THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER **THEME: Future & Integration**

Morning Plenary Professor Philip Yongxin Li (The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong)

Health Futures: Precision Modulation | Emerging Bioactive Therapeutics & Future Translation | Future

Bioactive Discovery Technologies | Lightening Talks

Closing Plenary Professor Elaine Holmes (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong)

Conference Close

SESSION LENGTH

Plenary talks (40 min)*: 35 min talk + 5 min Q&A

Keynote talks (30 min): 25 min talk + 5 min Q&A

Contributed Oral Presentation from Abstracts (15 min): 12 min talk + 3 min Q&A

Lightning Talks (5 min)**: Combined Q&A at end of session

IBC PROGRAM 2026

Tuesday 22 September

Discovery and Foundations



TIME	PROGRAM	G25 Lecture Theatre
8:00 am	Registration Opens Ground Floor Foyer, Wally's Walk Entrance	
9:00 am	Welcome and Opening Welcome and Acknowledgement, Professor Anwar Sunna, Organising Committee Chair & Director FAAB Official Opening, Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte, NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer	
9:25 am	Opening Plenary Lecture Prof Mary Ann Lila (North Carolina State University, USA) – <i>Plant Bioactives That Protect Human Health - The Call of the Wild</i>	
10:05 am	Morning tea Networking and exhibition	GROUND FLOOR FOYER
10:35 am	Session 1: Discovery, Bioavailability & Mechanisms of Bioactives Chair: Professor Anwar Sunna (FAAB, Macquarie University) 10:35–11:05 A/Prof Hafiz Suleria (University of Melbourne) – <i>Understanding Food Bioactives from Digestion to Absorption: Integrated in vitro, Cellular, and in vivo Porcine Models</i> 11:20–11:35 Dr Sophie Selby-Pham (University of Melbourne) – <i>Modelling phytochemical intestinal absorption to enable functional fingerprinting of complex plant extracts</i> 11:05–11:20 Latheesha Abeywardana (Deakin University) – <i>Electrospun Multi-Encapsulation of Vitamin A for Edible 3D Printing and Personalised Nutrition</i> 11:35–12:05 Prof Ana Rodriguez-Mateos (King's College London, UK) – <i>Bioavailability and Beyond: Understanding Biological Responses to Dietary (Poly)phenols</i>	
12:10 pm	Lunch Break Networking and exhibition	GROUND FLOOR FOYER
1:10 pm	Session 2: Foodomics, Analytical Technologies & Disease Prevention Chair: Professor Jayashree Arcot (UNSW) 1:10 – 1:40 Prof Philippe Schmitt-Kopplin (Technical University of Munich, Germany) – <i>Food Functional Metabolomics in a Nutshell: Bioactives from Biotic and Abiotic Chemistry</i> 1:40 – 1:55 Dr Madhuri Hande (FAAB, Macquarie University) – <i>Rapid Targeted Analysis of Hydrolyzed Plant Polysaccharides by DREAMTIME NMR Spectroscopy</i> 1:55 – 2:10 Amaha Adhanu (Edith Cowan University) – <i>Source-specific nitrate and nitrite intake and the incidence of chronic kidney disease in the Danish Diet, Cancer, and Health Cohort</i> 2:10 – 2:40 A/Prof Catherine Bondonno (Edith Cowan University) – <i>The Strange Case of Nitrate: The Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde of Human Health</i>	

IBC PROGRAM 2026

Tuesday 22 September

Discovery and Foundations



TIME	PROGRAM	G25 Lecture Theatre
2:45 pm	Afternoon Tea Networking and exhibition	GROUND FLOOR FOYER
3:15 pm	Session 3: Plant Bioactives & Sustainable Food Systems Chair: Professor Jaswinder Singh (McGill University, Canada) 3:15 – 3:45 Prof Rachel Burton (Adelaide University) – <i>Bioactive Bonanza: Rich Pickings in Australia's Emerging Crops</i> 3:45 – 4:00 Raquel Carvalho (FAAB, Macquarie University) – <i>The Use of Green Solvents to Obtain Bioactive-rich Extracts from Broccoli Leaves</i> 4:00 – 4:15 Temitope Adebayo (Western Sydney University) – <i>From Leaf to Bioactive: Optimising Processing of Vernonia amygdalina (Bitter Leaf) for Functional Tea Development</i> 4:15 – 4:45 Prof Yasmina Sultanbawa (University of Queensland) – <i>Opportunity Crops and Bioactive Compounds: Driving Innovation for Industry Applications</i> 4:45 – 5:00 Dr Keshav Raj Paudel (Western Sydney University) – <i>Kakadu Plum Extract Disrupts Proliferation and Metastatic Hallmarks of Lung Cancer.</i>	
5:00pm	Lightening Talks Chair: Dr Hasinika Gamage (FAAB, Macquarie University) 5:00–5:05 Tina Kayeye (FAAB, Macquarie University) – <i>Understanding Fat, Protein and Carbohydrate Rearrangement of Plant-Based Milk Alternatives in Coffee</i> 5:05 – 5:10 Himani Gamage (Edith Cowan University) – <i>Applying Discovery Proteomics Coupled with In-Silico Data Mining to Understand the Bioactive Potential of Cucumis Sativus (Lebanese Cucumber) Tissue Extracts</i> 5:10 – 5:15 Sofia Kokkinis (University of Technology Sydney) – <i>Liposomal Encapsulated Curcumin Attenuates Lung Cancer Proliferation, Migration and Apoptosis</i> 5:15 – 5:20 Olumide Fawale (University of Queensland) – <i>Comparative Metabolomic and Chemometric Analysis of Wild and Commercially Cultivated Yams in Australia</i> 5:20 – 5:25 Lara Taggart (Western Sydney University) – <i>Cardiovascular-Relevant Bioactivity Profiling of Native Australian Acacia Species: Antioxidant, Phenolic and Anti-Inflammatory Properties</i> 5:25 Group Q & A Session	
5:40 PM	Poster Networking Evening Poster presentation session with networking and light refreshments	LEVEL 3, 330X FUNCTION ROOM

IBC PROGRAM 2026

Wednesday 23 September

Applications and Translation



TIME	PROGRAM	G25 Lecture Theatre
8:30 am	Registration Opens Ground Floor Foyer, Wally's Walk Entrance	
9:00 am	Morning Plenary Lecture Prof Michelle Colgrave (Edith Cowan University/CSIRO) – <i>Bioactive Peptides and Proteins: Using Machine Learning, Proteogenomics and Analytical Validation to Move from Discovery to Impact</i>	
9:40 am	Session 1: Bioactive Product Development & Translation Chair: A/Prof Alfonso Garcia-Bennett (FAAB, Macquarie University) 9:40–10:10 Prof Munish Puri (Massey University, New Zealand) – <i>Redefining Industrial Biotechnology: Intelligent Biomanufacturing of Future Foods and Bioactive Ingredients</i> 10:10–10:25 A/Prof Quan Vuong (University of Technology Sydney) – <i>Challenges and Opportunities in Translating Leptospermum Bioactives into Functional Products</i> 10:25–10:40 Dr Mitchell Low (Western Sydney University) – <i>Synergistic Anti-Inflammatory Effects of Celery Seed and Botanical Extracts: Bioactivity-Guided Identification and Optimisation of Multi-Herb Combinations</i>	
10:40 am	Morning Tea Networking and exhibition	GROUND FLOOR FOYER
11:10 am	Session 2: Bioactive Product Development & Translation (continued) Chair: Dr Mitchell Low (Western Sydney University) 11:10–11:40 Dist. Prof Colin Barrow (Deakin University,) – <i>High Value Bioproducts from Organic Waste to Promote a Circular Economy</i> 11:40–11:55 Dr Yilun Weng (University of Queensland) – <i>Oral Delivery of Food Bioactive Compounds</i> 11:55–12:10 Aaron Bennett (University of Technology Sydney) - <i>The Comparative Analysis of Various Ionizing Bioburden Reduction Methods for Medicinal Cannabis</i>	
12:10 pm	Lunch Networking and exhibition	GROUND FLOOR FOYER

IBC PROGRAM 2026

Wednesday 23 September

Applications and Translation



TIME	PROGRAM	G25 Lecture Theatre
1:10 pm	Session 3: Food Bioactives & Clinical Translation Chair Prof Abishek Santhakumar (Charles Sturt University) 1:10 – 1:40 A/Prof Karen Murphy (Adelaide University) – <i>Translating Food Bioactives into Healthy Ageing Outcomes: Insights from Mediterranean Diet Intervention Trials</i> 1:40 – 1:55 Dr Elizabeth Barber (Monash University) – <i>Impact of Nutrient-dense Spinach-enriched Bread on Postprandial Glycaemia, Satiety and Sensory Acceptance: A Randomised Controlled Crossover Trial in Healthy Adults</i> 1:55 – 2:10 Dr Hasinika Gamage (Macquarie University) – <i>Unravelling a Butyrate-linked Gut-brain Axis in Machado Joseph Disease</i> 2:10 – 2:40 Dr Xuyu Liu (University of Sydney) – <i>From Kitchen to Bench to Bedside: Investigating the Antithrombotic Potential of Brassica Vegetable-Derived Antiplatelet Agents</i> 2:40 – 3:10 Prof Miranda Miroso (University of Otago, New Zealand) – <i>Translating Bioactives from the Circular Food Economy</i>	
3:10 pm	Afternoon tea Networking and exhibition	GROUND FLOOR FOYER
3:40 pm	Session 4: Integration, Ethics & Societal Impact Chair Lorna Munro (Food Standards Australia New Zealand) 3:40 – 3:55 Dr Nural Cokcetin (University of Sydney) – <i>Promising, not (yet) Proven: Balancing Evidence and Enthusiasm when Communicating Bioactive Research</i> 3:55–4:10 Dr Carla Lopes (Macquarie University) – <i>Promoting Bioactive-Rich foods in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations</i> 4:10 – 4:25 Dr Paul Mason (Macquarie University) – <i>More than Food, Not Quite Drug: Stress-testing Pharmacological Models of Bioactive Compounds</i> 4:25 – 4:55 Prof Karen Charlton (University of Newcastle) – <i>Navigating the Regulatory Landscape for Food Bioactives</i>	
7 – 9 pm	Cocktail function Cocktail dinner to be held at Taronga Function Centre, Mosman. Bus transport will be provided and will depart Macquarie University. Guests should arrive at the bus departure point no later than 6pm. Buses will return to campus after the function.	TARONGA ZOO FUNCTION CENTRE, MOSMAN

IBC PROGRAM 2026

Thursday 24 September

Future and Integration



TIME	PROGRAM	G25 Lecture Theatre
8:30 am	Registration Open Ground Floor Foyer, Wally's Walk Entrance	GROUND FLOOR FOYER
9:00 am	Morning Plenary Lecture Prof Philip Yongxin Li (The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong) – <i>Decoding the Cryptic Chemistry of Microbiota for Drug Discovery</i>	
9:40 am	Session 1: Health Futures: Precision Modulation Chair: Prof Alison Rodger (FAAB, Australian National University) 9:40–10:10 Prof Jayashree Arcot (University of New South Wales) – <i>Bioactives in Foods: Their Interactions, Bioaccessibility and Bioavailability can Influence their Bioactivity</i> 10:10–10:25 Dr Erin Clarke (University of Newcastle) – <i>From Fed to Free-living: Integration of Dietary Biomarkers and Metabolomics into Precision Nutrition</i> 10:25–10:55 A/Prof Andrew Holmes (University of Sydney) – <i>Promises and Pitfalls for Precision Nutrition</i> 10:55–11:10 Jenani Sutharsan (University of New South Wales) – <i>Fermentation Enhances the Bioaccessibility of Xanthophylls and the Prebiotic Potential of Vegetables</i>	
11:10 am	Morning Tea Networking and exhibition	GROUND FLOOR FOYER
11:40 am	Session 2: Emerging Bioactive Therapeutics & Future Translation Chair: Dr Jennifer McLennan (SFI Health) 11:40–12:10 Prof Kamal Dua (Western Sydney University) – <i>Emerging Next-Generation Bioactive Therapeutics for Lung Diseases through the Integration of Phytochemistry, Biology and Advanced Drug Delivery Systems</i> 12:10–12:25 A/Prof Ting Huan (Northwestern Polytechnical University, China) – <i>Pre-immunized NK Cell-Derived Exosomes as Bioactive Messengers for Transferring Antigen-Specific Memory-like Anti-tumor Immunity</i>	
12:25 pm	Lunch Networking and exhibition	GROUND FLOOR FOYER

IBC PROGRAM 2026

Thursday 24 September

Future and Integration



TIME	PROGRAM	G25 Lecture Theatre
1:25 pm	Session 3: Future Bioactive Discovery Technologies Chair: Prof Corinne Smith (University of Warwick, UK) 1:25 – 1:55 Prof Björn Hamberger (Michigan State University, USA) – <i>Inspired by Nature's Principles: Discovery and Portability of Terpene Biosynthesis</i> 1:55 – 2:10 Saroj Dulal (University of Newcastle) – <i>Bridging Ethnobotany and Biotechnology: Pharmaceutical and Industrial Bioactives from a Single Microbacterium Endophyte</i> 2:10 – 2:40 Dr Fabien Plisson (Ingenie Bio) – <i>Lessons from Integrating Machine Learning into the Bioactive Discovery Pipeline</i> 2:40 – 2:55 Krutika Purohit (FAAB, Macquarie University) – <i>AI-guided Discovery of Multifunctional Bioactive Peptides from Edible Rhizomes and Root Vegetables</i>	
2:55 pm	Afternoon tea Networking and exhibition	GROUND FLOOR FOYER
3:25 pm	Lightening Talks Chair: Dr Zahra Khabir (FAAB, Macquarie University) 3:25 – 3:30 Jonathan Rosenzweig (University of New England) – <i>Antimicrobial Activity of Hericium erinaceus (Bull.) Persoon Extracts Against Neurodegeneration-Associated Bacterial Pathogens: Bioactive Profiling and Cultivation Optimisation</i> 3:30 – 3:35 Atnaf Abate (FAAB, Macquarie University) – <i>Functional Characterisation of Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids and their Metabolites at GPR55 Receptor Using the TRUPATH Assay</i> 3:35 – 3:40 Damian Hall (Western Sydney University) – <i>Tryptamine Derived Pictet–Spengler Metabolites in Australian Acacia Species: Spontaneous or Enzymatic Origin?</i> 3:40 – 3:45 Emmanuel Ofose Mensah (FAAB, Macquarie University) – <i>Anticancer Properties of Fucoidan and its Potential Molecular Targets</i> 3:45 – 3:50 Zarnab Asif (FAAB, Adelaide University) – <i>Understanding the Digestibility of Meat Fat Analogues: Implications for Nutraceuticals Absorption</i> 3:50 Group Q & A Session	
4:00 pm	Closing Plenary Lecture Prof Elaine Holmes (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong) – <i>From Molecules to Meaning: Bioactives, Metabolism and the Future of Precision Health</i>	
4:40 pm	Conference close Professor Anwar Sunna, Organising Committee Chair & Director FAAB	