



THE UNITED INDUSTRY VOICE FOR AUSTRALIAN GENOMICS

December 2024

Message from the CEO

Happy Holidays from InGeNA

The end of 2024 has been a busy and rewarding time for InGeNA, our industry, and the broader life sciences sector.

New Chair and Board Announcement

We are delighted to announce the appointment of **Carl Stubbings** as our new Chair. With an exceptional career, spanning leadership roles in biotechnology and genomics, Carl brings extensive strategic insight to our organisation.

Please join us in welcoming Carl [Here](#)

Visit to Canberra

During the final sitting weeks of Federal Parliament, I had the privilege of strengthening relationships and advocating for genomics in Australia.

Highlights of the trip included:

- Productive meetings with the **Department of Health and Aged Care** on the establishment of **Genomics Australia** and the importance of industry collaboration.
- Attending the **Commercialisation Summit** hosted by MTP Connect and AusBiotech, which explored pathways to accelerate commercialisation of life sciences.
- Engaging with key partners Julia Mansour (HGSA) and Dean Whiting (PTA) to align on shared goals.
- Regular meeting with our founding partner Medicines Australia on policy priorities including their focus on the HTA review and sharing our submission on Genomics Australia.

Strengthening collaboration with our partners remains a key priority as we work to reduce fragmentation and drive outcomes for our members. At our recent **Members-Only Meeting**, discussions with Department representatives highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships as we work to mainstream genomics

across Australia. We look forward to ongoing discussions during the establishment and beyond



Meeting with Partners Dean Whiting and Julia Mansour in Canberra



Mark Ashton (Griffith Uni), Kerry McMahon (KE Select), Tobias Schoep (CEO Life Sciences WA).



Brisbane Cancer Conference
28 - 29 November with Bansi Sanghvi from AZ and Jessica Poy from AGRF



Glenn Gilchrist and Daniel Damiano from 23 Strands

Brisbane Cancer Conference

The Brisbane Cancer Conference showcased the innovation in cancer care and critical role of genomics, with passionate clinicians, industry partners, and a strong consumer presence. Huge congratulations to Ken O'Byrne and his team for delivering a diverse and high quality conference. It is always a highlight to engage with our members from **23Strands**, **AZ**, and **AGRF**. Thank you to our collaborators from **QUT's Centre for Genomics and Precision Medicine** for the invitation to the gala dinner. This featured an incredibly moving patient story from Maria about the transformational impact of genomics following a glioblastoma diagnosis. By pushing for tumour profiling, they identified a very high tumour mutation burden was the cause of poor treatment response. It was wonderful to talk to Maria and her partner about their precision medicine journey which has led to remission and return to quality of life. Maria's story is a powerful reminder of the importance of **genomic profiling** for all cancer patients and why the work we do matters.

Membership Growth

A warm welcome to our newest member, **INSiGENe**! Check their full profile below of this innovative, world-class bioinformatics solutions startup. Over the past three months, we have welcomed four new members and an associate member, with growing interest from the research sector in our individual memberships and partnering with InGeNA.

Cancer Australia Submission

Before we wrap up for the year, we are finalising a submission to the **National Framework for Genomics in Cancer Control** (Cancer Australia), which closes on **24 December**. We are collaborating with our members on this effort. If this aligns with your organisation's focus, please let us know how InGeNA can support your contributions.

Looking Ahead

2025 promises to be a transformative year for genomics, with the establishment of **Genomics Australia**, a federal election, and exciting collaboration opportunities with our members and consumer advisory group. Thank you for your ongoing engagement and support. It is an honour to represent you as we work together to

advance genomics adoption across Australia.

From the InGeNA board and team and we wish you and your loved ones a **safe, joyful holiday season** and a wonderful start to the New Year.

Warm regards,
Erin
CEO, InGeNA

 **InGeNA**

Welcomes our new Chair

**Carl
Stubblings**



Message from the Chair

Dear Members and friends of InGeNA,

The last twelve months have been transformational for InGeNA, under the stewardship of Kathy Campbell, the board and Dr Erin Evans, our recently appointed CEO, we have seen InGeNA become a standalone incorporated entity. Following deep input from members, we have laid out a strategy for InGeNA to deliver the maximum impact for members by broadening the awareness of the critical role genomics can and has been playing in improving health outcomes for Australians.

My move into the role as Chair has created a vacancy for a member elected director. As you will have seen in an accompanying communication, we are currently seeking nominations for this role. On a personal note, I found my time as a member elected director incredibly fulfilling. Being part of InGeNA's evolution was particularly satisfying, I am very excited about our positioning as a strong industry voice with Genomics Australia and the national framework review. With this in mind, I wanted to take this opportunity to encourage all member organisations to nominate a representative to be considered for the role of member elected director of InGeNA, thereby playing a pivotal part InGeNA's future direction.

On behalf of the Board of InGeNA and the executive team I would like to wish all of you, and you loved ones a Happy and Safe Holiday.

Regards,
Carl

Member Meeting Dates - 2025 (Jan- Jun)

InGeNA hold monthly Zoom Member Meetings on Wednesdays 4.00-5.30pm AEST

- January Member Meeting: 15 Jan 2025
- February Member Meeting: 19 Feb 2025
- March Member Meeting: 19 Mar 2025
- April Member Meeting: 16 Apr 2025
- May Member Meeting: 14 May 2025
- June Member Meeting: 11 Jun 2025

Calendar Invites were emailed to Members this week, for any queries or email address changes please contact projects@ingena.org.au.



INSiGENe delivers expert bioinformatics, biostatistics, and data science services to accelerate breakthroughs in life sciences. Their agile team of experts provides tailored, cutting-edge solutions for complex research challenges, driving innovation and efficiency for our academic and industry partners. Learn more here: [website](#)

Industry News

Bridging funding to enable faster access to medicines in Australia

Bridging Funding Coalition now calls on the Government to ensure Australian patients get faster access to medicines by committing to establishing bridging funding for medicines.

[Read more here](#)

Mackenzie's mission - couple testing for genetic variants pre-conception

National study's findings support genetic carrier screening for Australian couples wanting children

[Read more here](#)

More gene testing means safer medication

Pharmacogenomic testing (PGx) can greatly improve the efficiency of medication use and spare patients from severe adverse effects, but cost and lack of awareness are standing in the way.

[Read more here](#)

Natera announces enrolment in SAGITTARIUS: Phase III trial for targeted therapy in early-stage colon cancer

The SAGITTARIUS trial aims to move beyond the traditional one-size-fits-all, post-surgical standard of care with chemotherapy by introducing a truly personalized treatment approach tailored to each patient.

[Read more here](#)

WHO's Guidance for human genome data collection, access, use and sharing

The WHO's new document outlines a comprehensive set of globally applicable principles designed to guide stakeholders in the responsible collection, use, and sharing of human genome data.

[Read more here](#)

Ground-breaking Aboriginal-led precision medicine program

The team, led by Professor Alex Brown will work with Aboriginal communities across NSW to design and implement a platform to develop precision medicine benefits.

[Read more here](#)

Individual Memberships now open

We are often asked by individuals who may be sole traders, researchers or students, how they can join InGeNA. In response we have created a membership category for Individuals. Individual Membership Brochure and Application form available now on our [Website](#).



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