



THE UNITED INDUSTRY VOICE FOR AUSTRALIAN GENOMICS

June 2025

Message from the CEO

Dear members and friends of InGeNA,

Let's start with a huge congratulations to those recognised in the King's Birthday Honours, especially those advancing medical research, pathology, and cancer care (read our post [here](#)).

A Turning Point for Genomics: CRISPR and Baby KJ

One of the most moving stories from May was the announcement that Baby KJ became the first patient to receive a customised, on-demand CRISPR treatment, just six months after his diagnosis. It was a highlight to speak with one of the team from Integrated DNA Technologies recently.

This breakthrough came from an extraordinary collaboration between researchers, clinicians, industry leaders, regulators, and the family. It's a shining example of what's possible when we move fast, together driven by urgency and purpose. Read more in our Industry News articles below.

Baby KJ has been discharged from hospital and is thriving. No adverse effects have been reported. For our industry, this shows the power and responsibility we have to bring hope and impact, and to continue building teams that can turn what used to be "impossible" into reality.

Milestone Resolution for Rare

Witnessing the adoption of the **Resolution for Rare Diseases** at the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva marks a turning point in global health and one of the most powerful moments in rare disease advocacy. Two members of our Consumer Advisory Group, Chair **Monica Ferrie** and member **Caitlin Howley**, were present in Geneva to witness and support this historic moment. Read more [here](#).

Digital Health Festival 13-16 May

The momentum behind digital health at this event was inspiring to see, particularly just how fast the ecosystem is scaling. I had the pleasure of chairing a panel with standing room only for "Genetics and Genomics: Empowering Consumers with Personalised Insights". Panelists [Sarah Powell](#) (Inherited Cancers Australia),

Dr [Jane Tiller](#) (Monash University), and [Zuong Dang](#) (OurDNA Population Genomics) - representing both the clinical and lived experience perspectives that are critical to shaping equitable systems.

“Equity is not something you do. It’s something you strive to achieve.” Zuong Dang.

Topics included:

- The need to bring genomics out of hospitals and into communities

- How data reveals stark gaps in access — especially in rural and remote areas

- The cultural, financial, and systemic barriers that must be addressed

- And a clear call to shift from a sickness system to a wellness system — driven by prevention.

It was fantastic to connect with from industry, health practitioners and health system leaders and we plan to be back in 2026.

Genomics InSPIRD Showcase 29 May

We were delighted to partner with Queensland Health, on the inaugural Genomics Showcase. This event brought together 200+ people to spotlight innovation in action.

The Genomics Pitch Panel provided a platform for fostering new collaborations and advancing impactful translational research. Thank you for the opportunity to MC this event where five shortlisted finalists pitched their cutting-edge research ideas to a panel of experts, competing for funding to take their innovations to the next stage. Congratulations to Prof Elizabeth Powell, Dr. Shradha Subedi and Dr. Olivia Holland who were awarded funding to advance their research to the next stage.

The keynote by Prof Michael Toft Overgaard was unforgettable, a reminder that genomics doesn’t just save lives. It can reveal truth and rewrite injustice. Professors Michael Toft Overgaard and Mette Nyegaard were instrumental in overturning Kathleen Folbigg’s convictions for murdering her four infant children in Australia 2023.

We were delighted to attend the QH Research Showcase the following day. Excellent presentations and conversations including a meeting with Professor Chris Molloy on the UK-AU Biobridge and opportunities for collaboration.

Genomics After Hours - Networking 29 May

Following the Showcase, our Brisbane networking event was a great way to unwind after an inspiring day rich in information and new ideas. Forty genomics leaders, innovators and collaborators kept the conversation going, enjoying a drink by the river at Southbeach. InGeNA is committed to being a key connector and we are looking forward to hosting more events throughout 2025. See pictures from the event [here](#).

5th Precision Oncology Forum

Big thanks to [Thermo Fisher Scientific](#) for hosting another fantastic forum to hear from leaders in precision oncology sharing international progress especially in liquid biopsy to improve patient outcomes. Highlights included Dr Michael Krigstein sharing the Rapid Haematology NGS: the SydPath experience. These industry collaborations are what keep Australia on the cutting edge.

We are looking forward to the opening of the consultation for the Genomics Policy Framework later this month. InGeNA will be hosting a roundtable event with our members to gather and shape feedback. We also look forward to the official launch of Genomics Australia on July 1 in Canberra.

We are committed to providing our members with up-to-date issues and creating opportunities to engage and influence the future of our industry. Thank you for being part of this movement. Every event, conversation, and breakthrough remind us: personalised healthcare is no longer a concept. It's happening now, because of people like you.

Panelists Sarah Powell (Inherited Cancers Australia), Dr Jane Tiller (Monash University), and Zuong Dang.



Winning panelists: Prof Elizabeth Powell, Dr. Shradha Subedi and Dr. Olivia Holland with Erin & Mathilde Desselle (QH)



Genomics After Hours - Brisbane networking @ Southbeach.



Genomics Showcase - Brisbane

Panelists Gregg Pratt (CQU), Sarah LeBaron von Baeyer (Variant Bio), Dr Megan Higgins (GHQ), Hamza Vayani (Consumer Representative), Moderator - Prof Julie McGaughran (GHQ)



Professor Michael Toft Overgaard, (AU, Denmark)



5th Precision Oncology Forum

Find more pictures and information on events attended on our [Website](#)

Welcome new member - 360Biolabs

360biolabs is Australia's most comprehensive bioanalytical laboratory providing a single laboratory for all of your clinical trial requirements. Read more on their [Website](#)



Industry News

Gene-editing breakthrough -potential to treat array of devastating genetic diseases soon after birth

Together with Acuitas, IGI, the FDA, and incredible scientific and medical teams, and industry partners at [Integrated DNA Technologies](#) and [Aldevron](#) helped deliver the world's first personalised CRISPR therapy for KJ Muldoon, and he is thriving.

As [Sadik Kassim](#) from IDT said on CNN: “It gives us a playbook to do this again - faster, at scale, with more partners.”

[Read more here](#)

J&J Precision Medicine website

A central hub designed to support clinicians, researchers, and healthcare professionals navigating the evolving landscape of precision medicine.

- Deep-dive resources on lung, bladder, and prostate cancer
- Practical tools and insights for multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs)
- Guidance on testing, biomarker trends, reimbursement, and access
- Direct links to disease awareness sites and lab testing info

[Read more here](#)

How Are These Two Aussie Women Using Genomics to to Change Lives?

Two incredible leaders in our ecosystem: [Dr Natalie Thorne, CHIA, GAICD](#), founder of [Transcendomics](#) and a driving force in decoding complex biology with speed and precision and [Clara Gaff](#), from our partners at [Melbourne Genomics Health Alliance](#), shaping how genomic data translates into real-world clinical outcomes.

[Read more here](#)

Bridging Fund Coalition

Australian patients wait, on average, 466 days between a potentially life-changing medicine receiving approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), and that medicine being reimbursed through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

The **Bridging Funding Coalition** – a group of 20 patient advocates, clinicians, medical researchers and pharmaceutical industry representatives call on the Government to ensure Australian patients get faster access to medicines by committing to **establishing bridging funding for medicines**.

[Read more here](#)

AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MEDICAL PITCH DAY IS COMING

[Proto Axiom](#) and the [St Vincent's Curran Foundation](#) are launching **CHALLENGER | PITCH FOR HEALTH** in Sydney, March 2026.

- 500 K in non-dilutive prizes
- Follow-on incubation with Proto Axiom
- National stage for clinician-scientists and deep-tech founders

**APPLICATIONS OPEN → AUGUST
2025**

STAY IN THE LOOP by joining
[Proto Axiom Connect](#) (free researcher network)

WHO SHOULD PRE-REGISTER

- ✦ Hospital innovators with real-world data
- ✦ University spin-outs seeking seed capital
- ✦ Early-stage founders tackling unmet needs in therapeutics, devices, diagnostics or digital health

[Read more here](#)

Opportunities

[NBCF Pink Sky Grants Scheme Announcement](#)

NBCF announces the **new and exciting inaugural Pink Sky Grants Scheme**, under the [Pink Horizon Research Strategy](#)

Launched in November 2023, the Pink Horizon Research Strategy is a bold five-year plan to fund innovative research with real-world impact. It aims to accelerate progress toward our vision of Zero Deaths from breast cancer through strategic, collaborative investment.

All funded research must align with at least one of four core objectives:

1. **Prevent** breast cancer through precision prevention
2. **Detect** breast cancer as early as possible and before it progresses
3. **Stop** the progression and recurrence of breast cancer
4. **Treat** hard to treat and metastatic breast cancers

Pink Sky Grants Scheme

A flagship initiative under the Pink Horizon Research Strategy, the Pink Sky Grants Scheme supports innovative, high-risk, high-reward projects with the potential to transform breast cancer research.

Open to Australian researchers across all disciplines and career stages (subject to eligibility), this scheme complements our existing Research Project and Collaborative Research Accelerator Grants.

Key Information

Funding Amount: maximum of \$500,000 AUD per project

Funding Duration: maximum of 3 years

Two-stage application process, submitted via the [NBCF Grants Portal](#):

- Expression of Interest (EoI) opens: **7th July 2025**.
- Full Application by invitation.

Please visit the [NBCF website](#) to view the Pink Sky Grants Guidelines.

Q&A webinars

NBCF will host online Q&A webinars. Registration opens soon via our website.

Please share this opportunity widely across your networks and institutions (e.g. Heads of Faculty, Commercialisation Offices, Health Precincts).

Support Our Industry - Share Your Insights

As leaders in Australia's life sciences sector, it's crucial we stay informed, connected, and proactive. That's why I'm encouraging you to take part in the 2025 On Q Salary & Job Market Survey - now open.

This survey is one of the most valuable tools we have to understand real hiring trends, salary benchmarks, and workplace shifts across our industry. By contributing, you're helping shape a more transparent and informed future for employers, professionals, and job seekers alike.

💡 It takes just 10 minutes to complete

📄 You'll instantly receive a copy of the full 2024 Salary & Job Market Report

📅 And you'll be among the first to receive the 2025 edition when it's released

Let's lead by example and support this important initiative.

👉 [Contribute Your Voice Today](#)

Join InGeNA NOW!

New Membership options and partnering opportunities

Find out more with our Membership Brochures and online

Application forms [here](#)

 **nGeNA**



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