



THE UNITED INDUSTRY VOICE FOR AUSTRALIAN GENOMICS

Message from the CEO

October 2025

Dear members and friends,

Big Milestones for Genomics

October has brought major progress for genomics both globally and here at home. Internationally, **gene therapy has achieved real-world success in treating Huntington's disease**, slowing disease progression by 75 percent in clinical trials. This is more than a [scientific breakthrough](#). It signals that precision medicine is no longer the future. It is here.

A Step Forward on Genetic Discrimination

After years of advocacy, the Australian Government has released **draft legislation to ban genetic discrimination in life insurance underwriting**. See [Here](#). This long-awaited reform is a significant step for the genomics sector. We acknowledge the leadership of **Dr Daniel Mulino MP**, the foundational work of **Stephen Jones MP**, and the expert input of **Genomics Australia**. InGeNA strongly welcomes this move to ensure Australians can access genomic testing without fear that their results will be used against them. We thank our members for their ongoing advocacy, especially **Jane Tiller** for her leadership on genomic rights. InGeNA is preparing an **industry submission** to the consultation, open until **12 October 2025**, and we encourage members to engage with us and/or support Jane's submission.

Strengthening Data Governance and Sovereignty

We are continuing our work on data governance and sovereignty, which are essential for scaling innovation and maintaining public confidence. Thank you to our new associate member, **McCullough Robertson** for hosting us in Sydney. **Reece Walker** opened the meeting and contributed to an engaging discussion. **Professor Bernard Pope** delivered an outstanding session on genomics data governance and the **GUARDIANS program**. From FAIR principles to access management and security protocols, there is a wealth of expertise already in place to accelerate our work accelerating clinical adoption. As we progress, best practice will require collaboration, shared understanding, and sector-wide alignment.

It was also great to reconnect with our community at **AusBiotech BioCheers NSW**, celebrating the energy and collaboration across the sector.

Looking Ahead

In the coming weeks, InGeNA will be at the **AGTA Conference** and the **AusBiotech Conference** in Melbourne, meeting with partners and continuing to build momentum across the ecosystem. Please reach out to catch up with us.

We are excited for the Health Industry Awards event on 16 October and delighted to be named as a Catalyst for Change through Excellence in Collaboration with our partner PTA.

Our **Annual General Meeting will be held on 24 November**. It is a great time to join InGeNA and be part of shaping the next phase of Australia's genomics and precision medicine journey.

Welcome to Our New Members

A warm welcome to our newest **InGeNA Members and Associate Members**. Your voices make us stronger as we continue to advance genomics and precision medicine for the health of all Australians.

Warm regards,

Dr Erin Evans

CEO, InGeNA

Recent Events



Our hybrid September Member Meeting hosted by new Associate Members McCullough Robertsons Lawyers in Sydney.



NSW BioCheers event Sydney, 18 September 2025.



No patient left behind – AstraZeneca's Precision Medicine Summit 5-6 September 2025

InGeNA Members and Partners News



Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Consultation Survey closing 10th Oct MSAC 1798 – Liquid biopsy genetic testing in patients with non-small cell lung cancer

Please consider supporting this application for a **liquid biopsy test** using circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA) from plasma to detect oncogenic alterations in **non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)**. The service uses **next-generation sequencing (NGS)** to identify multiple oncogenes through a defined gene panel.

Applicants: AstraZeneca, Daiichi Sankyo Australia, Boehringer Ingelheim, Illumina, SOPHiA Genetics, Thermo Fisher Scientific.

Further information and the consultation survey submission can be accessed on [this link](#).



HTANALYSTS are hosting a Webinar this Thursday to unpack modelling that shows how rapid genomic testing can reshape cancer care in Australia delivering faster, more personalised treatment and easing pressure on the health system.

Accelerating Access: Embedding Genomics In Routine Care

9th October @11.00am - 12.30pm AEDT

Featuring: John Cannings, Patient Advocate
Dr Vivek Rathi, Medical Director, LifeStrands Genomics

What you'll learn:

- How rapid NGS improves access to targeted therapies
- The system-wide benefits: cost savings, efficiency, and equity
- Patient, clinician, and policy maker



AstraZeneca \$555 million AI deal with Algen to develop gene therapies.

[Read more here](#)

perspectives on implementation

This session draws on my recent analysis for HTANALYSTS that demonstrates rapid NGS can unlock better outcomes for patients and the health system starting with lung cancer and extending across oncology.

Register now at the link below. The session will also be recorded for catch up viewing.

<https://lnkd.in/gmpXepGM>

InGeNA Welcomes New Members and Partners



Oxford Nanopore Technologies

InGeNA welcomes new member, [Oxford Nanopore](#). Oxford Nanopore Technologies aims to make molecular analysis accessible to anyone, anywhere. Their nanopore-based technology provides fast, affordable, and information-rich analysis of DNA, RNA, and other molecules. It can read the genetic code of people, bacteria, viruses, plants, and animals, enabling insights that were once out of reach. Today, it is used in 125 countries to support genetic disease diagnosis, cancer research, infectious disease monitoring, pandemic preparedness, and environmental health. By combining speed, affordability, and accessibility, Oxford Nanopore is transforming how society uses molecular information to improve healthcare, research, and public wellbeing worldwide.



LifeStrands
Empowering lives with Genomics

Lawyers

McCullough Robertson

InGeNA is excited to welcome our new associate member, McCullough Robertson Lawyers. [McCullough Robertson](#) is a leading independent Australian law firm, supporting national and international clients. With one of Australia's largest dedicated life sciences legal teams, McR offers strategic and commercially focused advice tailored to this fast-evolving industry. Their team of approachable experts provide deep industry insight and deliver collaborative and practical solutions. They are genuine, long-term supporters of the life sciences ecosystem, knowing the benefits it brings to our community and beyond. McR works with life sciences companies at every stage, from structuring, early research and development through clinical trials, capital raising, regulatory approvals, commercialisation, market entry, licensing and M&A activity.



HTANALYSTS

InGeNA welcomes another new member this month [LifeStrands](#). LifeStrands Genomics Australia is a NATA accredited molecular diagnostics laboratory specialising in cancer genomics. Their mission is to advance oncology research and deliver cutting-edge genetic testing to support cancer prevention and personalised treatment.



InGeNA warmly welcomes our new associate member. [Corporate Capital Group](#). (CCG) has been supporting Australian companies in accessing the U.S. market since 1986. We specialize in mergers and acquisitions, debt and equity raising, and establishing U.S. corporate structures. CCG has extensive experience across all industry sectors, with particular expertise in Technology, Biotech, Medical Devices, and Pharmaceuticals.

We are thrilled to welcome HTANALYSTS as associate member to InGeNA. [HTANALYSTS](#) is an Australian health economics and policy consultancy specialising in health technology assessment, market access, and strategic evidence generation. We partner with government, industry, and research organisations to evaluate new technologies and design pathways that improve patient access to innovation. Our expertise spans economic modelling, policy analysis, stakeholder engagement, and implementation support. With deep experience across genomics, rare diseases, and innovative funding models, HTANALYSTS provides rigorous analysis and practical solutions to inform decision-making.

Industry News

ICON Cancer Dr Coward treats Qld Police Commissioner with Precision Oncology

Dr Coward's message is simple and important: ask for genomic profiling. Cancer is not one size fits all. It is evidence-based care, and it needs to become routine.

[Read more here](#)

Health Insurers offer DNA Testing

This [pharmacogenomic testing](#) can tell whether a drug is likely to work in a certain person, the best dosage, or if there is an increased risk of side-effects.

[Read more here](#)

Genomic testing in 24 Minutes

[Read more here](#)

Biobanks are a vital foundation for genomic research and precision medicine

[CSIRO](#), in collaboration with research and government partners, released a report highlighting benefits of national coordination of biobanks and cohort studies in Australia.

[Read more here](#)

GeneDx announces first U.S. Genomic Newborn Screening Initiative

'BEACONS,' a multi-state collaboration led by Mass General Brigham and Ariadne Labs, will enroll up to 30,000 newborns to explore adding genomic sequencing in U.S. newborn screening.

[Read more here](#)

Upcoming Events



October 13-15 at the UNSW Roundhouse, Kensington.

AGTA conferences are recognized as the leading event for researchers and industry professionals in the field of genomics technologies in Australasia.

Early Bird Register closes 20 September [Register](#)



AusBiotech: Australia's biggest week in biotech held in Melbourne 21-24 Oct

Registrations Close: 23 Oct 2025 5:00 PM

Early bird registrations are open with reduced rate, full access to keynotes, breakout sessions, networking events, and more. **Register on or before Friday, 12 September 2025** to secure an early bird ticket. [registration link](#)



Awards Ceremony 16 October Sydney

InGeNA named a finalist in the [Health Industry Hub](#) Catalyst for Change Awards in the Excellence in Collaboration category for our collaborative work on the National Health Genomics Policy Framework roundtable and our partnership with [Pathology Technology Australia](#).

Congratulations to our members and partners also recognised this year:

Unmasking Election 2025: [AstraZeneca](#);

Government Relations & Policy Team of the Year: [Johnson & Johnson MedTech](#), [AstraZeneca](#); Government Relations & Policy Individual of the Year: [Andrea Kunca \(Roche\)](#); Our partners [Medicines Australia](#) and [Omico](#) are also finalists.



Free, NIH-funded international virtual conference

- Thursday 20 November, 8am–1pm AEST
- Friday 21 November, 8am–1pm AEST

[registration link](#)

Applications Now Open

MRFF – Genomics Health Futures Mission: 2025 Genomics Health Futures Grant

The 2025 Genomics Health Futures Grant will fund research to advance precision medicine and genomic health in Australia.

Stream 1 supports pharmacogenomic research to improve medication efficacy and safety across cancer, antimicrobials, and other infectious or chronic diseases.

Stream 2 supports genomics research to enhance diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of priority diseases affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The program is administered by the NHMRC for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

Further information on the MRFF is available from the [Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's MRFF website](#).

Applications are now open for 🧬 Challenger Pitch for Health 2026

Australia's largest life sciences pitch event is back. Co-hosted by [Proto Axiom](#) and [St Vincent's Curran Foundation](#), this national showcase will award \$500,000 in non-dilutive grants to bold translational research across Australia and New Zealand. As the region's largest life sciences pitch event, we're proud to help keep Australian research onshore with non-dilutive funding, no strings attached.

Researchers and founders: Finalists will pitch live in Sydney to a panel of investors, clinicians, and industry leaders. Winners of the Challenger Prize and the Open Prize receive funding plus 12 months of incubation support from Proto Axiom.

📅 **Applications close: 10 November 2025**

📍 **Event: March 2026, Sydney**

🔗 **Apply: [Link](#)**

🗣️ Know someone working on a breakthrough? Share and help support Australia's brightest biomedical innovators.

[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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