



THE UNITED INDUSTRY VOICE FOR AUSTRALIAN GENOMICS

Message from the CEO

September 2025

Dear members and friends,

Connecting Across the Ecosystem

It's been an energising time for InGeNA. This month we joined CanForum25, the Medicines Australia Horizon Scanning event, and PharmAus, building momentum on key issues for genomics. Just weeks earlier we were at the hugely successful HGSA Annual Scientific Meeting, strengthening partnerships, advancing advocacy, and reinforcing member priorities. We have also focused on growing trade and investment for genomics and precision medicine. Across our meetings the message is clear that collaboration is not a future goal - it is already happening and it's essential.

Our policy priorities remain front and centre: comprehensive genomic profiling for cancer patients, enabled by a fit-for-purpose National Test Directory based on the UK model, is critical to delivering health outcomes for all Australians. Conversations with Professor Matt Brown provided valuable insights into scaling genomic health in England and how we might progress in Australia.

HGSA Conference: Industry at the Table

The HGSA ASM was the first major gathering since the launch of Genomics Australia and its draft policy framework. Industry participation was strong, with powerful discussions on collaboration across clinical, research, patient and industry communities.

I was delighted to join a plenary alongside: Professor Kathryn North; Azure Hermes; patient advocate Mel Anderson and Tiffany Boughtwood, highlighting that

- Industry is the bridge from research to implementation.
- Scale is essential to move beyond pilots.
- Patient-centred approaches remain at the core.

The message was clear: it is time to scale and collaborate. Thanks to everyone who visited our shared booth with scaling organisations 23Strands, Genomical and Gene-S. Congratulations to the HGSA team on an outstanding conference.

CanForum25: Now It's Personal

CanForum25 reinforced what matters most - the patient voice. It was wonderful to reconnect with our community of patient collaborators and industry. Stories highlighted stark inequities: patients with the same biomarker treated differently based only on tumour location, facing costs of \$8,000 vs \$31.60 for the same drug. Right now, access is a lottery – and no one should have to crowdfund their life.

Congratulations to Christine Cockburn and Rare Cancers Australia for an impactful forum. Their report has now been released and InGeNA supports the recommendations (read the report below in Industry News).

Horizon Scanning & PharmAus: Collaboration in Action

The Medicines Australia Horizon Scanning event delivered, with us looking at the big picture and being inspired. It opened with UK Horizon Scanning leader Professor Dawn Craig – we are excited about the NHMRC grant with Uni Sydney and AXIS Health bringing this to Australia and look forward to collaboration.

We proudly supported the **National Test Directory (NTD)** as a model of collaboration between industry, clinicians and patients. Professor Matt Brown called the NTD “critical” for Australia’s future.

Policy momentum is building. We welcomed Health Minister Mark Butler MP’s announcement of consultations to trial new ways to streamline medicine assessments and improve codependent assessments, as part of the HTA Review. Vital reforms to keep Australia globally competitive.

AZ Precision Medicine Summit

AstraZeneca’s Precision Medicine Summit built momentum by bringing together clinical experts, Genomics England, Omico, the Australian Health Genomics Commissioner, and patients. The challenge was clear: Australia must close the gap with international leaders while seizing quick wins by leveraging global progress. Once again the Comprehensive Genomic Profiling and a NTD were identified as critical ways forward. Australia has the ingredients - what’s needed now is the collective will to lead in genomics and precision medicine.

Building Industry through trade and investment

Capital remains critical for Australian genomics innovators. At the BioNSW Investors Dinner we highlighted opportunities to connect investors with innovators to scale solutions and reach global markets. While, at a dinner with the UK-Australia Trade Envoy we explored closer ties, including adopting regulatory approaches already modernised in the UK.

Recognition

InGeNA has been named a finalist in the **Health Industry Hub Catalyst of Change Awards (Excellence in Collaboration)** – recognition of our central strategy to grow through collaboration. Listen to our podcast with PTA [What will it take to code](#)

genomics into the heart of healthcare.

Congratulations to Inherited Cancers Australia on launching **Inherited Cancers Awareness Day** on 27 August. Wonderful to see such strong community support.

Together, we are strengthening collaboration, supporting industry growth, and ensuring patients are at the centre of Australia's genomics and precision medicine future.

Warm regards,
Dr Erin Evans
CEO, InGeNA

Recent Events



InGeNA's shared booth at HGSA - pictured: Mark, Suzanna, Svetlana, Erin, Chris and Brendan [more photos](#) at HGSA .



UK Trade Envoy dinner



InGeNA networking dinner with members and partners during HGSA .



NSW BioInvest Dinner - pictured InGeNA's Chair - Carl, CEO - Erin and Board Director - Mark.



Erin with **The Hon Mark Butler MP** at PharmAus



Horizon Scanning: partnering with industry, patients and clinicians on our case for the [National Test Directory](#).

InGeNA Members and Partners News



23Strands announces the successful application of our collaborative Industry Laureate Fellowship proposal, a translational research program with the ARC and led by Distinguished Professor Jie Lu. This five-year program, which extends on our long-standing partnership with Professor Lu's team, will enhance the already cutting-edge AI in our platforms.

This initiative is a major step forward in creating personalised, precision-based healthcare strategies. [Read more](#)



We're thrilled one of our Members - **Gene S** has been named a finalist in the 2025 Western Australian Innovator of the Year Awards 🏆 in the **Wesfarmers** Wellbeing Platinum Award category.

WAIOTY Awards Ceremony this November.

InGeNA Welcomes New Members and Partners



InGeNA is excited to welcome our new member, **Twist Bioscience**.

Twist Bioscience works in service of people who are changing the world for the better. In fields such as medicine, agriculture, industrial chemicals and academic research, their unique silicon-based DNA Synthesis Platform provides precision at a scale that is otherwise unavailable to customers.

Their innovative method of DNA production enables:



InGeNA warmly welcomes our new member, **Rhythm Biosciences**.

Rhythm Biosciences (ASX:RHY) is transforming cancer diagnostics through innovative technologies that predict, detect, characterise, and support early intervention. Their flagship blood-based technology ColoSTAT revolutionises bowel cancer screening, while geneType provides crucial risk assessment across multiple cancer types.

- The manufacture of high-quality synthetic DNA faster, and more affordable, than ever before
- High-throughput synthesis that is both highly scalable and fully customizable
- The realization of scientific opportunities at unprecedented speed

Learn more at twistbioscience.com.



Our new partnership with [ARCS Australia](#) brings together our complementary strengths to support innovation, education, and collaboration across our sector. Our first joint initiatives include upcoming events such as the 2026 DIA Cell and Gene Summit.

[ARCS](#) is the national peak body representing life sciences professionals who are advancing innovation in healthcare. Supporting the sector for over 40 years, through professional development, communities of practice, and targeted advocacy, ARCS members are leaders in shaping the future of medical technology, pharmaceuticals, and healthcare delivery.

They're creating a comprehensive approach to understanding cancer risk, enabling earlier detection when treatment is most effective.

Through scientific innovation and commitment to accessible testing solutions, they're aiming to reduce healthcare costs and ultimately save lives. Learn more about Rhythm Biosciences' vital work at rhythmbio.com.



InGeNA is thrilled to formalise our partnership with Inherited Cancers Australia after a long relationship with Sarah Powell through our Consumer Advisory Group. [Inherited Cancers Australia](#) is the only national charity dedicated to reducing the impact of inherited cancer risk across generations. Empowering individuals with information and support they need to understand and manage their risk. Through a connected and supportive community, they provide a safe space for people to share their lived experiences, alongside free access to genetic counselling, peer support, expert-led education, and medically reviewed resources.

Industry News

Race Cancers Australia Report

Now it's Personal

Access and equity for all

[Read more here](#)

Precision Oncology: A Global Shift from Promise to Practice

In Australia, the move toward free access to comprehensive genomic profiling (CGP)

through publicly funded programs like ProSPeCT and ZERO is reshaping what equitable, data-driven care looks like. Read more below and on [Linked In](#)

[Read more here](#)

Australia's first-ever 10-year National Health and Medical Research Strategy

Now out for public consultation. New submissions to the draft in link below.

[Read more here](#)

Committee on Health, Aged Care and Disability announced

The Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Disability has confirmed it's ten members, with Dr Mike Freeland returning as it's Chair.

[Read more here](#)

Read the interview with **Mahsa Shabani** in Science Magazine about the **re-use of newborn screening samples for research**.

The recent controversy in Denmark surrounding the (re-)use of newborn screening samples for broad research purposes has sparked serious ethical and legal questions. The case highlights gaps in current safeguards and challenges the public's trust in health systems.

[Read more here](#)

Stepping up the fight against cancer in First Nations communities (Align Grant)

The project – [Towards an Indigenous Cancer Precision Medicine Platform](#) – will contribute towards our efforts to progress [Precision Medicine for Aboriginal people in NSW](#), with a focus on cancer care.

[Read more here](#)

New test predicts chemotherapy resistance

From Cancer Research UK - With this insight, doctors should be able to give people with cancer the most suitable chemotherapy from the very start of treatment, avoiding side effects from drugs that aren't likely to work.

[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

 **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**

 **Expression of Interest for Genomics Australia Advisory Council now LIVE!**

We're seeking people who are passionate about the integration of genomics into healthcare to inform the work and activities of Genomics Australia. If this is **YOU**, further details can be found [here](#)

How to Apply

1. Complete the [nomination form](#)
2. Include a **250-word statement** outlining how your knowledge, skills and experience will contribute to the work of the Advisory Council
3. Attach your curriculum vitae
4. Email your application to GAAC@health.gov.au by **11:59pm (AEST) on Friday 3 October 2025**

To find out more, please [email us](#). 

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](#)



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