

Brisbane Immunology Group 26th Annual Retreat Thursday 20 - Friday 21 August 2026



Thursday, 20th August 2026

8.00AM	Bus departs from Brisbane
10.00AM – 10.50AM	Registration, Morning Tea and Poster Setup
10.50AM – 11.00AM	Welcome Associate Professor Danielle Stanisic, ASI-QLD Councillor
11.00AM – 11.30AM	BIG Plenary Lecture I Chair: Sponsored by: Professor Shalin Naik, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute <i>The hidden regulators of clonal destiny</i>
11.30AM – 12.30PM	Postgraduate Session I Chair: Sponsored by: 4 speakers (by abstract selection), 15 mins each

12.30PM – 13:00PM

Hot Topics - Organoids

Chair:

Sponsored by:

Professor James Hudson, QIMRB

Dr Giovanni Piterogrande, AIBN, University of Queensland

Modelling the neuroimmune system in brain organoids: how and why

13.00PM – 2.30PM
(1.10PM – 2.10PM)

Lunch and QIRC-Sponsored Mentoring session

Mentoring Session – timing and content still being finalized.

Sponsored by: QIRC

Dr Debbie Watson, University of Wollongong (15 mins)

Being a Women in Immunology - Swimming Upstream

QIRC and QIRC Opportunities (15 mins)

Professor Gabrielle Belz, Frazer Institute, University of Queensland

ASI Opportunities and awards (10 mins)

A/Prof Danielle Staniscic, Griffith University

2.30PM-3.00PM

Postgraduate Plenary Lecture I

Chair:

Sponsored by:

Associate Professor Julia Ellyard, John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU

Unravelling Lupus pathogenesis: genetics, cytokine regulation and autoantibodies

3.00PM – 4.00PM

Postgraduate Session II

Chair:

Sponsored by:

4 speakers (by abstract selection), 15 mins each

4.00PM – 5.15 PM

Afternoon Tea & Free time & Beach Cricket

5.15PM – 6.30PM

Poster Session (Light Refreshments and Drinks)

6.30PM – 7.10PM

Jonathan Sprent Oration

Chair:

Sponsored by

Professor Sharon Lewin, Doherty Institute

7.10PM – 9.10PM

Conference Dinner

7.00AM – 8.30AM

Breakfast

8.30AM – 9.00AM

Postgraduate Plenary Lecture II

Chair:

Sponsored by:

Associate Professor Michael Gantier, Hudson Institute of Medical Research
Harnessing a new checkpoint to control auto-immunity in lupus patients.

9.00AM – 10.00AM

Early/Mid Career Researcher Session

Chair:

Sponsored by:

Dr Amanda Oliver, QIMRB

Dr Sabrina Sofia Burgener, University of Queensland

Feeding the inflammasome to damage the liver: new insights into Caspase-1 biology

Dr Ismail Sebina, Frazer Institute, University of Queensland

Pre-clinical assessment of mRNA vaccine-induced immunity to Group A Streptococcus

Dr Harindra Sathkumara, James Cook University

Mucosal vaccination with virulence-enhanced recombinant BCG protects independently of adaptive immunity and drives bone marrow myelopoiesis

10.00AM – 10.30AM

Morning Tea

10.30AM – 11.00AM

BIG Plenary Lecture II

Chair:

Sponsored by:

Professor Di Yu, Frazer Institute, University of Queensland

11.00AM – 12.00PM

BIG Session I

Chair:

Sponsored by:

Prof Trent Woodruff, University of Queensland

Microglial-intrinsic complement signalling drives neurodegeneration

A/Prof Kate Gartlan, QIMRB

Prof Kate Seib, Griffith University

A meningococcal vaccine against gonorrhoea: Insights from recent clinical trials

12.00PM – 1.00PM

Lunch

1.00PM – 2.00PM

BIG Session II

Chair:

Sponsored by:

Prof Sumaira Husnain, Mater Research

Interleukin-24 as a Central Regulator of Intestinal Fibrosis

Dr Roland Ruscher, James Cook University

Long-lived CD8aa intestinal intraepithelial T cells persist despite restrained antigen receptor signaling and are shaped by chronological aging and microbial experience

TBC

2.00PM – 2.30PM

BIG ICON Lecture

Chair:

Sponsored by:

Professor Denise Doolan, IMB, University of Queensland

2.30PM – 3:00PM

Prizes and Closing Remarks

Prizes sponsored by: Australian and New Zealand Society for Immunology

3.45PM

Bus departs from Surfers Paradise to Brisbane