

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 Staniscic, 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

Using human cardiac organoids to dissect the role of inflammatory factors in heart failure

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 Stanisc, 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

Friday, 21st August 2026

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