

PRESENTERS FOR SYMPOSIUM 1:
The long and winding road to discovering drugs for brain and mind disorders

Prof Ashley Bush, Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, The University of Melbourne



Ashley I. Bush (MB BS, DPM, FRANZCP, PhD, FTSE) heads the Oxidation Biology Unit at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience & Mental Health, is Professor of Pathology, The University of Melbourne, NHMRC Australia Fellow, co-director of biomarker development within the Australian Imaging Biomarker Lifestyle Study (AIBL), Chief Scientific Officer of the CRC for Mental Health, lecturer in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and adjunct professor of neuroscience at Cornell University. He has received numerous awards including the Potamkin Prize and the Beeson Award. Professor Bush has authored over 280 publications, with >20,000 citations, 21 patents and founded 3 biotechnology companies. He discovered the interaction of beta-amyloid with zinc as a major factor in Alzheimer's disease.

Prof Andrew Lawrence, Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, The University of Melbourne



Professor Andrew Lawrence is an NHMRC Principal Research Fellow & Associate Director at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience & Mental Health where he is Head of the Division of Behavioural Neuroscience and runs the Addiction Neuroscience laboratory. Andrew has published over 150 original articles and reviews, and been cited ~ 5000 times. Andrew was Treasurer of the Australian Neuroscience Society (2002-2008) and is a Fellow of the British Pharmacological Society. He is currently Senior Editor of The British Journal of Pharmacology. He is also Associate Editor of Neurochemical Research and the Journal of Pharmacological Sciences. He sits on the editorial board of Addiction Biology.

Prof Michael Kassiou, Brain and Mind Research Institute, The University of Sydney



Michael Kassiou is Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Sydney and Head of the Drug Discovery Research Unit at the Brain and Mind Research Institute. Professor Kassiou has a long standing interest in understanding drug-binding site interactions in the central nervous system (CNS). His research is interdisciplinary and built around the key themes of medicinal chemistry and drug discovery. In this domain a key component is the development of structure-activity relationships of bioactive CNS molecules which allow the rational design of more efficacious treatments for diseases of the brain.

Dr Deborah Rathjen, CEO and Managing Director, Bionomics Ltd



Following post-doctoral studies, Dr Rathjen joined Peptech Ltd (subsequently Arana) in 1988 as a Snr Scientist and held a variety of roles including Business Development and Licensing. Dr Rathjen was a co-inventor of Arana's TNF technology and leader of the company's successful defence of its TNF patents against legal challenges. Dr Rathjen joined Bionomics in 2000. She has significant experience in company building and financing, mergers and acquisitions, therapeutic product research and development, and business development and licensing. Dr Rathjen is an expert in the field of cell biology with specific expertise in inflammation, infection and cancer. Currently the Chair of AusBiotech.