



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

Nano Institute

## NanoPitch: Driving Health Innovation



At Sydney Nano's inaugural NanoPitch event members showcased their innovative health research. The Pitchers were mentored by a team of experienced professional and academic staff in the lead up to the event. On the night they received feedback from the judges and connected with a diverse range of guests including potential partners and investors. Pitchers demonstrated their entrepreneurial spirit, passion, and determination to make a difference through their innovative research.

### Judges

All of the judges offered expert advice and industry insights to the pitchers and selected the first place and runner up prize winners. The judges networked with the attendees passing on tips on how to partner to achieve impact and preparing them for real-world challenges in their potential commercialisation pathways.



Prof Tony Weiss  
Academic & Entrepreneur  
University of Sydney

Prof Weiss is the McCaughey Chair in Biochemistry, an NHMRC Leadership Fellow, and a Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biotechnology. He was recently awarded the Prime Minister's Prize for Innovation, the NSW Premier's Prize for Science and Engineering Leadership in Innovation, and the Eureka Prize for Innovation in Medical Research. He is also the President of the Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society (TERMIS).



Prof Julie Cairney  
Pro-Vice Chancellor  
University of Sydney

Professor Julie Cairney is the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research – Enterprise and Engagement) at the University of Sydney. A Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, she serves on the Boards of the NSW Defence Innovation Network and the NSW Smart Sensing Network. She is also the CEO of Microscopy Australia, a national infrastructure project that provides open-access microscopy infrastructure across Australia.



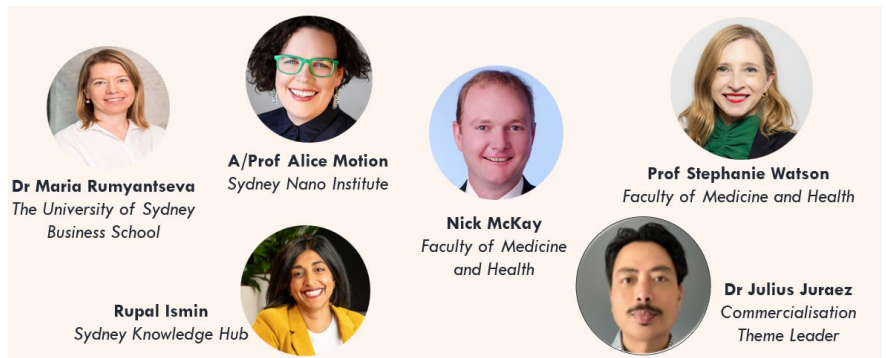
Dr John Kurek  
Venture capitalist  
Uniseed

John is the Biotechnology Investment Manager at Uniseed, Australia's longest running venture fund. John brings 24 years of industry experience as a Biotechnology Manager with a focus on the strategic design and implementation of drug development programs. He has acted as a Director on the Board of investee companies that have collectively raised AU\$300 million.

## Mentors

Mentors provided valuable expertise and guidance in the lead up to the NanoPitch event. Pitches had the opportunity to develop, review and practice their pitches with their assigned mentor.

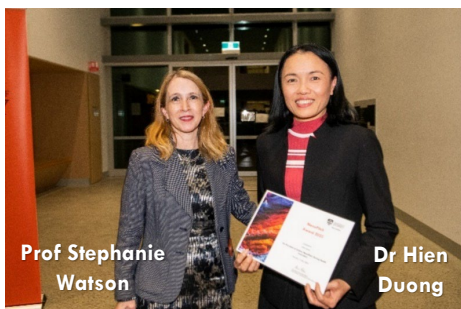
Advice was given on market analysis, honing business strategies, product development and networking. By sharing their industry knowledge, mentors helped pitchers identify potential partners, consider market opportunities and address potential challenges in their plans to achieve health impact.



## Pitchers

Pitchers presented a range of solutions to pressing health issues and were from the Faculty of Medicine and Health, Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Science, including *Prof Vesna Miletic, A/Prof Ann Kwan, Dr Mahbub Hassan, Dr Hien Duong, Dr Matthew Griffith, Dr Clara Thao Tran, A/Prof Stefano Palomba, and Matthew Hadden*, who shared their innovative solutions to critical health issues. Topics presented ranged from the development of biocompatible materials for oral healthcare, to the use of hydrogels in cellular therapies leading up to next-generation cancer theranostics techniques.

*Dr Hien Duong* was awarded first place and won the prize of \$5,000 for her talk on how nanobots can be used to combat antimicrobial resistance. *Dr Duong* was also awarded the People's Choice award with a prize of \$1,000. *Dr Matthew Griffith* claimed the runner up position and was awarded the prize of \$2,500.



## Attendees



There were 107 attendees, including pitchers, invited guests, and the audience all of whom had diverse backgrounds: healthcare industries, university executives, government reps, early-career researchers, students, and philanthropic partners. The attendee feedback included that they would attend a similar event in the future and that the event had impacted their commercialisation efforts and enriched their commercial pathway understanding.

## Networking

Following the pitching presentations all attendees had the opportunity to network with each other. The NanoPitch event yielded promising outcomes by showcasing remarkable research from the University of Sydney, spanning 3D-printed healthcare materials to game-changing sensors. Pitchers engaged partners from a range of backgrounds; industry, academics, and the community, nurturing entrepreneurial aspirations for Sydney Nano members.



NanoPitch spurred Sydney Nano members to seek partners to achieve health impact and chase entrepreneurial aspirations with renewed knowledge, backed by a support network. Attendees lauded insightful pitches and judges' feedback and made new connections while diverse research left a lasting impact, igniting curiosity for deeper health innovation. The event effectively brought partners together whilst fostering a culture of innovation and collaboration to promote nanomedicine for improving health outcomes for patients across the globe.