



## Speaker Bios – 2022 ACADI Annual Partnering Summit

### PANEL Why you need to start thinking about commercialisation early

#### Dr Alisa Selimovic

Alisa is a Senior Investment Manager in Life Sciences at IP Group Australia, where she is responsible for evaluating and progressing toward investment new life science technologies from IP Group's university partners in Australia and NZ. She is also a board observer and responsible for managing several portfolio companies, including Jetra Therapeutics (novel targeted cytokine therapeutics for NASH) and RAGE Biotech (novel RNA therapeutic targeting RAGE for chronic inflammatory conditions).

Prior to her return to Australia in 2017, Alisa spent eight years in Oxford, UK, where she worked in life sciences strategy and M&A consulting at PharmaVentures, and in the Corporate Development team at Circassia, where she worked on the company's £275M acquisition of Prosonix and Aerocrine.

Alisa holds a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Oxford, and a Bachelor of Engineering / Bachelor of Life Sciences from Flinders University.

#### Dr Richard Lipscombe

Richard Lipscombe is the Founding and Managing Director of Proteomics International.

Richard is a protein chemist by training having completed his chemistry degree at Oxford University and a Doctorate in Immunology at London University. Lipscombe moved to Perth in 1995 and managed the Protein Analysis Facility at the University of Western Australia, before stepping out of academia to co-found Proteomics International in 2001.

Dr Lipscombe's career has focused on industry-based research and the translation of innovative technology into commercial products and services. He holds several patents and has helped raise over \$40 million of investment into academic and corporate initiatives.

Richard now drives Proteomics International's corporate development and its mission to improve the quality of lives by the creation and application of innovative tools that enable the improved treatment of disease.

Richard has overseen Proteomics International's growth from start-up, through ASX listing in 2015, to a \$100 million dynamic medical technology company at the forefront of predictive diagnostics and bio-analytical services.

Almost uniquely, Richard has taken a protein biomarker from concept to commercial diagnostic test, with the company's pioneering predictive test for diabetic kidney disease, PromarkerD, now in the clinic in the United States.



## Jerome Wielens

Jerome Wielens is the Director of Health and Life Sciences at Breakthrough Victoria.

Jerome has a strong translation/commercialisation focus having completed a PhD at the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences with industry partner Amrad (which became Avexa) developing small molecules targeting HIV.

He continued this work during his postdoc and worked with Biota and the Cancer CRC on their drug development projects before transitioning into a business development/commercialisation role about 10 years ago.

Jerome has experience on both sides of the investment fence, investing in scientific companies for a family office and now Breakthrough Victoria, as well as working with the University of Melbourne and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute packaging their promising research projects and making them investment ready.

## Renza Scibilia

Renza Scibilia is the Head of Communities and International Affairs at Diabetes Australia.

Renza has lived with type 1 diabetes since 1998, has used an insulin pump for 21 years and CGM for over 10 years. She has been using an open-source automated insulin delivery device since 2017. Renza is a diabetes advocate and activist, and is the Head of Communities and International Affairs at Diabetes Australia. She has worked for diabetes organisations for the last twenty-one years, promoting a person-centred approach to the development, design and delivery of diabetes technologies, services, resources, research and education programs.

Currently, Renza leads the Patient Advisory Committee for HypoRESOLVE, a €27million EU project looking at the impact of hypoglycaemia in people living with diabetes; and is a researcher on the OPEN Project, an international and intersectional consortium of patient innovators, clinicians, social scientists, computer scientists and advocacy organisations investigating user-led diabetes technologies. She is an Associate Investigator for, and on the Advisory Board of, the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Digital Technology to Transform Chronic Disease Outcomes. Renza is Chair of the ACADI Community Advisory Group.

Renza has extensive experience as a consultant, facilitator, presenter, and media spokesperson and is frequently invited to speak at conferences where she speaks about topics including peer support in diabetes management, diabetes technology, and why communication matters in diabetes and healthcare. She is the author of *Diabetogenic*, ([www.diabetogenic.wordpress.com](http://www.diabetogenic.wordpress.com)) and a regular contributor to many online and print health publications.



## Dr Patricia Vietheer

Dr. Patricia Vietheer has over 18 years of scientific experience in the Life Sciences industry. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree with First Class Honours from University of Queensland and a PhD in Microbiology at Monash University. She has also completed an MBA majoring in Strategy & Planning at Deakin University. In 2015, Patricia completed the Molecules to Medicine Internship on Commercialization.

A specialist in infectious diseases, molecular biology and viral immunology, Patricia's career began in the research laboratory working on the preclinical evaluation of a versatile vaccine platform collaborating with industry. She has since held a range of roles in research; business development, project management and program development where she has helped translate scientific ideas into public health solutions. Patricia's deep experience in early-stage preclinical R&D especially in vaccine development, technology transfer and in vivo animal studies, has been instrumental in project planning and execution often working in cross-discipline, multi-country projects driving projects towards successful outcomes. Since joining Biointelect, Patricia has worked with a wide range of client projects from Universities, MRIs, Biotech, Medtech and Pharma and Government. She is particularly passionate about commercializing technologies and helping clients streamline their path to market for a wide range of diseases and innovative technologies.

Patricia has been a recipient of multiple awards including the NHMRC Dora Lush BioMedical Award, Australian Defence Force Prince of Wales Award and the Australian Centre for HIV & Hepatitis Virology Young Investigator's Award. She has made substantial contribution to numerous granted patents, co-authored multiple scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals and has presented at numerous national and international conferences.

## Ray Kelly

Ray Kelly is a proud Gomeri man and one of Australia's leading health professionals, with over 31 years' experience in the health and sports industries. He is an Accredited Exercise Physiologist and with a Master of Teaching (PDHPE) and a Bachelor of Research where he focused on the reversal of type 2 diabetes in the Indigenous community. He is currently completing his Doctor of Philosophy in Analysis of the factors contributing to successful reversal of type 2 diabetes through lifestyle change by Indigenous people in Australia.

Mr Kelly is an award-winning Exercise Physiologist, more recently winning the ESSA Exercise Physiologist of the Year (2019). He holds several advisory positions including the Australian Diabetes Educators Association Expert Reference Group, NSW Health's Agency for Clinical Innovation's Diabetes in Community for Aboriginal People Project, Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovation, the Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) Diabetes & Cardiovascular Disease Indigenous Advisory Group, ESSA NSW State Chapter, and the ESSA Exercise Physiology Advisory Group.

Currently, Ray provides research-based training and education to GPs, nurses, and other health professionals working in Aboriginal health services. He then provides support as they embed these changes within their current treatments. This has led to decreases in blood pressure, HbA1c and the co-morbidities associated with these conditions. Often, patients also see a reduction in medications. He also recently co-hosted the 3-part series on remission of type 2 diabetes alongside Dr Michael Mosley for SBS.