



## October 2017 Newsletter

Dear SBA Members, Welcome to the October 2017 issue of the SBA Newsletter.

### SBA AGM2017

Here are the minutes for the SBA Annual General Meeting 2017 , as well as a PowerPoint with the President's and Treasurer's reports.

- [Minutes](#)
- [President's and Treasurer's reports](#)

A quick summary:

- Our website can be found at <https://synbioaustralasia.org/> and follow us on Twitter @SynBioAusAsia.
- We signed MoUs with the Asian Federation of Biotechnology and the Biotechnology and Biochemical Engineering Society of Taiwan; BK Cho and Grace Ng represented these societies by presenting at SBA2017. Please contact the SBA Exec if you are interested

in pursuing collaborations with our Asian colleagues through these MoUs and we will endeavour to assist you.

- Renewal date for membership fees was confirmed as April each year – this simplifies financial management for the society.
- The new Executive and Communications team will work to improve the SBA website; your input to this process will be very much appreciated.
- A new Executive and support team were voted in:
  - President – Oliver Rackham, University of Western Australia
  - Vice President – Natalie Curach, Macquarie University
  - Immediate Past President - Claudia Vickers (by default), University of Queensland
  - Treasurer – Anwar Sunna, Macquarie University
  - ECR/PhD Representatives – Karen Weynberg (ECR) University of Queensland, Dominic Logel (PhD) Macquarie University
  - Communications Officer – Konstantinos Vavitsas, University of Queensland;  
Communications Assistant: Jestin George, University of Technology Sydney
- The next SBA meeting was confirmed for 2019 to be hosted by Claudia Vickers/The University of Queensland. Venue TBD.

### **SBA2017 conference**

The SBA2017 conference was awesome! Great feedback was received from a wide-cross-section of attendees. You can read a meeting report [here](#).

From a strong opening sessions on building genomes to engineering cells and proteins for applications across health and agriculture, there was an impressive demonstration of the diversity of work being undertaken. There were new connections made, old ones revamped, and further collaborations set to flourish.

From a quality start at the Cutting Edge Symposium in Canberra in 2016 to this second meeting in Sydney, there has been a groundswell of support and the vibe of the meeting was testament to a very bright future ahead for our field in Australia. Keep up the good work everyone and see you next time.

Congratulations to the poster award winners:

- First Prize in ECR category - Yosephine Gumulya, CSIRO
- First Prize in Student category - Yanwei Ma, University of Sydney
- Runners Up (student category):
  - Kerstin Petroll, Macquarie University
  - Dominic Logel, Macquarie University
  - Huw Hayman Zumpe, University of Queensland

### **CSIRO SynBioFSP PhD Top-up Scholarships**

A reminder that the Synthetic Biology FSP's top-up scholarship program is now open; details are available [here](#).

### **Farewell from the Immediate Past President**

I am sad to be sending my last newsletter as President of SBA but also delighted (much more so!) that SBA has reached critical mass and is being taken over by a new leadership team who will bring new ideas, energy, and time to grow the society and support development of synthetic biology in the region. Thanks to this team for volunteering their time and expertise to support SBA.

### **Items for the next newsletter**

We encourage all community members to share their updates, events, publications, and media coverage within SBA. Please send any news you might have for inclusion in the next newsletter to the SBA President Oliver Rackham ([oliver.rackham@uwa.edu.au](mailto:oliver.rackham@uwa.edu.au)) or our communications officer Kostas Vavitsas ([k.vavitsas@uq.edu.au](mailto:k.vavitsas@uq.edu.au)). Remember that positions in synthetic biology can be advertised through this mailing list, our website and our Twitter account.

Best regards,  
Claudia Vickers

Immediate Past President  
Synthetic Biology Australasia