

Annual Report [1 March 2009 – 28 February 2010]

EMBL  
Australia





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# Chairman's report

As the EMBL Australia initiative gathers momentum, I am pleased to provide my first report as Chairman.

The vision for EMBL Australia is bold and ambitious. It aims to build on Australia's strengths in biological research and biotechnology to maintain and grow our international position in these areas. Specifically, we aim to:

- Stimulate Australian research through local integrated networks that link with global partnerships.
- Drive enhanced research quality through the development of world-class scientific leaders.
- Boost Australia's international competitiveness in the life sciences and strengthen our emerging position as a leader in the biotechnology industry.

The cohesive, collaborative approach by EMBL Australia participant organisations has seen the rapid development of EMBL Australia, enabled by the Australian Government's major investment of \$8 million. 2010 will see the fruits of this investment begin to emerge.

On behalf of the EMBL Australia Council, I would like to thank the EMBL Australia Working Group for their dedication and achievements in initiating and building EMBL Australia. I also thank the Australian Government for their support of the initiative and the continued support and advice of the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research. In addition, the support of the Victorian Minister for Innovation, Industry and Regional Development and his department has been instrumental in assisting EMBL Australia to develop and flourish.

I also thank the National Health and Medical Research Council and Australian Research Council for their continued support of EMBL Australia's programs and efforts to create world-class opportunities for young scientists.

The EMBL Australia initiative has started well. To maintain its momentum—particularly to establish a critical mass for the Partner Laboratory Network—additional funds are needed. The progress to date and activities outlined in this report are critical elements to deliver the benefits of the Associate Membership of the EMBL to the Australian life science research community and to further the case for additional funding.



*Richard G. Larkins*

Prof Richard Larkins  
Chairman, EMBL Australia

# About EMBL Australia

## Brief history

In March 2008 Australia accepted an invitation to partner with Europe's pre-eminent research institute, the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL). This partnership saw Australia granted Associate Member status (the first ever offered) for a period of seven years and created EMBL Australia. This invitation was extended to Australia due to our scientific strengths in cell biology, clinical research, stem cells and regenerative medicine, chemical biology and genetic epidemiology.

EMBL Australia was established to maximise the benefits of the associate membership by the CSIRO, Monash University, The University of Queensland, The University of Sydney and The University of Western Australia.

## Objectives

EMBL Australia aims to internationalise and build capacity in the Australian life sciences through the development of world-class scientific leaders.

Primarily, it aims to advance Australian research quality through four activity streams:

- First-class scientific training and collaborative opportunities for Australian life scientists
- Establishing the EMBL Australia Partner Laboratory Network throughout Australia
- Pursuing international co-funding for research; and
- Exchange of expertise, resources, services and innovation between Europe and Australia

## About the EMBL

EMBL is Europe's flagship laboratory for basic research in molecular biology. It is the most cited scientific institution outside of the USA in molecular biology and genetics, with an extremely high impact of an average of 66.02 citations per paper (ISI Science Indicators 1999–2009).

Working at the forefront of innovation in life sciences research, technology development and transfer, the EMBL provides outstanding training and services to the scientific community.

## Funding and stakeholders

### EMBL Australia foundation stakeholders

- Monash University
- The University of Sydney
- The University of Western Australia
- The University of Queensland
- CSIRO

### Funders

EMBL Australia acknowledges the financial contribution of the following organisations:

### *EMBL Associate Membership*

- Monash University
- The University of Sydney
- The University of Western Australia
- The University of Queensland
- CSIRO
- National Science Collaborative Investment Scheme (NCRIS)

### *Operational costs*

- Australian Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR)
- Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, Victoria (DIIRD)
- Monash University

### *Faculty Development Program*

- Australian Research Council (ARC)
- National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC)
- The University of Sydney

# 2009 Highlights

In 2009, progress on the EMBL Australia initiative included:

- Development of the Partner Laboratory Network Investment Proposal. This document outlines activities to be undertaken to help deliver the benefits of Australia's Associate Membership of EMBL to Australian life science research.
- Launch of the EMBL Australia Scientific Program.
- Announcement by the Australian Government of \$8m funding for the EMBL Australia initiative from the Super Science Program.
- Establishment of the EMBL Australia Council as the governing body of EMBL Australia and appointment of Prof Richard Larkins as Chair of the Council.
- Establishment of the Planning and Finance and Bioinformatics Advisory Committees of Council.
- Agreement of Council to allocate funding to establish the first two Partner Laboratory groups at Monash/ARMI.
- Agreement of Council to establish a Bioinformatics Network to support the establishment of, and access to, the proposed EBI Mirror Facility.
- Agreement of Council to establish an International PhD Program in conjunction with the EMBL.



# Key activities and outcomes

## Formation of Council

The EMBL Australia Council was formed in September 2009 to replace the EMBL Australia Working Group. The Council represents the participant organisations in EMBL Australia and comprises two representatives from each Participant organisation, along with several independent members.

Details on the membership and activities of the EMBL Australia Council can be found on page 11.

## Appointment of Council Chairman

Professor Richard Larkins was appointed the inaugural chair of EMBL Australia in September 2009. His appointment coincided with the commencement of the EMBL Australia Council. Professor Larkins has had a distinguished career in medicine, scientific research and academic management. He was President and Vice Chancellor of Monash University from 2003–2008. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. In 2002 Professor Larkins was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for service to medicine and health.

## Formation of key committees

Under the terms of the EMBL Australia Deed of Agreement (Australian Government), the EMBL Australia Council may form subcommittees and advisory groups as required from time to time to make non-binding recommendations to the EMBL Australia Council.

Two committees were formed: the Planning and Finance Committee and the Bioinformatics Advisory Committee.

Further details of these committees, including terms of reference and members can be found on pages 12 and 13.

## Scientific Program released

The EMBL Australia Scientific Program was developed with widespread input from the Australian scientific community. It sets the agenda for all EMBL Australia activities for the period of the EMBL Associate membership.

Consistent with the EMBL philosophy, the Scientific Program focuses on driving improved scientific outcomes. Key features of the program's activities are:

- Fostering scientific excellence
- Training programs, courses and conferences
- Networking and collaboration
- Services to the Australian scientific community
- Leveraging national investment
- Growing innovation in Australian life science

The program sets six indicative research themes:

- Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Biology
- Human Genetics and Disease
- Cancer and Clinical Research
- Chemical Biology
- Plant Biology
- Systems Biology

## Bioinformatics for the future initiative

In March 2009, EMBL Australia hosted a series of workshops and seminars by Dr Ewan Birney, Senior Scientist at the EMBL-EBI. The European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI) is a campus of the EMBL located in the United Kingdom. Ewan toured Australia, meeting with a range of stakeholders including bioinformaticians, life science researchers, representatives of government funding agencies and government policy makers.



The visit was designed to:

- Investigate key bioinformatics issues confronting life science research in Australia
- Strengthen relationships between Australia and Europe in the life sciences
- Stimulate discussion on how to progress Australian bioinformatics.

The common theme arising from discussions was the demand for more capacity in bioinformatics, and that timely investment in bioinformatics infrastructure—mainly at the level of skilled personnel—will provide a competitive advantage to Australian science, unlock many new discoveries, and increase Australia's presence in the international science landscape.

A key outcome of the visit was the report "Bioinformatics for the Future". The report has been used to better inform the bioinformatics community and build momentum towards improved services and resources in the Australia bioinformatics landscape.

In addition to Dr Birney's visit, in August 2009 Mr Rodrigo Lopez, Head of External Services and Dr Maria Martin, Head Coordinator UniProt from the EBI visited Australia. They visited Brisbane, Perth, Sydney and Melbourne to meet with members of the Australian bioinformatics community and present seminars on bioinformatics services available at the EBI.

### Appointment of Executive Director

In May 2009, Mr Silvio Tiziani was appointed Executive Director of EMBL Australia. As Executive Officer, Silvio is responsible for the effective running of the EMBL Australia Secretariat and management of the day-to-day affairs of EMBL Australia.

Silvio is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) and the Institute of Management (AIM). He has extensive experience in financial analysis and budget management, business development, strategic planning, leadership and corporate governance.

### Federal funding of EMBL Australia

As part of the May 2009 federal budget, the Australian Government announced that it would provide \$8.0 million over four years for EMBL Australia.

The 2009 Federal Budget Paper no. 2 states that:

*"the Government will provide \$8.0 million over four years to support the establishment and development of a European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) facility on the campus of Monash University in Victoria. As an associate member of the EMBL, Australia is collaborating with a world leader in molecular biology research. This measure will support Australia's participation in major international research projects and also provide access to the EMBL's world-leading research infrastructure and expertise in bioinformatics, researcher training and research commercialisation. It will also promote research collaboration and researcher mobility between Australia and Europe".*

The Super Science—Future Industries Fact Sheet, published by DIISR, states that one of the deliverables under the National Enabling Technologies Strategy (NETS) will be:

*"\$8.0 million to establish a laboratory in Australia that will partner with the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)".*

### Partner Laboratory Network Group Leader positions

In September 2009 EMBL Australia advertised for two research group leaders to be based at EMBL Australia Partner Laboratory and headquarters at the Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute, Monash University. A regenerative biology research focus was specified in the advertisement, with candidates shortlisted based on the strengths of past achievements, originality of future plans, and strategic complementarity with other research foci within ARMI. Interviews were held in December 2009, with appointments expected in March 2010.





Appointees will each lead a research group for a period of five years. They will also participate in the active development of the new Partner Laboratory and a program of linking activities with the EMBL in Europe.

### Faculty Development Program

The EMBL Australia Faculty Development Program is designed to support high potential early-career scientists. The Program recruits research Group Leaders and provides them with generous funding for five years at an EMBL station in Europe, followed by four years at an Australian institution.

Each EMBL Group Leader package includes generous funding for the Group Leader with her/his research team. This includes one post-doctoral scientist and two PhD students selected by the EMBL International PhD program of the Group Leader's choosing.

Groups are funded by external Australian grants (eg: NH&MRC, ARC) and/or by Australian research institutions.

### Development of 2010 Business Plan

Subsequent to the announcement of \$8 million federal funding, the EMBL Australia Working Group, followed by the EMBL Australia Council, developed a business plan for 2010.

The Plan outlines activities that will be undertaken to progress the EMBL Australia Partner Laboratory Network during the EMBL Associate Membership year (1 March 2010 to 28 February 2011), with financial projections (1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010). It is written in accordance with the terms of the funding agreement with DIISR.

Key activities outlined in the plan are to:

- Establish the first two groups of the EMBL Australia Partner Laboratory
- Establish a National Bioinformatics Network to support the EMBL Australia EBI Mirror facility
- Establish the EMBL Australia International PhD Program
- Consolidate EMBL Australia governance
- Provide a Council and Partner Laboratory support function.

The plan includes financial projections and key milestones for the delivery of these activities, along with key risk factors and strategies to address them.

### Bioplatforms Australia agreement

In November 2009, EMBL Australia and Bioplatforms Australia announced an agreement that entitles EMBL Australia research teams to access key research facilities at a discounted rate.

In February 2009, Dr Marcus Heisler became the first EMBL Australia Faculty Development Program Group Leader when he commenced at the EMBL in Heidelberg.

Marcus and his team research cellular processes in plants. Specifically, Marcus' group is aiming to building understanding of cell polarity in plants—how cells align to each other—and how hormones are transported in plants.

His research has implications for agriculture, for example, in managing plant growth, resistance to disease and managing environmental conditions (eg: drought).

Marcus' position is supported by the Australian Research Council and The University of Sydney. After his five years in Heidelberg, Marcus will relocate to The University of Sydney for the remaining four years of his appointment.





The linkage aims to build collaboration and resource-sharing between Australia's premier life science researchers.

Bioplatforms Australia was established in 2007 under the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) to manage Australian Government investment in the rapidly-expanding '-omics' disciplines. Bioplatforms Australia acts as a co-ordinating body for four 'omics' consortiums that offer world-class expertise and host the nation's state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure in these fields of research.

### CSIRO-EMBL Interaction Program

This initiative aims to leverage CSIRO's involvement in EMBL Australia by building closer links between researchers at CSIRO and EMBL. In particular, it aims to assist CSIRO to thrive in the "-omics era".

The program provides funding for CSIRO and EMBL staff to engage in exchanges, collaborations and resource-pooling that serve to increase the extent to which:

- Biology and the analysis of biological data are effectively integrated by CSIRO and EMBL
- CSIRO and EMBL develop, share and exploit knowledge across kingdoms of life
- CSIRO and EMBL participate in high-impact, multi-institutional research efforts and alliances.

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of:

- Likely scientific impact
- Likely impact on the capabilities of CSIRO and EMBL
- Likely impact on relationships between CSIRO and EMBL, Australia and Europe.

The CSIRO-EMBL Interaction Program was launched in January 2010, with the first round of projects expected to be announced in April 2010.

### Communications

A critical role for EMBL Australia is to promote the initiative and its programs to maximise awareness and uptake of the opportunities available.

### Website

A website about EMBL Australia and its initiatives was launched in May 2009. It can be viewed at [www.emblaustralia.org](http://www.emblaustralia.org). The website was developed in consultation with EMBL, who were redeveloping their website at the time. The EMBL Australia website is modeled on the new EMBL site to provide a consistent user experience and highlight the links between the two organisations.

The EMBL Australia website includes background information on the initiative, including funding, governance and key linkages. It serves as the central pool of information on EMBL Australia programs, opportunities and developments.





Underpinning the website is a database of stakeholders and people interested in EMBL Australia. This enables newsletters, announcements and media releases to be rapidly distributed to relevant people.

#### **Publications**

The following documents were published in the period:

- Scientific Program
- Bioinformatics for the Future report
- 2008/09 Annual report
- Spring 2009 newsletter

#### **Secretariat office**

As the hub for the Partner Laboratory Network, Monash University continues its responsibility to support EMBL Australia operations. This includes accommodation of the secretariat office, secretarial support for Council, provision of financial and related services, direct liaison with EMBL and direct liaison with the Australian Government and other stakeholders.

The secretariat office is also responsible for ensuring compliance with the terms of funding agreements, including provision of reports and other specified milestones.

# Outlook for 2010

Key developments expected in 2010 include:

- Appointment of the EMBL Australia Scientific Head
- Formation of the EMBL Australia Scientific Advisory Committee
- Establishment of EMBL Australia international PhD Program
- Appointment of second Faculty Development Program Group Leader position
- Establishment of two Partner Laboratory Network groups
- Establishment of the EMBL Australia EBI Mirror facility at The University of Queensland
- Establishment of a national bioinformatics network to support the EBI Mirror
- Development of a strategy designed to provide a sustainable future for EMBL Australia

# Governance

EMBL Australia founding members and the EMBL have an agreed governance model. The following key principles underpin the operations of EMBL Australia:

- Analogous wherever possible with EMBL
- Acceptable to all funding stakeholders
- Accountable for Australia's Associate membership activities
- Responsible for negotiating with EMBL on behalf of Australia
- Established with nominal start-up costs

## EMBL Australia Deed of Agreement

For simplicity, Monash University assumes the duties of the EMBL Australia Secretariat under a Deed of Agreement between funding stakeholders.

## EMBL Australia Working Group

### Meetings

Meetings of the EMBL Australia Working Group were held on 3 February, 3 March, 7 April, 5 May and 2 June 2009. Representatives from EMBL in Europe participated in most meetings.

### Members

- Dr David Day, The University of Sydney
- Julia Evans, DIISR
- Jan Gough-Watson, DIISR
- Prof Trevor Hambley, The University of Sydney
- Dr Liz Jazwinska, Australian Research Council
- Prof Peter Leedman, The University of Western Australia
- Katie Magee, DIISR
- Vaun Peate, NH&MRC
- Greg Piko, DIISR
- Prof Mark Ragan, The University of Queensland
- Prof Nadia Rosenthal, ARMI/Monash University
- Kerrie Thornton, Group of Eight
- Silvio Tiziani, ARMI/Monash University
- Dr Graeme Woodrow, CSIRO

## EMBL Australia Council

The Council represents the participant organisations in EMBL Australia and is responsible for the development and operations of EMBL Australia.

The first Council meeting was held on 6 October 2009. Subsequent meetings were held on 12 December 2009 and 2 February 2010.

### Terms of reference

#### *Plans, budgets and reports*

- Approving an indicative plan for the realisation of the EMBL Australia program
- Adopting the central budget (after approval by the Participants)
- Approving provisional estimate of expenditure for the following years
- Approving the annual report

#### *Funding, promotion and relationships*

- Developing proposals for funding of EMBL Australia and the EMBL Australia Activities from relevant government departments and statutory bodies such as DIISR, DIIRD, NH&MRC and the ARC
- Overseeing the promotion and fundraising of EMBL Australia, and its government relations
- Providing advice on the EMBL-Australia relationship to the Minister/s of DIISR and other bodies/institutions as required
- Reviewing the EMBL-Australia relationship and advise the Commonwealth Government on the continuation of Australia's membership

#### *Partner Laboratory Network and Scientific*

- Approving and overseeing the creation and operating of the EMBL Australia Partner Laboratory Network within Australia (subject to EMBL Approval)
- Setting up the EMBL Australia Partner Laboratory Network Executive Group
- Determining policy in scientific, technical and administrative matters for EMBL Australia and the EMBL Australia Partner Laboratory Network





#### ***Making rules for***

- The establishment and ongoing supervision or overseeing of the EMBL Australia Partner Laboratory Network
- Intellectual property matters
- EMBL Australia-related scientific matters

Approving any scientific program and related works plan and funding for it.

#### **Members**

- Prof Richard Larkins (Chair)
- Prof Edwina Cornish, Monash University
- Prof David Day, The University of Sydney (resigned August 2009)
- Prof Trevor Hambley, The University of Sydney (commenced September 2009)
- Prof Peter Leedman, The University of Western Australia
- Professor Iain Mattaj, European Molecular Biology Laboratory
- Prof Doug McEachern, The University of Western Australia (retired, November 2009)
- Prof Robyn Owens, The University of Western Australia (commenced December 2009)
- Dr Louise Ryan, CSIRO
- Prof Deborah Terry, The University of Queensland
- Prof Jill Trehwella, The University of Sydney
- Dr Silke Schumacher, EMBL
- Prof Brandon Wainwright, The University of Queensland
- Dr Graeme Woodrow, CSIRO
- Prof Steve Wesselingh, Monash University

### **Planning and Finance Committee**

The Planning and Finance Committee held its first meeting in January 2010.

#### **Terms of Reference**

##### ***Authority***

Under the terms of the EMBL Australia Deed of Agreement, the EMBL Australia Council may form subcommittees and advisory groups as required from time to time to make non-binding recommendations to the EMBL Australia Council (Clause 4.2).

#### ***Purpose***

The primary function of the Planning and Finance Committee (PFC) is to assist the Council in fulfilling its planning and financial responsibilities for the EMBL Australia initiative. The PFC shall:

- consider any matters relating to the financial affairs that it determines to be desirable
- be responsible for the annual strategic planning process, and
- examine any other matters referred to it by the Council.

#### ***Duties***

The duties of the PFC are:

##### ***Financial Control and Reporting***

- Ensure adequate financial management systems and processes are in place and any Government requirements are met.
- Regularly examine financial statements that show current cash flow as well as comparison of actual performance to budget on a monthly and year to date basis.
- Examine the annual report before submission to the Council, focusing particularly on:
  - any changes in accounting policies and practices;
  - major judgemental areas;
  - significant adjustments resulting from the audit;
  - compliance with accounting standards;
  - compliance with Government and legal requirements;
  - Recommend to Council the acceptance of annual reports and the audited accounts each year.

#### ***Planning***

- Propose the annual business plan, including setting annual objectives and targets (in discussion with the Scientific Head) and receive quarterly progress reports relating thereto.
- Review, on a regular basis, progress against agreed objectives and targets after discussion with the Scientific Head.



### **Reporting Arrangements**

- The Chairman of the PFC should present a verbal summary report of the Committee's deliberations drawing significant items to Council's attention at each full meeting.
- The minutes of the PFC meetings will be formally recorded and submitted to the Council for noting in a timely manner.
- The PFC will make reports and recommendations to the Council on matters within its terms of reference as it thinks fit.

### **Members**

- Professor Steve Wesselingh, Monash University (Chair)
- Janet Kemp, Monash University
- Prof Robyn Overall, The University of Sydney
- Professor Nadia Rosenthal, ARMI/EMBL
- Dr Campbell Thompson, The University of Western Australia
- Professor Liz Jazwinska, ARC (observer)
- Tony Rothnie, DIISR (observer)

## **Bioinformatics Committee**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Purpose**

The primary function of the Bioinformatics Advisory Committee (BAC) is to assist and advise the Council in all matters relating to the provision of bioinformatics and related services to the EMBL Australia Partner Laboratory and the Australian life science research community.

#### **Duties**

The duties of the BAC are:

- Provide expert advice regarding bioinformatics to Council and Partner Laboratory Groups
- Support the establishment of bioinformatics related initiatives, including the EBI mirror at the EMBL Australia Partner Laboratory node at the University of Queensland, and a national bioinformatics network
- Other appropriate bioinformatics-related items as directed by Council

### **Reporting Arrangements**

- The Chairman of the BAC should present a verbal summary report of the Committee's activities and deliberations drawing significant items to Council's attention at each full meeting.
- The minutes of the BAC meetings will be formally recorded and submitted to the Council for noting in a timely manner.
- The BAC will make reports and recommendations to the Council on matters within its terms of reference as it thinks fit.

### **Members**

- Prof Brandon Wainwright (Chair), The University of Queensland
- Dr Dave Adelson, The University of South Australia
- Prof Jonathan Arthur, The University of Sydney
- Dr Ewan Birney, EMBL-EBI
- Prof Paul Bonnington, Monash University
- Dr David Lovell, CSIRO
- Prof Grant Morahan, The University of Western Australia
- Prof Mark Ragan, The University of Queensland
- Prof Nadia Rosenthal, ARMI/EMBL
- Prof Terry Speed, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute
- Mr Silvio Tiziani, EMBL Australia

# People

## **Nadia Rosenthal**

Nadia has exceptional scientific credentials, including 16 years working at Harvard Medical School. She is the Scientific Director of the Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute at Monash University and Director of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) Outstation in Monterotondo, Italy, one of five EMBL campuses with over 1500 employees across Europe. She also serves as scientific director of the Heart Science Centre at Imperial College London.



## **Silvio Tiziani, Executive Director**

Silvio is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) and the Institute of Management (AIM). He has extensive experience in financial analysis and budget management, business development, strategic planning, leadership and corporate governance.



## **Rachel Taylor, Communications and Development Officer**

Rachel is responsible for a wide range of communications-based activities for the scientific, stakeholder, media and general communities. She has extensive skills and experience in public relations and communications with good networks in the scientific community.



For five years, she held a similar role at the Australian Synchrotron, where she worked from its inception to opening.

Rachel holds a Graduate Certificate in Science Communication and a Bachelor of Science (Media).

## **Laura Crilley, Executive Support**

Laura coordinates office arrangements and the support of clerical activities within the secretariat office.

Laura has more than 25 years experience working as an executive assistant, including 12 years working with Professor Carl Wood, IVF pioneer. She has also worked in the fields of plastic and reconstructive surgery and oncology.



## **Lisa Ryan, Executive Assistant**

Lisa joined EMBL Australia in October 2009 as Executive Assistant to the Executive Director. Within this role, Lisa co-ordinates the day to day administration of the EMBL Australia secretariat.



Lisa has 25 years experience as an Executive Assistant, working in both private and public sector organisations, predominately in telecommunications.

## **Joanna George, Executive Support**

Ms Joanna George also provided executive support from March – November 2009 as part of her role at the Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute (where the EMBL Australia secretariat is based).

# Financial report and Auditors statement

## EMBL Australia Financial Report for 2009 Financial Year (as at 31-12-2009)

	Actual 2008	Actual 2009	Notes
<b>Income</b>			
<b>EMBL Associate Membership Fee</b>			1
<b>Initial Collection of Membership Fees from other Institutions</b>			
Monash University	\$583,111	\$628,735	
University of Queensland	\$282,562	\$303,050	
University of Sydney	\$282,562	\$303,050	
University of Western Australia	\$384,352	\$413,588	
CSIRO	\$400,000	\$300,000	
Commonwealth (DIISR)	\$3,000,000		
<b>Grant Funding</b>			
DIISR 2008 Contribution – EMBL ASCC	\$100,000		
Membership Agreement Costs		\$2,000,000	
DIISR Funding Agreement (2009)		\$30,000	
DIIRD Contribution – EMBL Secretariat	\$45,000	\$32,000	
ATSE		\$32,000	
Other Revenue	\$2,477		2
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$5,077,587</b>	<b>\$4,012,900</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<b>EMBL Associate Membership Fee</b>	\$4,932,587	\$1,948,423	
<b>Salary Expenses</b>	\$19,188	\$84,118	3
<b>Non Salary Expenses</b>			
Building Expenses	\$2,165	\$753	
Staff Related Expenses	\$170		
Communications (inc web development consultants)	\$2,339	\$25,182	
Computer Supplies	\$105	\$3,403	
Printing & Stationery	\$3,480	\$12,436	
Travel	\$12,163	\$41,647	
Consultants	\$47,126	\$2,520	4
Recruitment	\$0	\$34,258	5
Miscellaneous	\$608	\$6,951	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,019,931</b>	<b>\$2,159,690</b>	
<b>Surplus for the Year</b>	<b>\$57,656</b>	<b>\$1,853,209</b>	

Balance CF (carried forward) at 1-1-08 and 1-1-09	\$0	\$57,656
Surplus for the Year	\$57,656	\$1,853,209
CF Surplus at 31-12-08 and 31-12-2009	\$57,656	\$1,910,865

### Notes:

#### 1. EMBL Associate Membership Fee

Participant University membership contributions varied between years due to different AUD / Euro exchange rates.

#### 2. Interest Received

\$2,192 interest was credited to the EMBL Australia account. This represents interest earned by Monash on the \$2M received as per Funding Agreement in December 2009.

#### 3. Salaries

	2008	2009
<b>Executive Director</b>		
Silvio Tiziani Jul-Dec 2008	\$8,234	<i>DIIRD report to 30-6-09</i>
Silvio Tiziani Jan-June 2009		\$8,047 <i>DIISR Audit report</i>
Silvio Tiziani July-Dec 2009		\$39,879 <i>50% actual from SAP</i>
<b>Executive Officer</b>		
Janine Halls	\$2,185	\$5,806 <i>credit to ANF in 2009</i>
Laura Crilley Jul-Dec 2008	\$8,769	<i>DIIRD report to 30-6-09</i>
Laura Crilley Jan-June 2009		\$23,977 <i>DIIRD report to 30-6-09</i>
Lisa Ryan Oct-Dec 2009		\$6,409 <i>actual from SAP</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,188</b>	<b>\$84,118</b>

#### 4. Consultants

Partner Laboratory Investment Proposal Consultancy Costs; \$10,440 in 2008 and \$2,520 in 2009.

#### 5. Recruitment

Partner Laboratory Group Leaders (international advertising)



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND  
RESEARCH

*Scope*

We have audited the attached Statement of Income and Expenditure (the 'Statement') of for the 'EMBL Australia Partner Laboratory Network' (the 'Project') for the period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009 on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (the 'Department'). The management of the Monash University are responsible for the preparation of the statement and for meeting the requirements of the relevant funding agreement. We have conducted an independent audit of the statement in order to express an opinion on it to the Department.

The statement has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of the funding agreement between the Department and Monash University. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this audit report or on the statement to which it relates to any person other than the Department, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the statement and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the statement is presented fairly in accordance with the requirements of the funding agreement.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

*Auditor's Opinion*

In our opinion:

- i. the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009 is true and fair in all material respects;
- ii. a closing balance of \$1,910,865 has been recorded for the fund; and
- iii. all funds received for the purpose of the program have been expended in accordance with the relevant funding agreement.

**RSM BIRD CAMERON**  
Chartered Accountants



**WARWICK SPARGO**  
Director  
19 March 2010  
Melbourne, Victoria

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# Documents and Media Releases

Copies of these and other EMBL Australia documents can be downloaded from [www.emblaustralia.org](http://www.emblaustralia.org)



**EMBL Australia**

**Media release**  
5 September 2009

**Leading International Science Link**

Professor Richard Larkins, the recently retired Vice-Chancellor of Monash University was today announced as the inaugural chair of EMBL Australia.

Australia is the first associate member of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) – Europe's molecular biology flagship.

"EMBL is one of the most highly respected scientific institutions in the world", Prof Larkins said.

"Through this partnership, EMBL Australia will catapult the career of Australia life scientists and internationalise Australian science", he said.

EMBL Australia will create a national network of research teams with guaranteed funding for up to five years. In addition, EMBL Australia will offer PhD positions based in Europe.

"EMBL Australia will provide young researchers with access to world-class training, collaboration and resources", Prof Larkins said.

Professor Larkins has had a distinguished career in medicine, scientific research and academic management. He was President and Vice-Chancellor of Monash University from 2003 – 2008. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. In 2002 Professor Larkins was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for service to medicine and health.

Professor Larkins' appointment coincides with the announcement of the membership of the EMBL Australia Council. The Council represents the participant organisations in EMBL Australia.

**EMBL Australia Council members**

- Prof Richard Larkins (Chair)
- Prof Sabine Garavito, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Monash University
- Prof Trevor Kettlewell, Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Veterinary Science, The University of Sydney
- Prof Peter Leadman, Professor of Medicine, Western Australia Institute for Medical Research, The University of Western Australia
- Professor Ian Mudd, Director, European Molecular Biology Laboratory
- Prof Doug McFarlane, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), The University of Western Australia
- Dr Louise Ryan, Chief, CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences
- Prof Deborah Terry, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), The University of Queensland
- Prof Jill Treweek, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), The University of Sydney
- Dr Silke Schumacher, Coordinator International Relations and Communication, EMBL
- Prof Brandon Weingart, Institute for Molecular Bioscience, The University of Queensland
- Dr Graeme Woodhouse, Chief, CSIRO Molecular and Health Technologies
- Prof Steve Woodhouse, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University

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**EMBL Australia**

**Scientific Program February 2009**

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## Participants



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## Related organisations

