

EMBL Australia Annual Report
[March 2010 – February 2011]

EMBL
Australia





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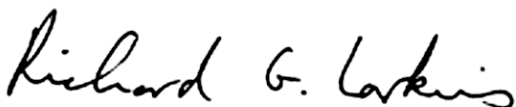
Chairman's report

2010 was a seminal year in the EMBL Australia initiative. Our official launch by Minister Carr in March coincided with the announcement of several key developments. These developments included the appointments of our Scientific Head and first Partner Laboratory Group Leaders, along with the announcement of a second node and associated national network for bioinformaticians.

EMBL Australia's participation is set to expand, with invitations accepted by the remaining Go8 universities to join EMBL Australia. This will extend direct involvement to a wider group of research institutions and expand the potential reach of EMBL Australia programs. In addition, five independent scientists have been appointed to the Council to enhance representation by, and communication with, the Australian research community.

To support the range of initiatives EMBL Australia is undertaking, two committees have been formed with specific roles and responsibilities. The Planning and Finance Committee oversees the annual objectives for EMBL Australia and advises Council on financial matters. The Bioinformatics Committee was formed to act as an expert body to Council on bioinformatics-related matters.

EMBL Australia has achieved momentum in a short time thanks to the ongoing input of its Council members, the EMBL, institutional participants, funding bodies, staff and supporters. I thank them for their efforts, in particular the financial support of the Australian Government through the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.



Prof Richard Larkins AO
Chairman



Scientific Head's report

I am pleased and proud to provide my first report as Scientific Head of EMBL Australia. Since its inception, I saw this initiative as a golden opportunity for Australia to build its international linkages and tap into the minds, resources and research culture of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL). The benefits of EMBL Associate Membership that flow to Australia and the Australian life sciences research community include access to world-class research and infrastructure, new technologies, techniques, training and networking opportunities for Australian scientists. I am committed to bringing these benefits to fruition, steering the research direction of EMBL Australia, and strengthening our European alliance through strategic collaboration.

Thanks to the commitment of my EMBL Australia colleagues at the Group of Eight Universities and CSIRO, and to continued Federal and State support, a range of dynamic programs that capitalise on Australia's strong tradition and firm foundations in the life sciences are now well underway.

The Partner Laboratory Network (PLN) has gained momentum this year through the appointment of its first two young EMBL Australia Group Leaders. This program is designed to accelerate the careers of high potential internationally recruited researchers at the start of their scientific independence, through the adoption of the EMBL model of dedicated mentoring and funding for a period of up to nine years. I wish the best for Drs Edwina McGlenn and Nicolas Platcha in their new roles and look forward to helping them develop their scientific leadership.

To deliver to promise of a truly national EMBL Australia, the PLN is also growing geographically. A new node is under development at The University of Queensland that will mirror the most significant data resources and services at the EMBL's European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI). In tandem, a national network for Australian bioinformaticians is being developed to assist researchers in accessing and fully exploiting this resource. Work has also commenced at The University of Sydney and The University of Western Australia to build new research facilities that include future provision for PLN groups.

In Europe, the research group led by Dr Marcus Heisler, the first appointee under the EMBL Australia Faculty Development Program, continues to flourish. Marcus was recently awarded a prestigious European Research Council Starting Grant, which will assist their research over the coming years at EMBL-Heidelberg, before the team relocates back to Australia.

As these programs gain momentum, enhancing collaboration and exchange between Australia and Europe, I am encouraged by the impact we are making in fostering and supporting creative research environments in the life sciences, and look forward to the exciting year ahead.



Prof Nadia Rosenthal
Scientific Head

About EMBL Australia

In March 2008, Australia became an associate member of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) for a period of seven years.

EMBL Australia was formed to maximise the benefits of the Associate Membership through activities such as funded research positions, collaborative ventures and the formation of research institutes.

EMBL Australia seeks to connect and internationalise Australian research through integrated research networks that connect to global partnerships. It drives enhanced research quality through the development of world-class scientific leaders.

EMBL Australia delivers on these aims through four primary activity streams:

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

The European Molecular Biology Laboratory

EMBL Australia creates a window of opportunity to tap into the best and brightest minds, infrastructure and resources of Europe's pre-eminent research institute—the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL).

EMBL is the flagship of Europe's molecular biology research. Renowned as one of the world's top research institutes, 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.

EMBL has made distinctive contributions to traditional and new fields of research including bioinformatics, proteomics, comparative and functional genomics and systems biology. Increasing understanding of biological systems will have implications beyond the boundaries of molecular biology: in health, agriculture, biotechnology and pharmaceutical research.



Members of the EMBL Australia Council.

2010 Highlights

- Official launch of EMBL Australia by Minister Carr
- Appointment of the first two Partner Laboratory Network Group Leaders
- Announcement of the EBI Mirror Facility at The University of Queensland
- Agreement for a National Bioinformatics Network in partnership with Bioplatforms Australia
- Commencement of the International PhD program
- Remaining Go8 universities invited to join EMBL Australia
- Appointment of five independent scientists to the EMBL Australia Council
- Partnership formalised between Go8 and EMBL for International PhD program
- Agreement with Bioplatforms Australia for subsidised access to research facilities
- Finalisation of membership of Planning and Finance Committee and Bioinformatics Advisory Committee
- Sponsorship of the AMSI Summer Symposium in Bioinformatics (BioInfo Summer)



Prof Iain Mattaj, Director General EMBL signs the MOU between the Go8 and EMBL with Prof Richard Larkins, Kerrie Thornton (Go8) and Silke Schumacher (EMBL).

2011 Outlook

During 2011 EMBL Australia will:

- Progress the development of the Partner Laboratory Network progress of facilities to accommodate Partner Laboratory Groups at the Sydney and Perth nodes
- Open the EMBL Australia Mirror of the EMBL-EBI at The University of Queensland
- Launch the National Bioinformatics Network in partnership with Bioplatforms Australia
- Continue to foster access to EMBL expertise and resources via initiatives such as the International PhD program, facilitating visits to EMBL and hosting visits by EMBL personnel
- Develop and deliver initiatives to ensure the long-term sustainability of EMBL Australia, including building alliances with key Australian research institutions, supporting career-development opportunities for early-career researchers and maintaining links with funding bodies

Key activities

Launch by Minister Carr

On 29 March 2010, Senator The Hon. Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research officially launched EMBL Australia at an event held at Monash University. Special guests included Prof David de Kretser, Governor of Victoria; Mrs Jan de Kretser; Prof Iain Mattaj, Director General EMBL; Dr Silke Schumacher, Head of International Relations and Communications EMBL; and Prof Marianne Bronner-Fraser, California Institute of Technology.

At the launch, Minister Carr also announced:

- The appointment of Prof Nadia Rosenthal as Scientific Head of EMBL Australia
- The announcement of a new bioinformatics institute at The University of Queensland, complemented by a national support network for bioinformaticians
- The appointment of Dr Edwina McGlenn as the first Group Leader in the EMBL Australia Partner Laboratory Network
- The launch of the International PhD program and the signing of an MOU regarding this program between the EMBL and Group of eight.

The event was attended by more than 100 dignitaries representing participant members of EMBL Australia, the EMBL, other Australian research organisations and funding bodies.



The Hon Kim Carr MP, Prof David de Kretser, Prof Nadia Rosenthal, Dr Silke Schumacher, Prof Iain Mattaj, Prof Richard Larkins at the official launch of EMBL Australia.

Key activities cont.

Appointment of Scientific Head

In March 2010, Professor Nadia Rosenthal was appointed Scientific Head of EMBL Australia.

Professor Rosenthal is an acclaimed researcher with exceptional scientific credentials, including sixteen years working at Harvard Medical School.

She is the Director of the Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute (ARMI), the headquarters of EMBL Australia. She also directs the influential European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) outstation in Monterotondo, Italy, one of five EMBL campuses in Europe.

Her research concentrates on embryonic heart development, ageing mechanisms and stem cell-driven regeneration of neuromuscular and cardiac tissue, using the mouse as a model for human response to disease.

Prof Rosenthal also serves as Scientific Director of the Heart Science Centre at Imperial College London and is currently working with leading heart transplant surgeon Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub on developing new regenerative ways to treat heart failure.

In 2009, she produced the Scientific Plan for EMBL Australia, which sets out a strategy to create and deliver scientific excellence, increased collaboration, innovation and services to Australian life science.

As Scientific Head of EMBL Australia, Nadia leads the research directives of EMBL Australia, including the development of the partner laboratory network, managing interactions with research agencies and funding bodies, and liaising with international research groups.

Mirror Facility to the EMBL-EBI and the National Bioinformatics Network

Work has commenced on a mirror facility to the EMBL European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI). This facility will be located at The University of Queensland. In conjunction with Bioplatforms Australia, EMBL Australia is forming a bioinformatics network of experts who will serve as technical advisers to the EBI Mirror and assist in the provision of database services.

EBI Mirror at The University of Queensland

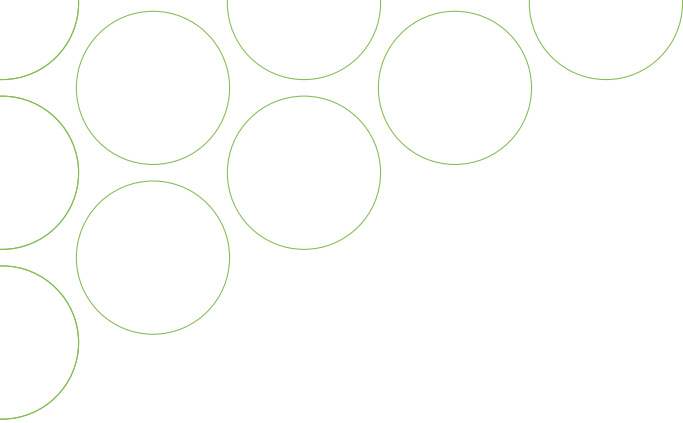
The EBI is based in Hinxton, UK and is one of the five campuses of the EMBL. It is a leading centre for research and services in bioinformatics. The EBI grew out of EMBL's pioneering work to provide public biological databases to the research community. The Institute manages databases of biological data including nucleic acid, protein sequences and macromolecular structures.

The EMBL Australia Mirror to the EMBL-EBI at The University of Queensland will replicate the most-used data services of EBI and make them freely available online to the international science community. This will alleviate pressure on existing EBI infrastructure and services and position Australia as a premier biomolecular data service provider. Services will include a broad selection of EBI's databases, computational workflows, software frameworks, and online tools for data retrieval, querying, analysis, comparison, integration and visualisation.

This Facility, the first of its kind in the world, will enhance Australia's international scientific standing, open new opportunities for collaboration and advanced training, and provide a key differentiator in attracting investment into Australian life sciences, biotechnology and ICT.

The EMBL Australia EBI Mirror will also implement and offer a number of unique and/or customised data services in selected areas complementary to, but not optimally addressed by, EBI itself (eg: agricultural-plant biotechnology). These new services, developed in coordination with EBI, will significantly extend international practice and offer new capabilities to the Australian and global research communities.

The EMBL Australia Mirror to the EMBL-EBI will initiate the Queensland node of the Australian Partner Laboratory Network, giving EMBL Australia a presence beyond the hub at Monash. The Mirror will constitute a major component of the infrastructure core to the Queensland node, and as such will support and synergise all other EMBL Australia nodes and activities across the country. It is intended that the Queensland node will, if possible, be further developed by the establishment of research groups in addition to this infrastructure core.



The Mirror will embrace a service function, ie: it is not a research facility, although focused research will be required to develop unique, customised data services in selected areas. It will be managed in accordance with EMBL policies that emphasise open access to data.

The Mirror will be headed by a Senior Manager, who will be appointed to the EMBL Australia Partner Laboratory Network Executive Group by EMBL Australia Council. The Senior Manager of the Mirror will be responsible to the EMBL Australia Partner Laboratory Network Executive Group through the EMBL Australia Scientific Head.

EMBL Australia Bioinformatics Network

The EBI Mirror will provide advanced technical training, industry liaison and outreach through the EMBL Australia Bioinformatics Network (EABN). This national network of bioinformaticians was announced in 2010 and aims to ensure the EBI Mirror has sufficient technical expertise to support its establishment and service delivery.

BioPlatforms Australia (BPA) and EMBL Australia have formed an alliance to develop and support the EABN. Implementation and operational arrangements for this shared network, including its proposed governance, have been developed by Bioplatforms Australia in conjunction with the Bioinformatics Advisory Committee of the EMBL Australia Council.

It is envisaged that EABN members will be technical reference people who assist in the provision of the Facility's database services. They will support science and/or IT service enquiries. Membership of the Network will require meeting agreed credentialing protocols. This may include participation in national bioinformatics events and conferences or training programs convened by EMBL Australia, including training at the EBI Mirror Facility (or other appropriate national and international organisations).

EMBL Australia will coordinate and financially support attendance of EABN members at various professional development and training events. So that the needs of the EMBL Australia Partner laboratory are met, approved members of this Network would be located at partner laboratory group sites. EMBL Australia funding will be used to support a program of professional development activities for all members of the EABN.

International PhD Program

The EMBL Australia International PhD Program enables students to undertake their PhD at the EMBL. The PhDs are jointly-awarded and co-supervised by the EMBL and the student's Australian university.

The Program offers Australian students the opportunity to be exposed to the EMBL philosophy and training. The EMBL is renowned for the internationality of its students, the interdisciplinary nature of its training, the dedicated mentoring provided by its supervisors and the early independence granted to its researchers. Fellowships are competitively awarded based on written applications, panel interviews and one-on-one meetings with the researchers. Entry is extremely competitive and students are able to use an Australian Postgraduate Award for the program.

In March 2010, the Australian Group of Eight universities signed an MOU with the EMBL as part of the EMBL Australia launch. The MOU is a collaborative agreement that provides a framework for the EMBL and Australian universities to interact regarding the PhD program.

The EMBL recruits PhD students twice a year, with positions available for up to three Australian students a year. One Australian applied in the July 2010 call for applications and that applicant was not invited to interview. Three Australians applied in the December 2010 round, with outcomes expected to be announced in April 2011.

Partner Laboratory Network

The EMBL Australia Partner Laboratory Network (PLN) will create a new research laboratory consisting of 18 research groups networked throughout Australia. The structure of the EMBL Australia PLN is based on the highly successful EMBL model, with distributed, highly integrated research nodes focused on complementary aspects of biological research.

At EMBL in Europe, young research groups enjoy the mentoring and experience of a small number of Senior Scientists, who normally have open-ended contracts and act as advisors to incoming Group Leaders. The EMBL Australia Council has agreed to adjunct appointments to mentor and support members of the PLN.

Key activities cont.

Departing from the EMBL European model in which EMBL campuses are independent entities, the EMBL Australia PLN is integrated within institutes situated on the campuses of participant organisations. These institutes have specific interests in the life sciences and extensive networks with other Australian universities and research institutes.

When fully operational, six partner laboratory groups will be based at the hub laboratory (ARMI/Monash), and four at each of three proposed nodes at The University of Western Australia, The University of Sydney, and The University of Queensland. Each group will include at least 1–2 postdoctoral fellows, 1–2 PhD students and a research assistant.

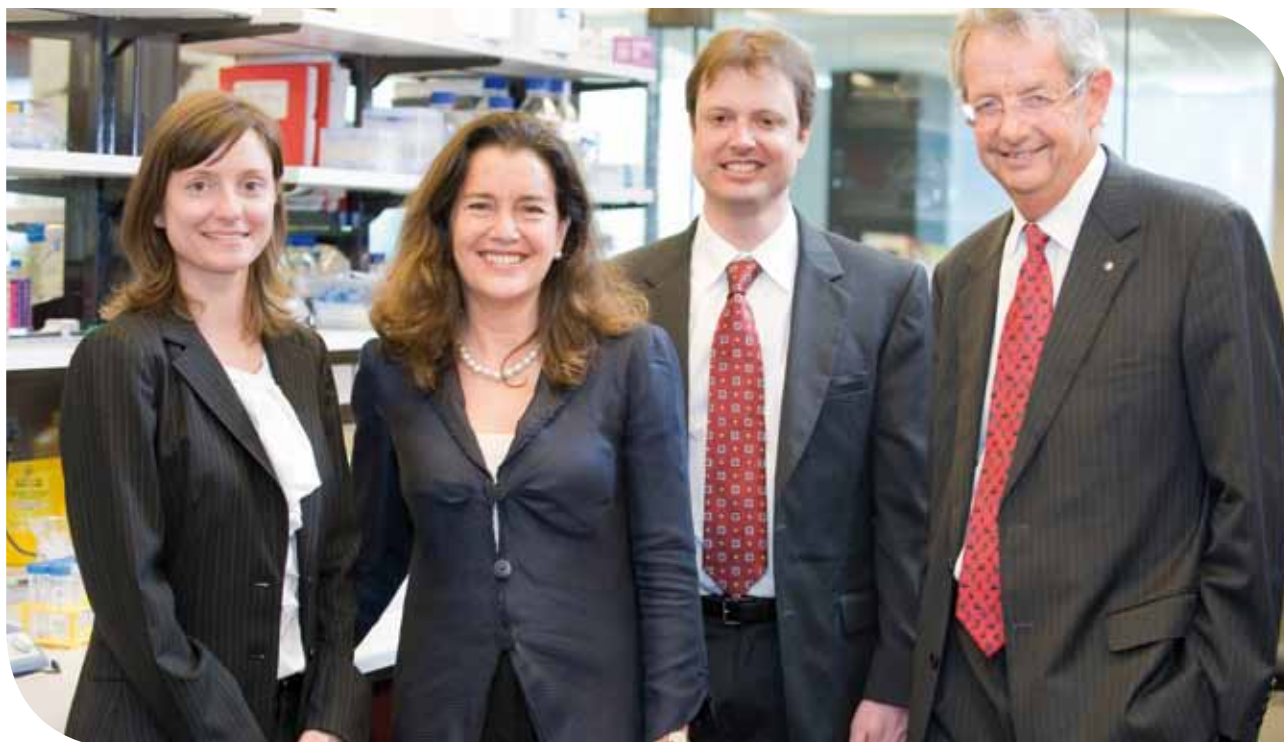
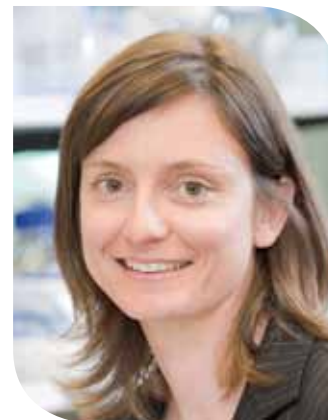
Following two rounds of international recruitment, in 2010, the first two Group Leaders in the partner laboratory network were appointed. These groups will be located at the PLN hub at the Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute within the Monash University Medical Biosciences Precinct in Melbourne.

Appointment of Edwina McGlinn

Dr Edwina McGlinn was appointed the first EMBL Australia PLN Group Leader in March 2010. She commenced her role in January 2011.

Dr McGlinn completed her PhD in Molecular and developmental biology in 2004 at the Institute for Molecular Bioscience at the University of Queensland. She then went on to complete post-doctoral studies as a Research Fellow in the Department of Genetics at Harvard Medical School.

Dr McGlinn's research aims to elucidate the complex genetic hierarchies that drive patterning and growth of the developing embryo, with particular focus on the vertebrate limb and axial skeleton.



Dr Edwina McGlinn, Prof Nadia Rosenthal, Dr Marcus Heisler, Prof Richard Larkins.

Appointment of Nicolas Plachta

In October 2010, Dr Nicolas Plachta was announced as the second Group Leader appointed to the EMBL Australia PLN.

Originally from Argentina, Dr Plachta undertook his degree in Israel and his doctorate in Switzerland. He will relocate to Australia in mid 2011 from the

California Institute of Technology where is undertaking post-doctoral research in developmental biology.

Dr Plachta has developed specialised imaging tools to study the dynamics of proteins in live mouse embryos. Through these tools he investigates the role of specific proteins during the first stages of embryonic development. His research provides insights into how cells and molecules interact during the early stages of life. His appointment brings an expertise in fundamental biological processes that will advance Australian stem cell and regenerative medicine research.

Faculty Development Program

The EMBL Australia Faculty Development Program (FDP) 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. Groups are funded by external Australian grants (eg: NH&MRC, ARC) and/or by Australian research institutions.

Dr Marcus Heisler was the first appointee under the FDP Program and has been based at the Heidelberg campus of the EMBL since 2009. Dr Heisler has a research team of seven people, including postdoctoral researchers, PhD students and technical staff. His 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.



Dr Heisler's team investigates cell polarity (how cells align to each other) and hormone transportation in plants. In 2010, he was awarded a European Research Council Starting Grant for the project *"The establishment and function of dorsiventral boundaries in plant organs"*.

As an Associate Member of EMBL, Australia can place up to two Group Leaders at EMBL laboratories at any one time. Interviews for a second position (funded by the NHMRC) were conducted by the EMBL in 2010, with no applicant considered suitable. Discussions between the NHMRC and EMBL regarding the funding for the program are ongoing, with NHMRC currently reviewing its commitment to this program.

Sponsorship of BioInfoSummer

EMBL Australia was a proud supporter of the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (ASMI) Summer Symposium in Bioinformatics held from 29 November – 3 December 2010.

BioInfoSummer brought together students (undergraduate, masters and PhD) and early career researchers from mathematical and biological sciences and introduced participants to state-of-the-art bioinformatics research. Program themes included:

- Introduction to Biology and Genomics
- Methods in Bioinformatics
- Genetic variation and disease
- Transcriptomics
- Phylogenetics

Governance

EMBL Australia participant expansion

The current membership of EMBL Australia includes The University of Western Australia, The University of Sydney, Monash University, The University of Queensland and CSIRO, with the support of the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science and Research (DIISR).

In 2010, the EMBL Australia Council decided that it would be to the mutual benefit of EMBL Australia and the universities for the membership of EMBL Australia to be expanded to include the other four Group of Eight universities. As a gesture to those universities not already members, Council agreed that there would be no call on those universities to financially contribute to the initial 7 year subscription.

Subsequently, The Australian National University, The University of Adelaide, The University of Melbourne, and The University of New South Wales were invited to become participant members in EMBL Australia. Interactions with these universities are proceeding, with formal induction expected in early 2011.

Council

Appointment of new members

The EMBL Australia Establishment Agreement includes provision for the EMBL Australia Council to include a number of independent scientists. In 2010, Council discussed this provision and invited a group of scientists to join the Council. The following scientists were appointed:

- Professor David Day, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Flinders University
- Professor Simon Foote, Director, Menzies Research Institute Tasmania
- Professor Chris Goodnow, Professor and Head of Division, The John Curtin School of Medical Research, The Australian National University
- Doug Hilton, Director, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute
- Professor Jim McCluskey, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Partnerships), The University of Melbourne

Council Members

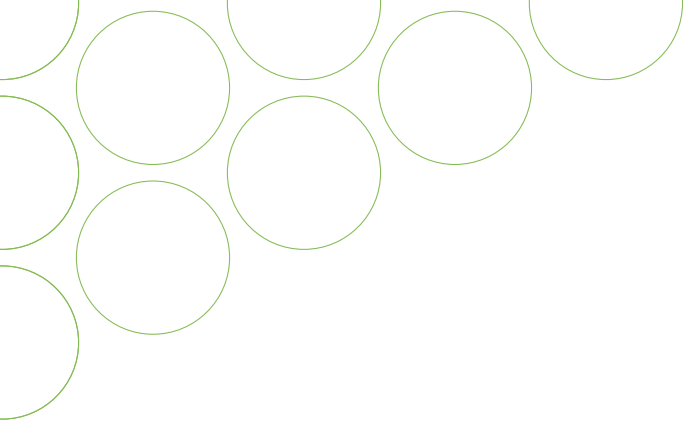
- Prof Richard Larkins (Chair)
- Prof Edwina Cornish, Monash University
- Prof David Day, Flinders University (from August 2010)
- Prof Simon Foote, Menzies Research Institute (from August 2010)
- Prof Chris Goodnow, Australian National University (from August 2010)
- Prof Trevor Hambley, The University of Sydney
- Prof Doug Hilton, WEHI (from March 2010)
- Prof Peter Leedman, The University of Queensland
- Prof Iain Mattaj, EMBL
- Prof Jim McCluskey, The University of Melbourne (from August 2010)
- Robyn Owens, The University of Western Australia
- Prof Nadia Rosenthal, EMBL Australia
- Dr Louise Ryan, CSIRO
- Dr Silke Schumacher, EMBL
- Prof Deborah Terry, The University of Queensland
- Prof Jill Trehwella, The University of Sydney
- Prof Brandon Wainwright, The University of Queensland
- Prof Steve Wesselingh, Monash University
- Dr Graeme Woodrow, CSIRO

Observers

- Julia Evans, DIISR
- Anne-Marie Lansdown, DIISR
- Prof Nadia Rosenthal, EMBL Australia
- Rachel Taylor, EMBL Australia
- Silvio Tiziani, EMBL Australia

Meetings

- 29 March 2010
- 1 June 2010
- 3 August 2010
- 5 October 2010
- 7 December 2010
- 1 February 2011



Planning and Finance Committee

The Planning and Finance Committee assists Council to fulfill its planning and financial responsibilities. It reports to Council on matters such as financial management practices and EMBL Australia accounts and is responsible for setting and reviewing annual targets and objectives in discussion with the Scientific Head.

Members

- Professor Steve Wesselingh, Monash University (Chair)
- Ms Janet Kemp, Monash University
- Nadia Rosenthal, EMBL Australia
- Campbell Thomson, The University of Western Australia
- Mr Silvio Tiziani, EMBL Australia

Observers

- Liz Jazwinska, ARC
- Tony Rothnie, DIISR

Meetings

19 January 2010
29 July 2010

Bioinformatics Committee

The Bioinformatics Committee assists and advises Council in matters relating to bioinformatics and related services. In particular, it works to support bioinformatics initiatives and provide expert advice to the Partner Laboratory Groups.

Members

- Prof Brandon Wainwright, The University of Queensland (Chair)
- Prof David Adelson, The University of Adelaide
- Assoc. Prof Jonathan Arthur, The University of Sydney
- Dr Ewan Birney, European Bioinformatics Institute
- Prof Paul Bonnington, Monash University
- Dr Andrew Gilbert, Bioplatforms Australia
- Dr David Lovell, CSIRO
- Prof Grant Morahan, The University of Western Australia
- Dr Mark Ragan, The University of Queensland
- Prof Nadia Rosenthal, EMBL Australia
- Prof Terry Speed, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute
- Mr Silvio Tiziani, EMBL Australia

Meetings

13 April 2010
7 July 2010

Staff



Prof Nadia Rosenthal, Scientific Head

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. 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. 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 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.



Australian visitors to EMBL 2010

March (Opening of the EMBL Advanced Training Centre)

Peter Tesch, Australian Ambassador to Germany
Martin Gallagher, EMBL Australia Council delegate
Silvio Tiziani, Executive Director, EMBL Australia

June

Ian Smith, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research Infrastructure,
Monash University

Dwayne Kirk, Project Director, Monash University

Richard Larkins, Chair EMBL Australia and Martin Gallagher,
EMBL Australia Council attended EMBL Council meeting as
observers

September

Jane Devlin, Architect, Design INC, Melbourne

October

Julia Evans, General Manager, Research Infrastructure
Branch, Australian Government

November

Richard Larkins, Chair EMBL Australia and Martin Gallagher,
EMBL Australia Council attended EMBL Council meeting as
observers

Visitors to EMBL Australia

March (launch of EMBL Australia)

The Hon. Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry,
Science and Research

Prof David de Kretser, Governor of Victoria and
Mrs Jan de Kretser

Prof Iain Mattaj, Director General, EMBL

Dr Silke Schumacher, Director International Relations,
EMBL

Prof Marianne Bronner, Albert Billings Ruddock Professor of
Biology, California Institute of Technology

Dr Marcus Heisler, Group Leader, EMBL Australia
(based at EMBL in Germany)

Dr Ewina McGlenn, Group Leader (designate),
EMBL Australia Partner Laboratory Network

August

Future Scientific Leaders: presentations by international
shortlisted applicants for the position of Group Leader,
EMBL Australia

December

Previous Visitors Dr Chuck Cook, PANDA Group
Co-operation Officer (EMBL European Bioinformatics
Institute)

Financial report

	Actual 2010	Notes
Income		
Grant Funding		
DIISR Funding Agreement (2010)	\$2,000,000	
Other Revenue		
Interest earned on invested income	\$77,635	1
Total Income	\$2,077,635	
Expenditure		
Salary Expenses	\$183,402	2
Non Salary Expenses		
Building Expenses	\$14,824	
IT, Communications, Printing & Stationery	\$27,166	
Travel	\$104,734	
Entertainment	\$23,371	
Consultants	\$8,500	3
Recruitment	\$54,275	4
Financial/Admin fees	\$8,039	
Contribution to ARMI Director's fund	\$50,000	
Recover funds/close acct ex EMBL activities fund (3152501)	-\$70,546	5
Total Expenses	\$403,765	
Surplus for the Year	\$1,673,870	
Balance CF (carried forward) at 31/12/2009	\$1,910,865	
Adjustment to CF (carried forward) at 1/1/10	\$33,777	6
Surplus for the Year	\$1,673,870	
CF Surplus at 31/12/10	\$3,618,512	

Notes to Financial Report

1. Interest Received

\$77,635 interest was earned on invested income. This represents interest earned on the \$2M received in 2010 and the balance of the \$2M received in 2009 as per Funding Agreement.

Shown as an expenditure recovery in SAP (should be revenue recovery).

2. Salaries Expenses (includes on costs)

Executive Director	\$72,604
Communications and Development Officer	\$33,980
Executive Assistant	\$53,327
Agency staff &FBT	\$23,491
	\$183,402

3. Consultants

Audit fees for 2010: \$7000

4. Recruitment

Group Leader recruitment and appointment costs \$28,558 and staff appointment advertising costs \$25718

5. Recoveries

Incorrectly transferred as revenue instead of expenditure recovery to close EMBL activities acct on 29/4/2010.

Shown as revenue recovery in SAP (should be expenditure recovery).

6. Adjustment of 2010 Carry Forward

Note: 2009 report indicated a surplus of \$1,910,865 but consolidation of EMBL funds totalled \$1,944,642

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

This audit opinion is prepared for the purpose of the Grant Agreement dated 4th December 2009 for the EMBL Australia Partner Laboratory Network ("the Project") between the Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and Monash University.

Scope

We have conducted an independent audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards of the Statement of Income and Expenditure ("the Statement") for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010. The Statement specifies an amount of \$403,765 of expenditure on the Project and an amount of \$2,077,635 of income towards the Project.

Our audit involved an examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amount of the grant funds incurred, and the amount of the income received on the Project. This included an examination of the University's financial records, and receipts, and an evaluation of the policies and procedures used to calculate the expenditure on the Project. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether the methodology used to calculate the expenditure is in accordance with the Agreement, and that the figures stated are true and fair.

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

Audit Opinion

We confirm that:

- the Statement of Income and Expenditure is true and fair;
- the funding was expended for the Project in accordance with the Agreement; and
- the balance of funds at 31 December 2010 is \$ 3,618,512.



RSM BIRD CAMERON
Chartered Accountants



Warwick Spargo
Partner

Melbourne, Victoria
Dated: 18 May 2011

Documents and Media releases

A goodbye to remember

EMBL's new canteen was packed to the rafters with well-wishers wanting to say goodbye to former Administrative Director Bernd-Uwe Jahn at his farewell dinner on 8 March.

In his speech Uwe joked that it was "nothing to do with the free food" that so many of his friends and colleagues past and present had attended. DG Iain Mattaj

and Head of Finance Keith Williamson said a few words to thank Uwe for his nine years of sterling service to EMBL and to wish him a happy retirement, and Iain announced that a newly planted area of the EMBL Heidelberg campus would be designated 'Uwe's Orchard'. Then everyone went to the ATC lobby to watch live band Stage Diva and dance the night away.



Photos: Wolfgang Hubner



Photo: Marlene Schump

Left: the new canteen had never been so full. Top: Iain and Uwe; above, gifts galore

EMBL Australia launches down under

On Monday 29 March Kim Carr, Australia's Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, led a special launch of EMBL Australia in Melbourne.

A joint venture supported by the Australian government and involving the universities of Sydney, Queensland, Western Australia and Monash and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), EMBL Australia was initiated in 2008 upon the country being granted the first Associate Membership of EMBL. It provides a direct link for Australian and European researchers and allows them to benefit

from the world-leading science happening on opposite sides of the globe.

During the day's programme, Senator Carr announced the appointment of Nadia Rosenthal as Scientific Head of EMBL Australia, the establishment of the EMBL Australia PhD programme, and the appointment of Edwina McGill as the first group leader within the Partner Laboratory Network.

"EMBL Australia will create and deliver scientific excellence focused on six research themes: regenerative medicine and stem cell biology, human genetics and disease, cancer and clinical research, chemical biology, plant biology and systems biology," said Senator Carr. "EMBL is renowned for creating the next

generation of scientific leaders by providing funding certainty and encouraging a collaborative approach. We are pleased that Australian researchers will be working with such an established model of success."

EMBL's Iain Mattaj and Silke Schumacher attended the launch alongside Governor of Victoria David de Kretser and the Consul-Generals of Denmark, Greece and Croatia, three of EMBL's 20 member states. "More than 170 people attended the launch," said Richard Larkins, Chair of EMBL Australia. "We're delighted and encouraged to see the level of support shown to the EMBL Australia initiative by Senator Carr and the science community."



L-r: Kim Carr, David de Kretser, Nadia Rosenthal, Silke Schumacher, Iain Mattaj and Richards Larkins



Photos: EMBL Australia

The Australian

Alliance fishes for new stroke treatment

- Cheryl Jones
- From: The Australian
- April 07, 2010 12:00AM

A STUDY of the amazing self-healing ability of the zebra fish by Australian scientists collaborating with Europe's leading life sciences research institute could deliver new treatments for heart disease and stroke.

Monash University scientists are conducting the research under an agreement between Australia and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, a publicly funded coalition of 20 member states.

The deal makes Australia the first associate member of the EMBL. Programs under the agreement include a scheme, expected to start in October, giving Group of Eight students access to joint PhD programs with the European institute.

The zebra fish research is taking place at Monash University's Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute, headquarters of EMBL Australia. "A major theme at this node of the EMBL partnership will be the regeneration of tissue; the way, for example, dead heart muscle can be repaired after people have heart attacks and, similarly, how brain tissue can regenerate after strokes," EMBL Australia chairman Richard Larkins told the HES.

He said the fast-breeding zebra fish, which shares much of its DNA with humans, could yield weapons against diseases that will hit Australia hard as our population ages.

The fish is complementing the laboratory rat and other species used as models for studying human disease at the molecular level.

"The zebra fish . . . has a unique ability to repair its own tissue," Professor Larkins said. The Monash team was studying the role of growth factors proteins that stimulate cell growth, differentiation and replication in tissue regeneration, he said.

Meanwhile, under a memorandum of understanding signed last week, up to three graduates a year from Group of Eight campuses will head to Europe for PhD degrees supervised jointly by their universities and the EMBL, which has its headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany.

Under another scheme through the alliance, early career scientists will spend five years at the EMBL, followed by four at their Australian universities.

And Australia's biological number-crunching capacity will be boosted by the establishment of a node of the European Bioinformatics Institute, part of the EMBL, at the University of Queensland. The node will give Australian universities access to the EBI's formidable bioinformatics resources. A hybrid of biology and computer science, bioinformatics is central to gene sequencing and discovery, and to the simulation of complex biological systems. It is critical to handling the explosion of data being generated by the latest DNA sequencers.

"A bioinformatics network is being built around Australia to link with the Queensland node and, through it, the EBI in Cambridge," Professor Larkins said.

Australia was offered associate membership of the EMBL after its officials visited laboratories here.

Membership gives Australia a seat at the EMBL table, and covers Monash University, the University of Queensland, the University of Sydney, the University of Western Australia and the CSIRO.

However, many of the programs are open to other universities.

Funding & Stakeholders

Participants

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

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ARC

- Financial support for Faculty Development Program (Dr Marcus Heisler)

Australian Government/DIISR

- Super Science Funding
- International Science Linkages Grant

Australian National Data Service

- Financial support to establish the EBI Mirror Facility at the University of Queensland (via a separate agreement with the University of Queensland).

Australian Research Council

- Financial contribution to the Associate Membership Subscription

Bioplatforms Australia

- Access to core research facilities and services
- Financial support to establish the EBI Mirror Facility at the University of Queensland (via a separate agreement with the University of Queensland).

CSIRO

- Financial contribution to the Associate Membership Subscription

Group of Eight

- Support for International PhD Program and preparation of Framework Agreement

Monash University

- Financial contribution to the Associate Membership Subscription
- Accommodation for the partner laboratory groups and access to research facilities.
- Office accommodation and corporate support services (including legal, payroll) for EMBL Australia secretariat

NCRIS

- Financial contribution to the Associate Membership Subscription

The University of Queensland

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The University of Sydney

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The University of Western Australia

- Financial contribution to the Associate Membership Subscription

Participants



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