

ACDS Mentorship Program: Rapid Fire Professional Development Workshops

The ACDS 'Rapid Fire' Professional Development Workshops are a series of 4 dynamic sessions designed for ACDS Mentees. Each 30-minute workshop features a 15 min presentation from an influential leader in the cell death community, followed by a 15 min open discussion period. These workshops are designed to foster an engaging environment that encourages active participation and open dialogue between other Mentees and selected Mentors. Mentees will gain invaluable insight and advice from inspirational members of the ACDS community to build their own research careers. This format promotes a dynamic exchange of ideas and personalised guidance crucial for professional development.

Please note that these workshops have been specifically designed for you, a Mentee, during the 2025 program and are exclusively open to Mentees only. Therefore, your attendance is strongly encouraged.

If you have any questions, please contact the program organisers: Georgia Atkin-Smith (atkin-smith.g@wehi.edu.au), Pooranee Morgan (pooranee.morgan@baker.edu.au) or Sabrina Burgener (s.burgener@imb.uq.edu.au).

Workshop 1: Research Career in Industry – Dr. Kim Newton, Genentech

Date: Wednesday April 2nd

Time: 9-9:30am AEDT (4-4:30pm San Fran time)

Brief: Gain first hand insights into building a successful research career working in industry and understand how this compares to traditional academia. Dr Kim Newton will delve into the contrasts between industry and academia, highlighting the pros and cons of each. Gain advice on transitioning and pursuing this route.

Workshop 2: Conflict Resolution – Prof. James Murphy, WEHI

Date: Wednesday May 28th

Time: 2-2:30pm AEDT

Brief: Perspectives on navigating conflicts effectively within academic/workplace settings. Prof. James Murphy will discuss strategies for managing disagreements over project direction, resolving disputes when supervisors restrict conference participation, and dealing with difficult conversations surrounding authorship for publications. Topic in this session will help you to apply to other conflicting situations such as interpersonal challenges with lab members.

Workshop 3: Research Financing & Budgeting – Prof. Ivan Poon, LIMS

Date: Wednesday August 13th

Time: 2-2:30pm AEDT

Brief: Unlock the essentials of effective financial management in research with Prof. Ivan Poon. Critical aspects in this session will cover: (1) How do you write a budget when applying for grants (i.e. lab supplies, your salaries and PhD stipend/RA salaries). (2) You've finally got a grant, how do you manage this and keep track of spending.

Workshop 4: Interviews & Interviewing – Prof. Kate Schroder, UQ

Date: Wednesday October 22nd

Time: 2-2:30pm AEDT

Brief: Tips and tricks for interviewing for your dream job – what are interviewers often looking for. Conversely, when are you interviewing potential students, RAs etc, what are the green and red flags? Advice for key questions to ask? Background checks? Weight on referees – how to decipher a bad referee based on a personal clash rather than work qualities? Prof. Kate Schroder shares all the tricks and benefits to secure your next dream job or hiring the perfect person