

Friday, 30 May 2025

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Professional Development Award Application Last Call!

Don't forget to submit your application for the ACDS Professional Development Award for 2025!

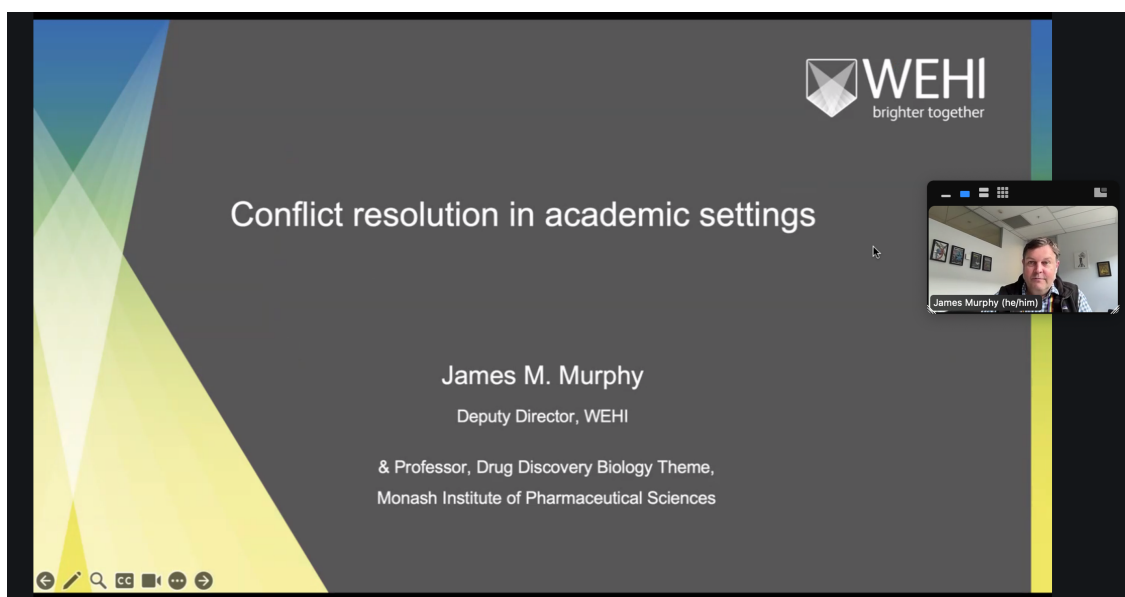
We will be offering a **\$2000 travel award** for a PhD student or ECR to undertake national or international professional development-related activities!

Applications will **close at 5 pm (AEST) on June 6th**, and successful applicants will be announced in early July.

For more information on the award and how to apply, please click [here](#).

ACDS Mentorship Program - Rapid Fire Workshop Series

In the last workshop, we had the opportunity to have a conversation with Prof. James Murphy from WEHI on working conflict resolution, especially when it comes to journal authorship assignments and dispute. We are extremely thankful for Prof. Murphy's time and advice. This insightful session provided



The next Professional Development Workshop is on **August 13th**, with **Prof. Ivan Poon (La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science)** presenting on Research Financing and Budgeting. To get to know Ivan and learn more about his research journey, check out his Featured Profile below!

- ◆ **Workshop 3: Research Financing & Budgeting – Prof. Ivan Poon, LIMS**
- 📅 **Wednesday, August 13th**
- 🕒 **2:00–2:30 AM AEDT**

[This event is exclusive for members who have signed up for the Mentorship Programme]

Upcoming Events - Save the dates!

ACDS Seminar Series

The next ACDS Seminar will be held on **July 2nd, 11am AEST**. Stay tuned for more information.

ACDS x ECDO International Cell Death Seminar Series

We had an incredible lineup of the speakers from Australia and across the globe presenting in the previous ACDS x ECDO International Cell Death Seminar. We thank Dr Kate Wickliffe (Genentech, USA), Dr Rebekka

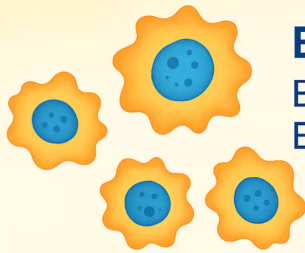
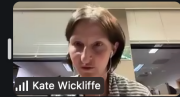
and Corinna König (Otto von Guericke University, DE) for sharing with us their latest research and breakthrough!



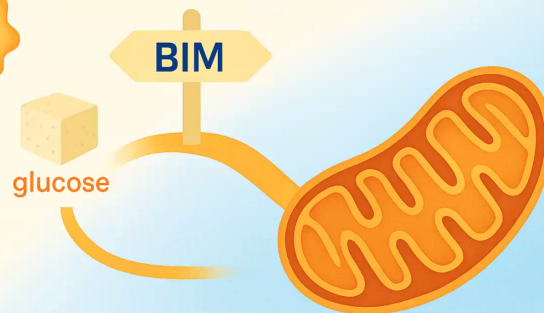
Balancing Between Life and Death: A Caspase-8/FLIP-Centric View of Cell Death

Kate Wickliffe
Department of Physiological Chemistry
7 May 2025

Genentech
A Member of the Roche Group



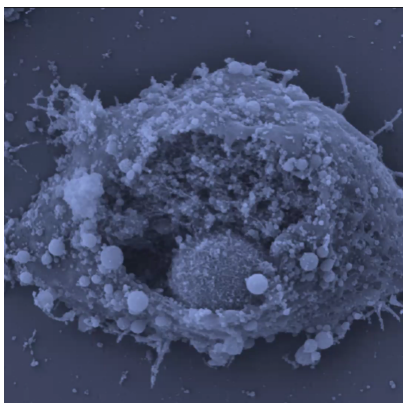
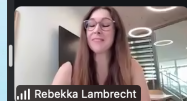
Beyond Apoptosis: BIM at the Crossroads of Energy and Mitochondria



Dr. Rebekka Lambrecht

Formerly: Thomas Brunner lab,
University of Konstanz, Germany

Now: Eran Elinav lab,
Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel



Innate immune sensing of danger signals and cell death

INTERNATIONAL CELL DEATH
SEMINAR



Australian
National
University

Professor Si Ming Man

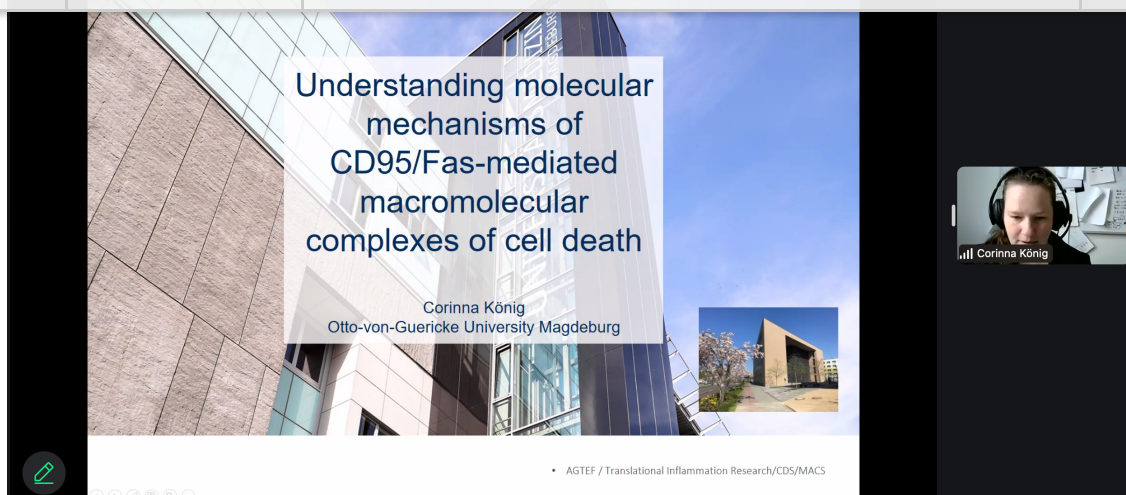
CSL Centenary Fellow
NHMRC Leadership Fellow
The John Curtin School of Medical
Research

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📷 [innately_immune](https://www.instagram.com/innately_immune)

🌐 www.linkedin.com/in/si-ming-man-5745693a/

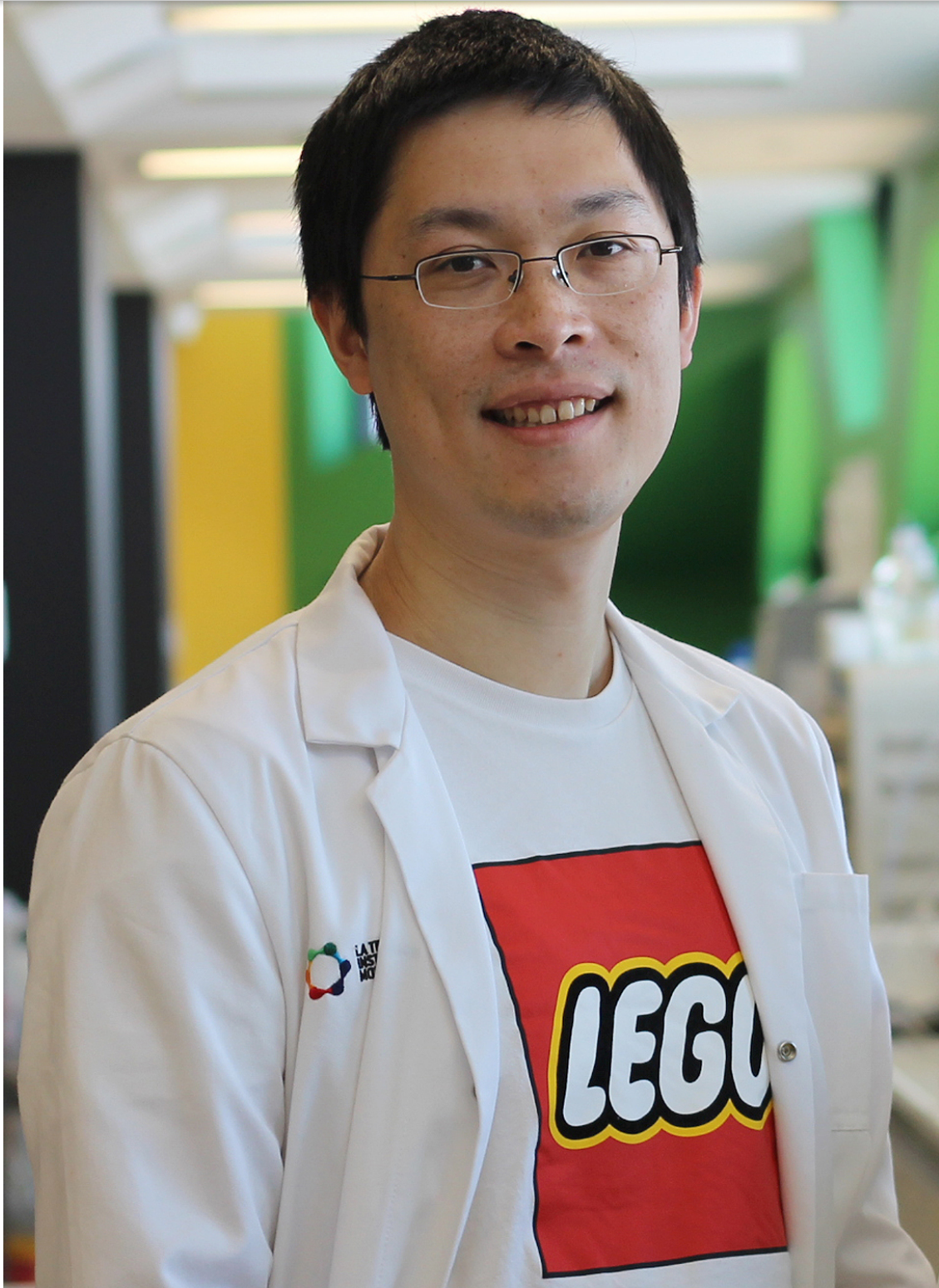


The next ACDS x ECDO International Cell Death Seminar will be on **September 3rd, 4.30pm AEST / 8:30am CEST.**

Special Workshop on Using AI in Medical Research

We are organising a special workshop on the use of AI in Medical Research on **August 6th.** More information to come!

Featured Scientist: Prof. Ivan Poon



Getting to know Ivan

I completed my Bachelor of Biomedical Science at Monash University (2004) with a focus on Biochemistry and trained with David Jans on nuclear transport. Through a number of unexpected events, I ended up at the John Curtin School of Medical Research at ANU and completed my PhD (2009) with Chris Parish and Mark Hulett working on degradative enzymes and necrotic cell clearance. The apoptotic cell clearance field was growing rapidly at that time and I was

immediately after my PhD, I continued to work with Mark at La Trobe University (2009-2011) as it was so much fun in discovering how small peptides called defensins could bind distinct phospholipids on the plasma membrane to oligomerize and causes necrotic-like cell death (sounds familiar?). After attending the Gordon Conference on Cell Clearance in 2010, it was clear to me that I had to go back to the cell clearance field and subsequently joined Kodi Ravichandran (Ravi)'s laboratory (2012-2013) at the University of Virginia (UVA), where I accidentally discovered the first negative regulator of apoptotic cell fragmentation. Fascinated with how this disassembly process is regulated, I established my independent laboratory back at La Trobe University in 2014 with great support from Mark and Ravi. Ever since then and with the help of many trainees and collaborators, my lab investigates how and why dying cells undergo fragmentation in the context of infection, inflammation, and more recently cancer and even during viral infections in chickens!

What are your most significant publications?

There are only a handful of times in my career I could remember clearly that the data stunned me. During my PhD, I was trying to identify what the serum protein histidine-rich glycoprotein (HRG) is binding to on necrotic cells. After 2 years of unfruitful pull-down experiments, I decided to use one of those newly available membrane lipid strips to test whether HRG could bind to lipids instead. To our surprise, HRG binds predominately to PtdIns(4)P (a type of phosphoinositide), suggesting other phospholipids besides phosphatidylserine could function as 'eat-me' signals on dead cells (**PMID:20071662**). These lipid-protein interaction studies surprisingly carried into my first post-doc, in which I was tasked to determine how plant defensin NaD1 could mediate cell necrosis. We subsequently discovered the ability of NaD1 to interact with a range of phospholipids, in particular PtdIns(4,5)P₂, which causes NaD1 to oligomerize and facilitate membrane lysis (**PMID:24692446**). At the time, these unexpected observations led to many exciting hypotheses and subsequent studies (e.g. **PMID:27647905; 36859344**). The second set of data that surprised me was when I started to investigate how apoptotic cells undergo fragmentation. Imaging the fragmentation process by time-lapse microscopy led to the discovery of thin membrane protrusions coined as 'apoptopodia' and 'beaded-apoptopodia' (**PMID: 24646995; 26074490**) (I tried to call them 'Apoptotic String-like Structure' initially...).

What decisions made the biggest impact or have proved to be the most beneficial for your career, and what advice would you give to up-and-coming cell death researchers?

decided to go down the rabbit hole to investigate how apoptotic cells fragment into ApoBDs. Although many have dismissed this process for various reasons, my time-lapse microscopy data was so fascinating to me that drives me to investigate this further. I was even crazy enough to perform a drug screen by myself to try identifying regulators of this process and ran >1,600 flow cytometry samples one-by-one over 3 weeks. My advice is, if the data is compelling and you are passionate about the process, follow it!

What motivates you to get into the lab?

It is so much fun to be in the lab doing experiments! I wish I can be a PhD student/post-doc again, so enjoy it while you can! I just want to identify all the molecular regulators of apoptotic cell disassembly and see whether modulating the disassembly process could be beneficial in certain disease settings.

What is your favourite form of cell death and why?

Definitely apoptosis! Apoptotic cells can disassemble beautifully to generate large extracellular vesicles!

What do you enjoy doing for fun or in your spare time?

With two kids at primary school age, there aren't much spare time. Nevertheless, I am obsessed with LEGO, manga, anime and designing things for 'Where Are My Cells?' (my science art passion: www.wherearemycells.com)! [ACDS is very grateful to Ivan for his contribution to ACDS merch :D]



Where are my cells?

When science meets art...

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ACDS Member Publications

Published a cell death paper recently? Let us know and we'll list it here

Molina-Lopez C, Hurtado-Navarro L, O'Neill LAJ, **Pelegrin P**. 4-octyl itaconate reduces human NLRP3 inflammasome constitutive activation with the cryopyrin-associated periodic syndrome p.R262W, p.D305N and p.T350M variants. *Cell Mol Life Sci*. 2025 May 23;82(1):209. doi: 10.1007/s00018-025-05699-5. PMID: 40410596; PMCID: PMC12102053.

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Panda SK, Sanchez-Pajares IR, Rehman A, Del Vecchio V, Mele L, Chipurupalli S, **Robinson N**, Desiderio V. ER stress and/or ER-phagy in drug resistance? Three coincidences are proof. *Cell Commun Signal*. 2025 May 13;23(1):223. doi: 10.1186/s12964-025-02232-w. PMID: 40361118; PMCID: PMC12070796.

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The Merck logo is displayed in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.The logo for apop BIOSCIENCES features the word "apop" in a red, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by a stylized graphic of a Y-shaped molecule with a red sphere at the top right, and the word "BIOSCIENCES" in a smaller, grey, uppercase, sans-serif font below it.The logo for the La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science consists of a colorful, multi-pointed star-like graphic on the left, followed by the text "LA TROBE INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR SCIENCE" in a bold, black, uppercase, sans-serif font.The WEHI logo features a stylized, multi-colored geometric shape on the left, followed by the text "WEHI" in a large, bold, black, uppercase, sans-serif font, and the tagline "brighter together" in a smaller, black, lowercase, sans-serif font below it.The Promega logo is set against a yellow background and features a stylized, black, circular graphic on the left, followed by the word "Promega" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

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