

Senior Biology Day

30 November Saturday

The University of Queensland St Lucia Campus

8am - 8.25am

Registration and Refreshments

8.30am - 9am

Keynote: Biotechnology

Professor Avril Robertson

School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences

9am - 10am

Workshop: The Research Investigation

Tips and tricks for summative internal assessment 3 (IA3)

Dr Gurion Ang

School of Biological Sciences

10am - 10.30am

Morning Tea

10.30am - 12.45pm

Workshop: A Genetics Gig¹

Unit 4 content deficits and implications for teaching and learning based on how subject matter has been assessed in mock external examinations

Dr Gurion Ang

12.45pm - 1.30pm

Lunch

1.30pm - 3.45pm

Workshop: A Practical Plethora

Held in laboratories at the School of Biological Sciences - welcome to our undergraduate biology teaching space!

'Choose-your-own-adventure' and visit stations demonstrating and engaging you in mandatory and suggested practicals from Unit 1 to Unit 4.

Dr Gurion Ang and his students

3.45pm - 4.30pm

Drinks, Light Refreshments, and Networking²

Dr Gurion Ang will also share discussion points from the Teacher-Facilitated Networking Forum held during the UQ-STAQ Senior Science Day 29 November.

Register through www.staq.qld.edu.au.

¹no singing or dancing involved.

²singing and/or dancing optional.



Meet our Academics



Professor Avril Robertson
School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences

Director of Biotechnology programs
M. Chem (Honours First Class), PhD, GCert HigherEd
Higher Education Leadership, National Excellence in
School Leadership Initiative

Professor Robertson is the Director of Biotechnology programs at University of Queensland, Australia. She completed a commercially focused degree and PhD (naturally occurring anti-cancer compounds) in bio-organic chemistry at the University of St Andrews, Scotland in 2000. Thereafter, she had a very successful industrial career spanning 10 years across three companies: Tripos Discovery Research Ltd, ThermoFisher Scientific and Cyclacel Ltd. At Cyclacel, as leader of pre-clinical drug discovery programs, she directed multi-disciplinary teams of scientists in discovery and development of novel oncology drugs targeting cell cycle kinases.

In 2011 Professor Robertson moved to The University of Queensland to pursue an academic career. She initially used her medicinal chemistry and commercial expertise in a collaborative project to develop small molecule anti-inflammatory compounds which target innate immunity through inhibition of NLRP3 inflammasome. This work, and the associated intellectual property, were commercialised in one of the largest ever biotech Series A investments (\$22M) to any Australian university, leading to a new spin-out company Inflazome.

Professor Robertson's research group continues to focus on discovery and development of novel therapeutics to treat diseases of unmet medical need. Current projects include modulation of inflammatory pathways, development of antimicrobial agents and oncology drug discovery. In addition Robertson group develop molecular probes (photoaffinity, fluorescent, biotinylated) to understand biological pathways/conduct mode of action studies and develop radiotracers for bio-distribution and diagnostic purposes.

Dr Gurion Ang
School of Biological Sciences

Associate Lecturer (teaching focused)
Dip Biotech, B. Science (Honours First Class), PhD

Dr Gurion Ang is an academic-professional hybrid. In his role as a teaching-focussed academic with the School of Biological Sciences, he optimises student learning, performance and assessment in undergraduate biology courses. He teaches first year evolutionary theory for psychology students, second year entomology for our UQ Study Abroad students, as well as second year ecology and zoology. He is a practitioner of active learning pedagogues, especially inquiry-based learning, in his classroom.

He is also a part of the Faculty of Science Engagement Unit and in this role, he delivers unique workshops internationally. His suite of workshops includes an exploration of biology in popular culture, palaeontology, food security, and conservation science.

Gurion completed a zoology degree followed by his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in 2017 at the University of Queensland. He is an entomologist working with pest insects in agricultural settings. His research explores insect-plant interactions: understanding the intricate relationships between crop plants and their insect pests enable us to employ pest management strategies that ultimately reduce our reliance on insecticides. He undertakes this research from behavioural ecology and chemical ecology approaches.

