

# SPEAKER BIOS



**Prof Jennifer Mack** (*Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston Children's Hospital*)

Dr. Jennifer Mack received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School and her MPH from Harvard School of Public Health. She subsequently completed her residency in Pediatrics and fellowships in Pediatric Hematology Oncology and Pediatric Palliative Care at Boston Children's Hospital and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA. She is an attending physician at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Boston Children's Hospital, Director of the Center for Outcomes and Policy Research at Dana-Farber, Associate Chief of the Division of Population Sciences at Dana-Farber, and Faculty Vice President for the Office for Faculty Development at Dana-Farber. She is also a Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Her research interests are in parent-clinician and patient-clinician communication, health care equity and quality, and palliative care.



**Prof Mignon Loh** (*Seattle Children's Hospital*)

Dr. Mignon Loh is center director for the Ben Towne Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders Research and chief of the Division of Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, Bone Marrow Transplant and Cellular Therapy, overseeing the Cancer and Blood Disorders Center at Seattle Children's Hospital. Her research focuses on how and why leukemia progresses, as well as making genomics discoveries in the lab that translate into new and better diagnostics and therapeutics for children, adolescents and young adults with leukemia.



**Prof Natalie Bradford** (*Queensland University of Technology*)

Natalie Bradford is a Professor in Childhood Cancer and Palliative Care epidemiology and outcomes, in a conjoint position with Queensland University of Technology and Cancer Council Queensland. She is also Director of the newly funded NHMRC Centre of Research excellence in Paediatric Palliative Care. Natalie holds a PhD and Masters in Public Health and has decades of clinical and research experience in cancer control and palliative care in children. Her research program explores the use of technology to improve outcomes at the individual, service and systems level of health, across the continuum of care in hospitals, homes and communities.



**A/Prof Jason Cain** (*Hudson Institute of Medical Research*)

Jason Cain is Head of the Developmental and Cancer Biology research group in Hudson Institute's Centre for Cancer Research, and head of the Sarcoma program. He is the inaugural My Room Children's Cancer Charity Fellow and heads up a dedicated My Room Children's Cancer Charity Research Laboratory at Hudson Institute. In 2023, Cain was appointed as a Director to the Board of the Australia and New Zealand Sarcoma Association (ANZSA).

As a developmental and cancer biologist, Jason's research focuses on understanding the mechanisms underpinning the development and progression of childhood and adolescent sarcomas, with the aim of identifying novel therapeutic strategies to improve patient outcomes.

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## **Professor Bryan Day** (*QIMR Berghofer*)

Prof Bryan Day is the Group Leader of the Sid Faithfull Brain Cancer Laboratory at the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Brisbane, as well as the Co-Director of the Children's Brain Cancer Centre (CBCC) and Co-Director of the Australian Brain Cancer Research Alliance (ABCARA). He obtained his PhD in Medical Sciences from the University of Queensland in 2008. His focus, over the last 20+ years, has been as a primary researcher studying the biology and development of novel therapies to treat adult and paediatric brain cancers. Recently, Prof Day and team spearheaded an international collaboration to explore the role of OLIG2, and evaluate the efficacy of the small molecule OLIG2 inhibitor CT-179, in treating paediatric medulloblastoma, culminating in a recent publication in Nature Communications (Li et al.,..... Day 2025).

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## **Professor Andrew Wilks** (*SYNthesis Bioventures*)

Andrew Wilks is a serial entrepreneur with 25+ years on the “dark side”, following a highly successful academic career as a cancer researcher at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research. There he discovered and named the first two members of the JAK family of protein kinases (JAK1 and JAK2), and worked to elaborate the JAK/STAT pathway, a key intracellular signaling pathway that drives proliferation and cell fate in hemopoiesis and inflammation. He has been a founder of more than a dozen biotech companies, including ASX-listed Cytopia (1997) and the SYNthesis Group (2008), and is co-inventor of a number of clinically-trialed drug candidates, including the recently FDA- and TGA-approved JAK inhibitor Momelotinib, now known as Omjjara. He is founder & MD at SYNthesis Bioventures, an ESVCLP focused on the life science and biotech space. Andrew holds Adjunct/Honorary Professorships at Monash University and the University of Melbourne. He is an elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science (AAS), Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering (ATSE) and of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS). He has received a number of significant awards, including the ATSE Clunies Ross Medal (Entrepreneur of the Year) and the Prime Minister's Prize for Innovation (2024).

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## **Associate Professor Maté Biro** (*Garvan Institute of Medical Research*)

A/Prof Maté Biro received his PhD summa cum laude at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics in Germany in 2011. His doctoral work focused on the biophysics of cellular actin cortex assembly. He previously studied Physics (BSc) and then Bioinformatics and Theoretical Systems Biology (MSc) at the Imperial College in London, UK, and did his Masters research at MIT, Cambridge, MA, USA. He has worked at a particle accelerator in Tsukuba, Japan and as a Research Associate for A\*STAR in Singapore. In 2012, he moved to the Centenary Institute, working on T cell migration and antitumour functions. A/Prof Biro worked as EMBL Australia group leader at the Single Molecule Science node at the University of New South Wales, Sydney from 2016 to 2024, before joining the Garvan Institute of Medical Research as Laboratory Head and Faculty in 2025. A/Prof Biro is a founder and the current president of the Australian Society for Mechanobiology. His research, highly multidisciplinary in nature, focuses on the migration of cytotoxic lymphocytes and tumour cells, and the signalling and mechanical interactions between them.

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