



3rd NATIONAL

EYE & TISSUE BANKING CONFERENCE

ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES | March 3 – 4
SYDNEY 2026

hosted by the NSW TISSUE BANK on behalf of EBAANZ & BAA



Acknowledgement of Country

EBAANZ and BAA members acknowledge our first Australians, the Traditional Custodians of Country, and recognise their enduring connection to the land, seas and waterways which have always been places of community and culture. The 3rd National Eye & Tissue Banking Conference is held on the traditional lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation and we pay our respect to the history and culture of this place, and to the elders who once tended and taught and to those who still tend and teach, and to those who's learning is still to come.

The Gadigal people have cared for this land since time immemorial, and their knowledge, culture, and custodianship continue to shape and enrich this place. As we come together for the Eye & Tissue Banking Conference, we recognise the deep significance of healing, care, and community within First Nations cultures, and we honor those traditions as we share knowledge and work toward better outcomes for all.

to our generous

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Thank you



Sight for Life
Foundation



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FOUNDATION



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**"To preserve and enhance vision
throughout life"**

Sight for Life Foundation includes the Sight for Life Foundation Theatre, which provides day surgical services, and the Sight for Life Foundation Training and Research Laboratory, which delivers microsurgical training and research opportunities. Revenue from the Theatre supports the Laboratory's work in developing future ophthalmologists and hand surgeons.

"Our vision is to save yours"

Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation raises vital funds to support SEH, the largest specialist eye hospital in the southern hemisphere. The Foundation funds equipment, research, training and patient-care programs that drive innovation, reduce wait times and improve outcomes, helping more Australians access the specialist care needed to protect their sight.

**"Knights of the blind in the crusade
against darkness"**

Lions NSW-Act Sight & Health Foundation was established with the objective to promote, advance and assist research into the causes, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of anomalies and diseases, particularly of the eye. Lions NSW-Act Sight & Health comprises the Lions NSW-Act Sight & Health Foundation and the Lions NSW-Act Sight & Health Fund.

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products the world has to offer"**

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**"We deliver solutions that driver
innovation, efficiency and success"**

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The Australian Organ and Tissue
Authority DonateLife

Australian Red Cross Lifeblood

From the Organising Committee

The Organising Committee collected representation from all NSW EBAANZ and BAA member services. The purpose of this Committee was to vet the scientific content and collaboratively build a conference program that showcases the breadth and depth of tissue banking expertise across Australia and New Zealand. Thank you for your insights, your willingness to draw on your networks, and your steadfast commitment to advancing this Conference.

Stephanie Beeton
(Hunter New England Bone Bank)

Sharn Dowsett
(NSW_Tissue Bank)

Pierre Georges
(EBAANZ | NSW_Tissue Bank)

Dr Lujia Gribbon
(Sydney Heart Valve Bank)

Haley Robertson
(Australian Biotechnologies)

John Seo
(Australian Biotechnologies)

Deborah Stracey
(Australian Tissue Donation Network)

Vanessa Terpos
(NSW_Tissue Bank)

Chris Van Diemen
(Lifeblood | BAA)

Alexandra Viglianti
(NSW_Tissue Bank)

A/Prof Meidong Zhu
(NSW_Tissue Bank)

Vicki Harding
(NSW Organ & Tissue Donation Service)

And on behalf of the Committee, thank you all for being here. We hope you find the program engaging, relevant, and that you take home to your bank a learning or two from the next couple of days and a refreshed appreciation of the importance and value of the work we all share.

Tissue donation and transplantation changes thousands of lives every year. Thank you all for the important and often unseen effort and expertise that goes into every donation.

Conference

DAY 0 – Prelude

Monday 2nd March 2026

Facility Tours by appointment

DAY 1 – Line up

Tuesday 3rd March 2026

08:00 Registration
08:45 Michael West, Welcome to Country
09:00 Sector Updates

09:25 Expected or Unexpected

09:55 Prof. Richard Lomas
Tissue Directive EU

Morning Tea (10:20-10:40)

10:40 Panel Discussion

11:15 Innovation and Investigation
11:50 TGA Hotspot

Lunch (12:30 – 01:20)

01:20 Jonathan Boyd
Dr Martin Börgel
Joanneke Maitz

Afternoon Tea (02:50 – 03:10)

03:10 Thinking Outside the Box

04:00 EBAANZ Lifetime Membership Award
Final Story

5:30 – 8:00pm - Social Event at
Porcellino – courtyard at the Sydney
Eye Hospital

Overview

DAY 2 – Line up

Wednesday 4th March 2026

08:15 Registration
09:05 OTA Update

09:20 Prof. Wei Chen
Prof. Hong Zhang

Morning Tea (10:20 – 10:40)

10:40 Our donation resources

11:30 ALRC Human Tissue Act review
Maeghan Toews

11:50 Insight and Oversight

Lunch (12:30 – 01:20)

01:20 Living on a prayer

02:00 Art of the Endothelium

02:30 – 0300 **Final Comments and
conference evaluation**



Welcome to Sydney

On behalf of the Biotherapeutics Association of Australasia (BAA) and the Eye Bank Association of Australia and New Zealand (EBAANZ), it is our privilege to welcome you to the 3rd National Eye and Tissue Banking Conference.

We are delighted to host this year's event in Sydney, just moments from the Sydney/Sydney Eye Hospital—an institution with a proud legacy of clinical care, innovation, and education. It is a particular pleasure to gather in Meers Hall at the Art Gallery of NSW, an inspiring setting for the learning, collaboration, and connection ahead.

Of course, none of this is possible without the generous support of our sponsors; the Sight for Life Foundation, Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation, Lions NSW ACTSight and Health Foundation, Bioline Global, Emagin, PharmOut, the Australian Organ & Tissue Authority (DonateLife), and Australian Red Cross Lifeblood. Thank you so very much.

A heartfelt thanks to Ralph Kerle for donating our event artwork; The Albatross's View for silent auction. Ralph's works are truly unique, and if this piece holds you, you are encouraged to place a bid – all proceeds back the conference coffers.

With thanks to the Scientific Program Organising Committee, we hope the program reflects the depth of expertise across our jurisdictions and our shared commitment to advancing the sector. We are proud to present a strong program of keynote speakers, invited experts and diverse abstracts.

We are especially pleased to welcome our international guests – Wei Chen, Hong Zhang, Martin Börgel, Richard Lomas and Jon Boyd – each bringing distinguished experience across research, practice, and regulatory environments.

This gathering is an important opportunity for our sector to come together and refocus on our core purpose. We remain grounded in the communities we serve and in the donors and donor families whose generosity makes our work possible. We honour them through the care, effort and expertise invested in every donation. During breaks, we invite you to view donation stories and tributes put together by the Banks in recognition of our common connection to purpose and out of respect for ever donor through our services.

Building on the momentum of the last two combined conferences, we look forward to a productive and energising two days. We also hope you will join us this evening at Porcellino in the Courtyard of the Sydney and Sydney Eye Hospital—a chance to wine, dine and unwind, reconnect with your peers, and enjoy one of Sydney's most iconic settings.



Keynote Speakers

Professor Wei Chen Vice-Chair and Professor of

Ophthalmology at Wenzhou Medical University's affiliated eye hospital and Director of the Eye Clinic at Boao Super Hospital. He holds an MD from Wenzhou Medical University and a PhD from Shanghai Fudan University, followed by postdoctoral training at Harvard Medical School and Baylor College of Medicine.

Wei has published more than 100 peer-reviewed papers, secured over \$5 million US in research funding, and holds more than 30 domestic and international patents. Clinically, he has performed over 3,000 corneal procedures. His research focuses on dryeye mechanisms, corneal engineering, translational science, and corneal transplantation. He also established the Boston Keratoprosthesis Surgery Centre at Boao Super Hospital, the only hospital in China authorized to use any FDA- or CE-approved devices without separate national approval.



Professor Hong Zhang Professor and doctoral

supervisor, Longjiang Scholar Distinguished Professor, and recipient of multiple provincial honours. Served as Principal Investigator at the Uni of Melbourne and is an Honorary Professor at Bashkir State Medical Uni. Hong is Dean of the School of Ophthalmology and Optometry at Harbin Medical University and Vice President of its First Affiliated Hospital, and holds more than 20 academic appointments, including Vice Chair of the Youth Committee of the Chinese Medical Association Ophthalmology Branch.

As Director of the Heilongjiang Eye Bank, she has performed tens of thousands of corneal surgeries. Hong's research spans corneal infection, dryeye, corneal transplantation, tissue engineering, and drug-delivery systems. She has secured more than 40 research grants, published over 100 papers, 15 textbooks and contributed to over 20 clinical guidelines.



Dr Richard Lomas is a Clinical Scientist with more than 30 years of experience in tissue banking, specialising in validation, research and development. Head of Development for the UK's public-sector organ donation agency encompassing blood donation in England (NHSBT), and the predominant services in tissue donation, banking, and supply across the UK. Richard is a state-registered Clinical Scientist with the UK Health and Care Professions Council. He helps shape European regulation and guidance for tissue banking, serving on the writing group for the European Department for the Quality of Medicines (EDQM) and contributing to key risk-assessment tools, such as MiRCA. He teaches postgrad transfusion and transplantation at the Universities of Bristol and Manchester, delivers EDQM Quality Management training, and has contributed to EU-supported initiatives assisting member states in developing tissue banking systems. From 2017 to 2025, Richard served as General Secretary of the European Association of Tissue and Cell Banks.





Martin Börger is a trained paediatric nurse and holds a diploma in business administration specialising in healthcare management. He has more than 20yrs of experience as a health economist in the SoHO sector across Germany, Europe, and internationally. His work focuses on developing donation systems, strengthening organisational structures, and building effective teams in healthcare non-profits. In testament is Germany's DGFG, a central, non-profit, high-volume model for tissue donation and allocation. Employing more than 120 staff to operate 14 tissue banks, with support from four university hospitals and one Protestant hospital. Most remarkably the network supplies over 50% of the total demand for its tissue products. Martin has also served as CEO of Tissue Bank HELIOS Schwerin, sits on the management board of Tissue Bank Treviso, and holds leadership roles as President of EATCB, General Secretary of WUTBA and member of the DTI Faculty.

Dr. Joanneke Maitz is a specialist, surgeon scientist in burns, plastic, and reconstruction, and an accomplished researcher in translational burn injury and skin tissue engineering. She leads the Burns & Reconstructive Surgery Research Group at Concord Hospital and is a Senior Clinical Lecturer at the University of Sydney. Dr. Maitz's research focuses on advancing bioengineered solutions for burns treatment and reconstructive surgery, with emphasis on next-generation skin substitutes and improving outcomes for patients with severe soft-tissue loss. In 2025, the Concord Hospital Burns Unit received the NSW Health Innovation Award in recognition of this pioneering research program. The Unit's 3D-bio printed skin project, now in a first-in-human clinical trial, represents a quantum leap in personalised regenerative medicine. Initially developed for burns victims, this technology has the potential to transform treatment for a wide range of soft-tissue defects, offering new hope for patients who previously had limited reconstructive options.



Jonathan Boyd brings more than 16 years of dedicated experience in tissue banking, spanning frontline recovery roles through to senior operational leadership. His career reflects a deep commitment to the ethical, safe, and effective provision of human tissues for transplantation, and a comprehensive understanding of the full donation and processing pathway. Jonathan has developed extensive expertise across donor assessment, tissue recovery, quality systems, regulatory compliance, and team leadership. His work is grounded in technical precision and a strong focus on best-practice standards, ensuring that donated tissues are handled with the utmost care and integrity. Jonathan earned his undergraduate degree in communications and his Master of Science degree in management. He is a Certified Tissue Bank Specialist and a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt. His well-rounded expertise positions him as a trusted leader and a committed advocate for advancing tissue banking to directly improve patient outcomes.



Biotherapeutics
Association of
Australasia



EBAANZ

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Australia and New Zealand



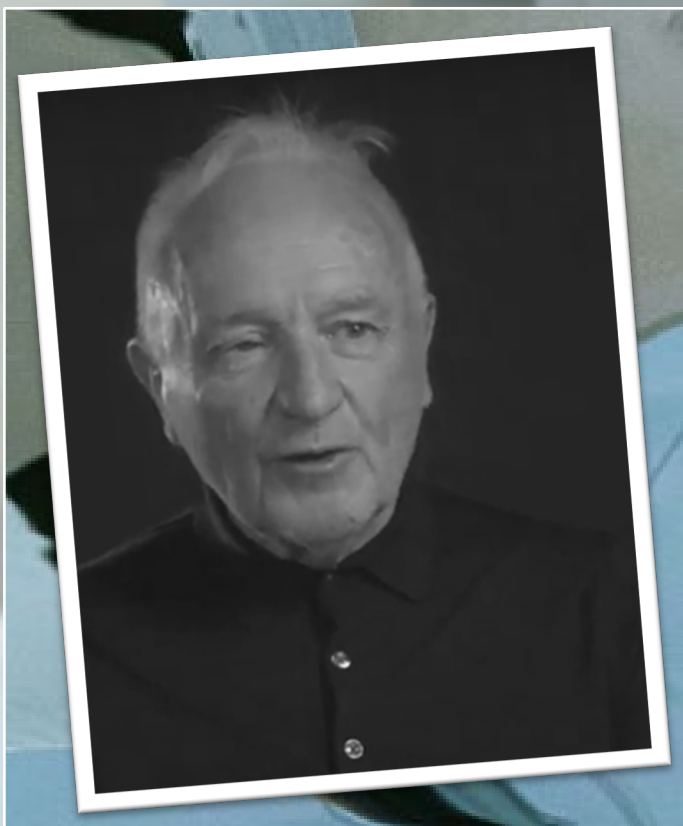
Ralph Kerle

SILENT AUCTION

The Albatross's View will be on display in the conference room at Meers Hall. You are not alone if you love this work.

Wanting to place a bid? Well, put your phone away, there's pens at the bidding box, and remember your GDP.

All proceeds from any sale will be directly invoiced by EBAANZ to further recover the cost of this conference or the next.



We are excited to bring to you **The Albatross's View**, Edition 1 of 10 generously donated direct from the artist for silent auction. Thank you Ralph for supporting the 3rd National Eye & Tissue Banking Conference.

Ralph sees the world a bit differently to most, and not just in the artistic sense. He is intimately familiar with the importance of sight, and the life-changing role of tissue donation through his own experience of living and creating art with keratoconus.

Ralph Kerle is an award winning Australian fine art photographer whose work has been exhibited in Berlin, Palm Beach, Lisbon, Riga, Vilnius and Sydney.

Ralph's works are truly some kind of other spectacular, and a reminder of the obscure and fleeting beauty on this world, that you may only catch by looking awry.

So, take a look, and be sure to admire **The Albatross's View** from a few different angles.

Explore more of Ralph's work @ <https://www.ralphkerlesart.com/>



DESCRIPTION

“Every good artist lies.... because they wish to record experience in the raw so they slyly filter out all significant connectives that also belong to experience...” Jean-Paul Satre

Paintings on Water Series

Paintings on Water is composed of works that reflect on abstractions in nature as an art form.

I am of the opinion abstract painting is not an unconscious act of visualization by an artist. I believe it forms as the result of an artist's subconscious observation in reality and an abstract painting is the artist's manifestation of what their brain has perceived it sees.

The Paintings on Water series is based on capturing those unconscious abstractions in nature first, using a 21st Century Medium -the digital camera -enabling the viewer to form their own perceptions of what these natural abstractions represent.



Morning Session Day 1 – Tuesday 3rd March 2026

08:00 - 08:45	Arrival and registration	
08:45 - 09:00	Welcome to Country	Michael West
	Welcome	Caroline Curtin

0900 - 09:25 Sector Updates Chair: Heather	EBAANZ	Pierre Georges <i>Eye Bank Association of Australia and New Zealand</i>
	BAA	Christopher Van Diemen <i>Biotherapeutics Association of Australasia</i>
	GAEBA	Heather Machin <i>Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations</i>
	WUTBA	Martin Börgel <i>World Union of Tissue Banking Associations</i>
	OTPPS	Rushika Wirasinha <i>Organ and Tissue Policy and Programs Section, Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing</i>

09:25 - 09:55 Tissue Banking: Expected or Unexpected Chair: Stephanie	Jelena Kezic (Lions Eye Bank of WA) <i>Effects of reduced tissue donor screening on donation and transplantation at Lions Eye Bank of Western Australia in 2025</i>
	Michele Madigan (The University of Sydney) <i>Pigmented Eye Cells and Lesions: Unexpected Insights from Human Donor Eyes</i>
	Lujia Gribben (Sydney Heart Valve Bank) <i>The Outcome of Exploring the Feasibility of Producing Homograft Valves from Hearts with In-situ Ventricular Assist Devices Explanted at Transplantation</i>

09:55 - 10:20 Tissue Directive EU Chair: Lujia	 Richard Lomas <i>the Development of Regulation and Guidance at the UK and European levels.</i>
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10.20 - 10.40 am ~ Morning Tea

Midday Session



10:40 - 11:25 Panel Discussion Moderators: Marissa Chris	Jonathan Boyd Mat Adams	Martin Börgel Richard Lomas
	Comparing international regulations, trends and trajectories	

11:25 - 11:50 Innovation and Investigation Chair: Meidong	Danielle Fisher (BIENCO) <i>Putting Patients First: Translating Research into Global Impact</i>
	Ling Zhu (The University of Sydney) <i>From Donor Eye to Discovery: Unlocking the Human Macula Through Multi-Omics and AI</i>

11:50 - 12:30 Validation & Regulations - TGA Hotspot Chair: Vanessa	Mat Adams Biological Science Section Scientific Evaluation Branch
	Amanda Louise Inspections Section Manufacturing Quality Branch

12.30 - 1.20 pm ~ Lunch

Afternoon Session

1:20 - 2:20 Guest Speakers Chair: Debbie	 Jonathan Boyd (AATB, Donate Life NC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing Training and Competency Programs - Coronial Processes and Expanding Donation access
	 Dr Martin Börgel (EEBA, GAEB, WUTBA) <i>New SoHo Regulation: Update on EATCB Training Program</i>

2:20 - 2:50 Guest Speakers: Natural vs Artificial Chair: Pierre	Dr Joanneke Maitz (Burns & Reconstructive Surgery Unit / Research Group, Concord Repatriation General Hospital)  <i>The future of bio-printing skin: pre-clinical and clinical outcomes of 3D printing skin in-situ</i>
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2.50 - 3.10 pm ~ Afternoon Tea

<p>3:10 – 4:00 Thinking Outside the Box Chair: John</p>	<p>Chloe Turrell (Australian Biotechnologies) <i>Supercritical Fluid and its Application in Allografts</i></p>
	<p>Ashley Isbel (PharmOut) <i>Unique considerations for GMP Tissue Facilities</i></p>
	<p>Peter Davis - Bloodbikes Australia</p>
<p>4:00 – 4:30 Chair: Heather</p>	<p>★★ Graeme Pollock ★★ EBAANZ Lifetime Membership Award ★★ <i>History of EBAANZ (the abridged version)</i></p>
	<p>Heather Machin (Head of the Lions Eye Donation Service - Vic) Reading of Grandad's Last Wish</p>

Grandad's last wish

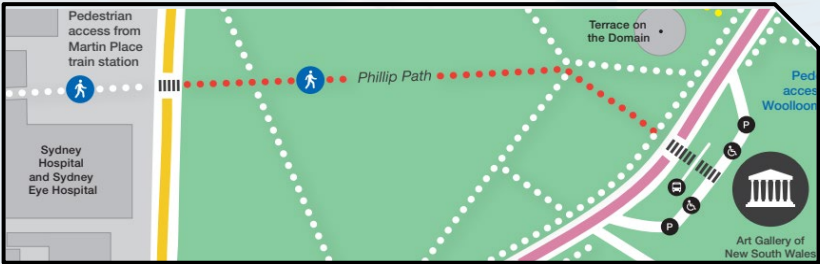
A new children's book written by Head of the Victorian Lions Eye Donation Service, Dr Heather Machin, is aiming to break down the barriers for eye donation.

Through the story of Kevin and his grandad, it gently helps children and their families understand eye donation, making it easier to discuss this sensitive topic while highlighting the positive impact donation can have on others. A portion of each sale supports the Lions Eye Donation Service.

available



We hope that you can join us for some canapés and drinks and Porcellino from 5:30pm - just follow Phillip Path and aim for the fountain in the rear courtyard of the Sydney and Sydney Eye Hospital.



Morning Session Day 2 – Wednesday 4th March 2026

08:15 - 09:00	Arrival and registration	
09:00 – 09:20	Welcome	Sharn Dowsett
	OTA Update	Lucinda Barry

0920 – 10:20 Management and Supporting - Eye Banking in China Chair: Con & Meidong		Professor Wei Chen (Wenzhou Eye bank, China) <i>What's Special about Wenzhou Eye bank</i>
		Professor Hong Zhang (Heilongjiang Eye Bank, China) <i>Innovation of Heilongjiang Eye Bank</i>

10.20 - 10.40 am ~ Morning Tea

10:40 - 11:30 Community and Society: Our Donation Resources Chair: Sharn	Heather Machin (Lions Eye Donation Service, Victoria) <i>Contemporary approach to consent</i>
	Monira Hoque (NSW Tissue Bank) <i>Co-Creating Clarity: Community Conversations on Eye and Tissue Donation</i>
	Lihong Yang (Changsha Aier eye Hospital, China) <i>Core Factors Influencing Willingness of Corneal Donation in Chinese Citizen</i>
	Vesna Jaksic (QLD Tissue Bank) <i>Tissue Donation and Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD)</i>

11:30 – 11:50 ALRC Review Chair: Sharn	Maeghan Toews (ALRC) <i>A New Regulatory Approach for Australia's Eye and Tissue Sector: Australian Law Reform Commission's Proposals for Reform</i>
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11:50 - 12:30 Insight and Oversight Chair: Alex	Terry Couper (CERA - University of Melbourne) <i>Clinical CAIRS for eyebankers</i>
	Meidong Zhu (NSW Tissue Bank) <i>Corneal Ulcers what we need to know</i>
	Josept Poblete (Sydney Eye Hospital) <i>Outcomes of HLA-matched corneal transplantation in high-risk eyes at Sydney Eye Hospital</i>

12.30 - 1.20 pm ~ Lunch

Midday Session

1:20 - 2:00 Living on a Prayer Chair: Haley	Helen McKeon (NSW Tissue Bank) <i>Unexpected challenges to the Amnion Donation Program - "the Good, the Bad and the Ugly"</i>
	Ruth Edley (PlusLife Perth Bone and Tissue Bank) <i>Living donors: 180-day serology or NAT?</i>
	Huynh Nguyen (QLD Tissue Bank) <i>Low Gamma Dose Has Non-Significant Impact on Mechanical Properties of Tendon Allograft</i>
2:00 - 2:30 Art of the Endothelium Chair: Nigel/Meidong	Nigel Brookes (NZ National Eye Bank) <i>The Corneal Endothelium Before and After Transplantation</i>
	Jiao Qin (Wuhan Red Cross Aier Eye Bank) <i>Analysis of Factors Influencing Endothelial Cell Density in Eye Bank Donor Corneas</i>
	Minghong Gao (Liaoning Aier Eye Hospital of China) <i>Exploration of the Role of Deep Low-Temperature Cryopreservation Technology in Long-Term Corneal Preservation and the Treatment of Corneal Diseases</i>
2:30 - 3:00	Final Comments and Conference Evaluation

Thank you for joining us this year

