

# Gene Technology Ethics and Community Consultative Committee (GTECCC)

## GTECCC Chair



### Judith Jones

Senior Lecturer BSc (Syd.); LLB (NSW); DipPracLegTraining (UTS); Solicitor NSW

Judith is the Senior Lecturer at the ANU College of Law.

Harnessing her dual background in both science and law, Judith began her research career as an environmental and planning lawyer by focussing on uncertainty, precaution and risk assessment. This included over a decade (1999 – 2014) of service, in different capacities, on the federal non-statutory and statutory bodies that provide advice to the Gene Technology Regulator on legal and ethical issues relating to risk assessment and the regulation of gene technology in Australia. Judith has a range of scholarly publications in the areas of environmental impact assessment, risk regulation and precaution. The emphasis in those publications is designing regulation in conditions of scientific and other uncertainty. She is also a member of the ANU Institutional Biosafety Committee.

More recently, Judith's research has taken a new direction, combining her environmental law research interests with her own rural background and Australian legal history to examine the impact of historical and current landuse practices on Australian soils, water and vegetation. This research focusses on the impact of colonial property law and culture on landuse practices and consequent environmental degradation. In terms of contemporary agricultural landuse, this research focusses on law and culture relevant to encouraging sustainable landuse practices in regions of high agricultural value.

## GTECCC Members



### Paula Fitzgerald

Paula Fitzgerald is a senior professional with a background in stakeholder and government relations, policy development and advocacy, communication, regulatory affairs, issues management, membership engagement and capacity building.

Paula has worked across a diverse stakeholder base and has established trusted networks, both nationally and internationally, to develop and lead local and global teams, to deliver strategies and solutions, particularly across the science and agriculture sectors. She is an advocate for science-based decision

making, farmer access to new tools and technologies, and agriculture engaging with the community to ensure a strong social licence.

Paula is currently a member of the CSIRO Agriculture Advisory Committee and a Director of Skills Impact Australia.



### **Dr Vaughan Monamy**

BSc (Murdoch, WA) MSc (University of Tasmania, Hobart) PhD (UNSW)

Dr Monamy is Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Environmental Ethics at the Australian Catholic University. His principal scholarly and research interests include animal welfare and the ethics of animal research, human-animal interactions, attitudes to animals, and wildlife ecology. He is widely published with books on issues in animal experimentation (most recently *Animal Experimentation: A Guide to the Issues* Third Edition [Cambridge University Press, 2017]) and papers published on environmental and ethical issues in *Australian Veterinary Journal*, *Austral Ecology*, *Australian Zoologist*, *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management*, *Journal of Mammalogy*, *Oikos*, *PloS One*, and *Wildlife Research*. He has been awarded an Australian Government Carrick Citation and an Australian Catholic University *Excellence in Teaching* award for his outstanding contributions to learning. He has provided expert advice to the Commonwealth Government as a member of the Australian Vice-Chancellor's Working Group on Sustainable Development, the OGTR Gene Technology Ethics Committee (2005-2007) and the OGTR Gene Technology Ethics and Community Consultative Committee (2008-2011, 2012-2014).



### **Dr Dianne Nicol**

Dianne Nicol is a professor of law at the University of Tasmania in Australia and director of the Centre for Law and Genetics (CLG), which is housed in the Law Faculty. The broad theme of the CLG's research is the regulation of biotechnology, human genetics and stem cell technology. Dianne's research particularly focuses on the legal and social issues associated with the commercialisation of genetic knowledge and patenting of genetic inventions. She is currently the lead chief investigator on an Australian Research Council funded project on material transfer agreements in the era of open science. Dianne's research also includes two recently completed projects. One of these focused on the role of law in regulating personalised medicine. The other was directed towards an investigation of patenting of biotechnological

inventions, aimed at understanding the changing roles patenting, licensing and collaboration in innovation in complex areas of technology like biotechnology.

Dianne also holds the role of Chair of Academic Senate at the University of Tasmania. She has served on the University's Social Sciences Human Research Ethics Committee, and held the role of Chair of the University's Animal Research Ethics Committee for 5 years. In 2012 Dianne was appointed to a three-member expert panel to review pharmaceutical patenting in Australia. In 2015 she was appointed to two principal committees of the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian Health Ethics Committee and the Embryo Research Licensing Committee. She is a fellow of the Australian Academy of Law.



### **Dr Rachel Nowak**

BSc (Hons) (University of Leeds), MA (Johns Hopkins University), PhD (University of Leeds), GAICD (Graduate Australian Institute of Company Directors)

Dr Nowak is principal at *Rachel Nowak and Associates*, a consultancy specialising in knowledge brokering between universities, industry and society. She also directs *The Brain Dialogue*, a program for responsible innovation at the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Integrative Brain Function.

She was deputy director of the Eliminate Dengue Technology Transfer and Innovation Platform, an initiative to facilitate uptake of a technology to reduce dengue spread. She has developed knowledge-sharing strategies to improve Australian eating habits for the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Dr Nowak is on the advisory board of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for All-sky Astrophysics, and the Human Research Ethics Committee of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute. She is a non-executive director at COSMOS Media Pty Ltd.

Previously, Rachel worked as senior writer at *Science*, and Washington Bureau Chief and later Australasian Editor at *New Scientist*. She also covered the US biotech industry for a publication out of Silicon Valley. As a journalist, Dr Nowak won numerous awards for her analyses of key issues in science and technology. Her work has been discussed in US Congressional hearings, exposed flaws in high-profile scientific findings and practices, and led to policy changes.

Early in her career, Dr Nowak worked in research at Monash University and the Institut fuer Tierzucht und Tierverhalten der FAL in Germany. She was awarded both an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship and an ARC Queen Elizabeth II Postdoctoral Research Fellowship. Her research expertise is in circadian (biological timing mechanisms) and reproductive physiology.

Rachel is frequently asked to share her skills at workshops, guest lectures, on panels, and as an MC. Rachel's diverse skills and experience are relevant to community consultation, risk communication, the impact of gene technology on the community, issues relevant to gene technology research, and ethics.



### **Gabrielle O'Sullivan**

BSc (Hons) PhD MPH (Hons)

Dr Gabrielle O'Sullivan is a cross-member from the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee.

She is Executive Officer of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Institutional Biosafety Committee. She has a BSc in microbiology from University College Dublin and a PhD in biochemistry/immunology from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Her post-graduate work was in medical microbiology and biochemistry. Her post-doctoral research was at the University of Sydney focusing on cellular immunology and cell migration. She also has a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Sydney and has made contributions in the areas of genetics and public health education, epidemiology, public health and the ethics and biosafety of gene technology. She co-ordinated and co-developed a very successful short course on genetics and public health at the University of Sydney. She co-authored a book on the ethics of inheritable genetic modification and has extensive experience in risk communication and risk assessment of gene technology, particularly in the contexts of biomedical research, clinical trials and gene, cell and molecular therapies.



### **Meg Parkinson**

Ms Meg Parkinson is a free range egg farmer from Gippsland in Victoria. She is involved on two animal ethics committees as a category C (animal welfare) member. Meg has served on Commonwealth and Victorian Ministerial Councils about animal welfare on behalf of farmers, and was a member of the Victorian Biotechnology Ethics Advisory Committee from its start until it was disbanded, for her knowledge of animal health and welfare. She is a current Category C (animal welfare) member of animal ethics committees. Meg is a past Deputy President of the Victorian Farmers Federation and Past President of Free Range Egg and Poultry Australia Ltd. Meg has a deep knowledge of accreditation programs in the poultry industry. She also has extensive experience of not-for profit boards and government committees and is keenly interested in innovation and commercialisation of new technologies in Agriculture.



### **Dr Gregory Pike**

BSc(Hons), PhD

Dr Gregory K Pike is the founding Director of the *Adelaide Centre for Bioethics and Culture* in Adelaide, South Australia and former Director of the *Southern Cross Bioethics Institute*. He has a research background in neurobiology at the *University of Adelaide* and *University of Pittsburgh*, and also in clinical trials in laparoscopic surgery at the *Royal Adelaide Hospital*.

In 1998 he moved into Bioethics, having a particular interest in its relationship with public policy. He has worked on ethical issues related to illicit drugs, stem cells, cloning, abortion, reproductive technology, genetics, and end-of-life decision-making. He has participated in public debate and engaged widely with policy makers and the community.

He is currently the Manager of Ethics and Biosafety at Deakin University. He has served on several government consultative committees, and was a member of the *Australian Health Ethics Committee* for the 2006-09 triennium.



### **Hugh Roberts AM**

Hugh Roberts is a lifelong farmer from Cootamundra, NSW 2590

He was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship in 1977; where he studied the UK Seed industry. He has been a Board member of Nuffield Australia and Chairman of NSW Nuffield.

He has represented a number of Seed related organisations in Australia, Plant Breeders Rights, PVR Advisory Committee, RIRDC Pasture Seeds (chairman) and as Seed delegate on NSW Farmers Executive Council (20yrs).

In 1999 he was selected to go to the USA and Mexico to look at Gene Technology, subsequently chairing the NSW Farmers GM Taskforce for 9 years.

He spent 2 terms on the Minister for Agriculture (NSW) Committee to investigate GM Canola and two terms on the Australian Bio-Technology Advisory Council.

He was awarded his AM in 2006 for services to Bio Technology & Local Government (21yrs), Cootamundra Shire Citizen of the year 2003 for Agriculture, Local Government and Community involvement.

He is currently on the Board of ACAS (NVT) (Australian Crop Accreditation System) and ASA (Australian Seed Authority) past chairman for 4 years.



### **Dr Frances Shapter**

BAGSc, GradDipEd, PhD, DipBusAdmin

Dr Shapter has a PhD in molecular genetics, and has worked in PC2 facilities for the past 15 years. Her research focus, harnessing Australian native grasses for novel or improved grain production, has utilised many of the technologies which underpin the development of GMO's, giving her a working knowledge of the scientific information considered by the GTECCC and issues relevant to gene technology research. Through her appointment to the Rural Research and Development Council (2009-2012), formed to provide strategic advice to improve the effectiveness of the federal government's investment into rural R&D, and her through her industry experience, she has been involved with several national community consultation processes. In her work as a teacher, researcher and as an educator in the veterinary sciences she has experience in risk assessment, occupational health and safety and working with both human and animal ethics committees.

Beyond the science, Frances has two young boys and has been involved with primary industries, personally and professionally for her entire life. She is committed to ensuring that Australia has an agricultural industry that is safe and sustainable for her children's future and beyond, and it is for this reason that she sought appointment to the GTECCC.



### **Dr Robert Sward**

BSc (Hons), PhD

Dr Robert Sward worked in the Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI) from 1980 to late 2012. Prior to that he held positions as: Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne; Experimental Officer with the CSIRO Division of Horticulture; and Scientific Officer with DPI under a research contract with the International Potato Centre (CIP), Peru. The earlier part of his career focused on R&D in plant virology - a discipline that converged with crop biotechnology and incorporates many technical aspects of gene technology and related biosciences.

In more recent years, from early 2003 to late 2012, he managed the Biotechnology Policy portfolio within DPI which covered many aspects of government and industry policy in biotechnology and gene technology. As Manager Biotechnology Policy he was involved in a broad range of gene technology topics and issues, including development of policies relating to the regulation and legislation of genetically modified (GM) crops in Victoria. In 2003, following the declaration of a moratorium on the commercial release of GM canola by the Victorian Government, he lead the development and implementation the *Control of GM Crops Act (2004)*. The development of this legislation required extensive consultation with community groups, businesses, local and state government. In other capacities, he was Executive Officer and member of DPI's Gene Technology Standing Committee; Chair and State representative on the Commonwealth Primary Industries Standing Committee's Industry Development Committee GM Taskforce; Member of the Victorian Gene Technology Ethics Committee; and Member of the AusBiotech National Agricultural, Environmental and Industrial (AEI) Biotechnology Advisory Group.

Dr Sward currently works as a private consultant in his own company, BioBotanicals Consulting. In 2013 he undertook the Review of Queensland's *Gene Technology Act 2001* in collaboration with Foursight Associates.



### **Emma Thomas**

Emma is a grain and livestock producer who also provides professional management consultancy services to small businesses in the agriculture sector and takes pride in working at an industry level to represent grower issues with national peak bodies.

She is a member of the Ag Institute of Australia, as well as a number of national and regional agricultural advisory committees. She is passionate about rural NSW, with a particular interest in highlighting agricultural opportunities for Australian farmers.