

## **GTECCC Members 2011-2014**

### **Don Chalmers**



Donald Chalmers is Distinguished Professor at the University of Tasmania and is the Director of the Centre for Law and Genetics. He is a Foundation Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law.

He was Chair of the Australian Red Cross Ethics Committee from 2000 until 2010

He is Chair of the Gene Technology Ethics and Community Consultative Committee, Deputy Chair of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Embryo Research Licensing Committee. He is a member of the international Human Genome Organisation Ethics Committee and of the International Cancer

Genome Consortium. He has been a member of the International Scientific Review Panels of Genome Canada since 2004.

He was Chair of the NHMRC Australian Health Ethics Committee from 1994 to 2000, a member of the NHMRC Human Genetics Advisory Committee 2006-09, a member of the Board of the Australian Institute of Family Studies, 1998-2006; member of the Commonwealth Biotechnology Advisory Council, 1999-2002; Law Reform Commissioner for Tasmania, 1991-1997; consultant to the Australian Law Reform Commission Report on the genetic privacy, 2001-2003; and, Chair of the Australian Institute of Health, Law and Ethics from 2002-2005. He chaired the reviews of the national Institutional Ethics Committee system in 1995 and *Scientific Ethical and Regulatory considerations relevant to the Cloning of Human Beings* in 1998-1999.

He has published in criminal law, legal studies, trusts, health law and genetics, research ethics and law reform. He has been awarded, with colleagues a number Australian Research Council discovery grants and an NHMRC program grant. His current research work involves an examination of the legal and governance arrangements for human tissue biobanks and personalised medicine and a project on bioethics in Asia under the leadership of professor Ida Kyoto University, funded by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

### **Rachel Ankeny**



Rachel A. Ankeny has a BA in Liberal Arts, MA degrees in Philosophy, Bioethics, and Gastronomy, and a PhD in the History and Philosophy of Science. She currently is Associate Professor in the School of History and Politics at the University of Adelaide. She has diverse research interests in bioethics, history, and philosophy, and expertise and ongoing research on health and science policy, particularly regarding public engagement. She holds a three-year ARC grant (2011-13) entitled "What Shall We Have for Tea? Toward a New Discourse of Food Ethics in Contemporary Australia" as well

as small grants to examine gender and understandings of GM foods, and possible use of GM technologies in the wine industry. Rachel serves as chair of the National Committee for History and Philosophy of Science of the Australian Academy of Sciences; a committee member for the Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law; and treasurer for the International Network on Feminist Approaches to Bioethics (FAB). She has served on GTEC/GTECCC since 2005.

## Lesley Ashton



Dr Ashton is head of the Molecular Epidemiology Group at Children's Cancer Institute Australia (CCIA) in Sydney. Her research uses the latest molecular techniques to investigate possible links between a child's genetic make-up (genotype), their exposure to environmental factors and the occurrence of cancer. Her postgraduate training as an epidemiologist (MPH and PhD) together with her undergraduate degree in basic science provided her with a unique combination of multi-disciplinary expertise in genetics and public health. Prior to joining CCIA, Dr Ashton was a senior researcher in the Epidemiology Unit at the Kirby Institute (formally

the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research) where she gained substantial experience in the design, co-ordination and analyses of epidemiological studies, particularly those with a molecular or genetic focus.

Over the past decade Dr Ashton has been successful in attracting peer reviewed funding for research examining the causes as well as outcomes of those treated for cancer during childhood. Dr Ashton has a career total of 2 book chapters and over 50 peer-reviewed publications, including papers in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and *The Lancet*.

Dr Ashton has substantial knowledge of the diverse ethical issues applicable to the conduct of genetic research in human populations. She is a presiding member of the University of NSW Human Research Ethics Committee (since 2001) and Health Research Data Linkage Committee (since 2009). Dr Ashton is also an international associate member of the Children's Oncology Group USA and a member of the Infection & Immunity Group of the Childhood Leukaemia International Consortium. She has served as GTTAC/GTECCC Cross-members since 2008-2011, and is a former member of GTEC.

## Jeffrey Cohen



FRSA, D.D, D.Min, Rabbi, B.Com, BCC

Dr Cohen is currently a Visiting Senior Fellow in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at UNSW. His areas of research include the Ethical, Spiritual and Cultural issues at End of Life as well as Spirituality and Health. He is particularly interested in Public Policy as it applies to Health and Spirituality. Among the research he has recently presented at National and International meetings, he has focused on Space Design in Health Care incorporating Spiritual, Cultural and Ethical Issues; Organ Donation with respect to cultural and spiritual dimensions; Spiritual

Assessment Tools; and Faith and Mental Illness.

He has been Visiting Professor at the Mary Seacole Research Centre at De Montfort University in Leicester, UK.

From 1984-1996 Dr Cohen served as Director of Pastoral Resources for Missouri's Department of Mental Health and also served as Acting Director and Dean (1990-93) of the Institute for Pastoral Education, in St. Louis. While working for the Department of Mental Health he created an academic research project *Pathways to Promise* which developed relationship with 15 faith communities and evaluated faith based programmes for persons with mental illness and their families.

He is a member of the NSW Health Ethics Committee. He has been appointed one of the founding Directors of Spiritual Care Australia. He served as President of the Council of Christians and Jews. He was the Literary Editor of the Australian Jewish News for four years.

Jeffrey is a Rabbi who also holds a doctorate from Eden Theological Seminary in the USA where his research was in the field of Pastoral Care. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts. In 2005, he received a Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. In 2008, he was made a Fellow of the Leo Baeck College, London.

Jeffrey Cohen received the UNSW Alumni Award for contributing to the improvement in the quality of life in 1974. He is Board Certified in Hospital Chaplaincy and in Mental Health Chaplaincy and Board Eligible in Chaplaincy Education and Mental Health Administration. He has served as President of the Association of Mental Health Chaplains (now the Association for Professional Chaplains) and Vice President of the Congress on Ministry in Specialized Settings and chaired the international planning for Pastoral Care Week.

### **Julie Kimber**



Dr Julie Kimber graduated with a BSc (Hons) in agricultural botany from Reading University in the UK in 1989 and has a decade of experience working in the Tasmanian rural sector. She has been employed by Botanical Resources Australia as a researcher and seed production manager where she was responsible for establishing a seed production system capable of producing enough seed for commercial use throughout Tasmania. Julie completed a BA majoring in sociology and public policy at the University of Tasmania and has recently completed a multi-disciplined PhD. Her PhD focused upon an assessment of the social consequences of the CSIRO Food Futures Flagship omega-3 project. The aim of this project is to genetically engineer oil seed plants to produce long-chain omega-3 fatty acids normally found in seafood and fish oil.

### **Vaughan Monamy**



Dr Vaughan Monamy is an Associate Professor of Environmental Science at the Australian Catholic University, Sydney. His principal research interests include wildlife ecology, human-animal interactions, attitudes to animals, the ethics of animal research and the ethics of vertebrate pest management. He is widely published with books on issues in animal experimentation (most recently *Animal Experimentation: A Guide to the Issues* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition [Cambridge University Press, 2009]) and with papers published in *Oikos*, *Journal of Mammalogy*, *Austral Ecology*, *Australian Veterinary Journal* and *Wildlife Research*. In 2007, he was awarded an Australian Government *Carrick Citation* for his outstanding contribution to student learning as well as the Australian Catholic University *Excellence in Teaching* award. 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).

## **Corinna Lange**



Ms Corinna Lange has gathered extensive science communication experience through a variety of roles with public and private sector organisations. She has designed exhibitions and programs for interactive science centres, been a consultant for a children's science TV program, provided first point-of-contact access into the CSIRO as an Information Officer, supplied science communication services to a private biotechnology company, and had responsibility for internal and external communication with Cooperative Research Centres. She now runs Pear Communication, focussing on Practical and Effective Adoption and Risk Communication. This fulfils her passion of working with the stakeholders of scientific research, at all stages of the research cycle, to achieve application and adoption of research outcomes. Her experience is underpinned by a Bachelor of Science (Hons) from the University of Adelaide, and a Graduate Diploma in Scientific Communication from the Australian National University. She balances her work with a love of travel, reading, music, food, wine and, most importantly, the friends and family she shares all this with.

## **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 Victorian Biotechnology Ethics Advisory Committee from its start until it was disbanded, for her knowledge of animal health and welfare. She is a past Deputy President of the Victorian Farmers Federation and is the current President of Free Range Egg and Poultry Australia Ltd. She also has extensive experience of not-for profit boards and government committees.

## **Alan Petersen**



Alan Petersen is Professor of Sociology in the School of Political and Social Inquiry, Monash University in Melbourne. Until November 2007 he worked for over six years at University of Plymouth and before that Murdoch University (1992-2001) in Perth. He has a broad interest in the sociology of new and emerging technologies and has researched on and written about the new genetics, including genetic testing and counselling, biobanks, nanotechnologies and stem cell treatments. His books include: *The New Genetics and the Public's Health* (Routledge, 2002) (with Robin Bunton), *Genetic Governance* (Routledge, 2005) (edited with Robin Bunton), and *Biobanks: Governance in Comparative Perspective* (edited with Herbert Gottweis). His most recent book is *The Politics of Bioethics* (Routledge, 2011).

## **Hugh Roberts**



Mr Hugh Roberts AM is a mixed farmer from Cootamundra in Southern NSW, with over forty years of experience in primary production, has also served as a farmer representative in a number of fora, including in relation to gene technology issues: NSW Farmers Association (Grains Committee member 1994-2009; Biotechnology Taskforce Chairman 1999-2009; and Executive Council member 1990-present); a member of the NSW Expert Committee on Gene Technology; and the Biotechnology Australia Advisory Council 2002-2006.

Mr Roberts represented the Jindalee Shire Council at the Local Government level for 21 years. In 2008 Mr Roberts was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (AM) for service to local government and agriculture.

## **Nikolajs Zeps**



Dr Zeps received a first class honours degree from King's College, the University of London in 1991 and his PhD from the University of Western Australia in 2001. He is involved in translational research in breast, gastrointestinal and gynaecological malignancies. He is a member of the Australian Health Ethics Committee (since 2006) and the Research Committee (since 2009) of the NHMRC. He is chair of the National Research Advisory Group of Cancer Australia, the Research Group of the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia and the Biological sub-committee of the Australasian Gastro-intestinal trials Group. He is the Australian representative on the Consent and Data Access Advisory Committee of the International Cancer Genome Consortium. Dr Zeps works for St John of God Pathology and Radiation Oncology at Perth's Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. He is an adjunct senior lecturer in the Schools of Surgery and Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Western Australia. He has served as a AHEC/GTECCC Cross-member since 2008.

Nik is married to Samantha (Sam) and has three Children, Zen (14), Aisha(12) and Daniella (1). In trying to pretend not to be ageing he enjoys playing Capoeira with his daughter and running; both activities are enjoyable so long as they don't lead to a visit to the emergency department anytime soon. The usual list of reading, cooking and doing family activities allow a sense of normality to counter the realization that that he travels far more than is good for him. Lifetime membership of an airline awards program is not in reality an achievement to be proud of.