

**Advancing Health  
Research Through  
Collaboration**

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Annual Report  
2017-18

## BioGrid Facts



Number of Members at 30 June 2018

representing  
79 institutions



133



236

Active research projects represented  
across all states and the ACT

Journal publications reported to date that  
have utilised BioGrid for their research

# Thirty-eight



Current Institution Ethics Approvals  
at 30 June 2018

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# Members and Collaborators

BioGrid Australia Ltd is a not for profit company limited by guarantee. Its members are health services, universities and research institutes. At the time of this report, BioGrid's overarching evergreen collaboration agreement has been executed with 40 institutions (representing 79 sites across Australia) covering the management of governance, intellectual property, data access, undertaking projects, commercialisation and publications.



**ACT Health**  
Canberra Hospital

**AlfredHealth**

**Alfred Health**  
The Alfred  
Caulfield Hospital  
Sandringham Hospital



**Austin Health**  
Austin Hospital  
Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital



**Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute**



**Ballarat Health Services**  
Ballarat Base Hospital  
Queen Elizabeth Centre



**Barwon Health**  
Geelong Hospital



**Bendigo Health**  
Bendigo Hospital



**Central Adelaide Local Health Network**  
Royal Adelaide Hospital  
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital



**Eastern Health**  
Angliss Hospital  
Box Hill Hospital  
Healesville Hospital  
Maroondah Hospital



**Fiona Stanley Hospital**  
Perth



**Goulburn Valley Health**  
Goulburn Valley Hospital



**Hudson Institute of Medical Research**



**Latrobe Regional Hospital**



**Mater Health Services**  
Brisbane



**MELBOURNE HEALTH**  
**Melbourne Health**  
The Royal Melbourne Hospital



**Metro North Hospital and Health Service**  
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital  
Prince Charles Hospital



**Metro South Hospital and Health Service\***  
Princess Alexandra Hospital



**Monash Health**  
Monash Medical Centre, Clayton  
Monash Medical Centre, Moorabbin  
Casey Hospital  
Dandenong Hospital



**Monash University\***



**Murdoch Childrens Research Institute**



### Northern Adelaide Local Health Network

Lyell McEwin Hospital  
Modbury Hospital



### Northern Health

The Northern Hospital



### Peninsula Health

Frankston Hospital  
Rosebud Hospital



### Peter Mac

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre  
Victoria Australia



### Radiation Oncology Victoria

### Radiation Oncology Victoria



### ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL MELBOURNE

### St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne



### Health

Sydney Local Health District

### South Western Sydney Local Health District

Campbelltown Hospital  
Liverpool Hospital  
Bankstown Hospital



### ST JOHN OF GOD Health Care

### St John of God Health Care

Ballarat, Bendigo, Berwick, Bunbury, Burwood, Geelong, Geraldton, Midland, Murdoch, Mt Lawley, Richmond, Subiaco and Warrnambool Hospitals



### Tasmanian Government

### Tasmanian Government Department of Health and Human Services

Royal Hobart Hospital  
Launceston General Hospital



### The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne

### The Royal Children's Hospital



### the women's hospital

### The Royal Women's Hospital



### The University of New South Wales



### The University of Melbourne



### The University of Western Australia



### Walter+Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research

### The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research



### VICTORIAN COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTRE

### Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre



### Western Health

### Western Health

Footscray Hospital  
Sunshine Hospital  
The Williamstown Hospital

### West Moreton Health

### West Moreton Hospital and Health Service

Ipswich Hospital, Brisbane

\* Non-member collaborator



## Chairman's Report

It has been my great privilege to serve as BioGrid's inaugural Chair. This is my final report as Chair and I am delighted to hand over the role of Chair to Dr Rob Grenfell, who joined the Board of Directors in October last year. Dr Grenfell is the Health Director, Health and Biosecurity at the CSIRO and brings extensive strategic experience in both the public and private sector to the Board. He is already contributing extremely positively to the Board's strategic discussions and we are delighted to have someone of his calibre on the Board.

My long-time colleague Dr Julian Clark, who has been a director alongside me since the Company's inception in March 2009, stepped down from the Board in April 2018. His years of service, his dedication and extraordinary commitment have stood BioGrid in good stead. With sincere thanks I acknowledge Julian's significant contribution to BioGrid.

I'm pleased to say that we also welcomed several new members and collaborators: Mater Health Services Brisbane; the Fiona Stanley Hospital, Perth; and the West Moreton Hospital & Health Service (Ipswich Hospital), Brisbane. As each new institution joins the BioGrid collaboration, we increase researchers' access to data and thus improve research capacity to enable treatment solutions to be brought to patients sooner. As of 30 June 2018, there are 5 non-member collaborator institutions and 35 members, a total of 40 BioGrid Australia collaborators.

BioGrid's financial position continued to improve this year. We generated a profit from continuing operations of \$95,096, which resulted in a positive net equity position of \$20,774 at 30 June 2018. BioGrid has traded profitably since the end of the financial year and the directors are working closely with key stakeholders who have and continue to show their support for BioGrid. As Chair, it has been a privilege to have the continuing support of so many key member institutions. It is clear to me that this support is offered because those members highly value the unique services BioGrid is able to offer. I thank those members for their ongoing support.

The directors are continuing to work with governments, existing and potential customers and industry clients to increase revenue and expand

services and operations within Australia and overseas. During this year the Board undertook a comprehensive review of its governance structures. Directors engaged with members, collaborators and stakeholders to produce a report with recommendations that was scrutinised by key members during March 2018, and a revised version during May the same year. I am pleased to report that the governance changes were approved by key members and the Board in June and will be implemented by my successor in the next financial year.

I am enormously proud of BioGrid's achievements during my tenure as Chair. In the early days researchers and other stakeholders had difficulty understanding the value of the services offered and BioGrid encountered skepticism from some, not believing that we could deliver safe, ethically approved data connectivity. Over time BioGrid continued to demonstrate its value, and as analytical outputs and publications were generated, the skepticism was replaced with belief and participation.

As the analytical outputs and publications grew and more data sets were added, more and more researchers used BioGrid to leverage streamlined governance and access to analyse linked data to better understand the best treatment options for Australian patients.

Thank you to all the members, collaborators, stakeholders and employees of BioGrid who have made this possible. Above all, thank you to the patients whose de-identified data has led to better health outcomes for so many of their fellow citizens.





# Chief Executive Officer's Report

Governance activities this year have dominated our agenda. It has been a very challenging but inspiring year and I am very pleased with the health of BioGrid at the end of this financial year.

Strong engagement with our membership has strengthened BioGrid's business model. Our members made a vital contribution to all our governance consultations and the new governance structure adopted with member support will guide the ongoing development of our business model and offerings in support of our members' research activities.

The organisation's financial position has strengthened, and we continue to pursue service contracts with government agencies and private companies. Our reputation as provider of high-quality analysis of retrospective data has grown and more and more industry organisations are showing interest in our capacity to support prospective studies.

The focus on governance reform, led by the Board, has been an important and all-encompassing activity this year. The Board Chair has reported that the changes will be implemented in the next financial year and I am pleased to say that the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (FARC) has been enhanced with the addition of a non-Board members, Mr George Kapitelli, Melbourne Health's Chief Financial Officer, to support Mr David Polonsky (BioGrid Director and current FARC Chair) and Mr Chris Arnold (BioGrid Director and current FARC member). A vital new committee, that will provide important direction for my work, has been formed – the Business Development Advisory Committee. This committee will be chaired by Dr James Dromey (BioGrid Director) and its members are Dr Paul Barrett, Prof Peter Gibbs, Prof Maatren IJzerman and Mr Ray Van Kuyk.

Every clinician researcher understands the power of information in patients' clinical records. BioGrid has always sought to unlock that power, in an ethical, respectful and privacy-protected manner. BioGrid member, the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC), is more aware of that fact than most organisations. There are many barriers to better access and use of health data, and they are often more pronounced in cancer

care because the patient can attend multiple sites for treatment. Barriers include incompatible data items collected, different platforms and the wide variety of data stored such as diagnostic imaging, pathology results and genetic information.

That is why the VCCC has commenced negotiations with BioGrid and the University of Melbourne about funding a project that aims to unlock the power of existing health data for research across the VCCC hospitals. In order to improve outcomes for patients with cancer, the parties will collaborate on a program to develop a platform to share VCCC and external data of patients with cancer and deliver data driven cancer health services. To achieve this, data scientists will work with clinicians, sharing their expertise bringing research results to patients sooner.

The future of research is exciting, but it is also challenging, and BioGrid, with its unique data sharing platform and governance framework can facilitate these research initiatives via an easier but robust pathway. With our new business and governance structures, BioGrid looks forward to supporting the various research initiatives across our membership that require data integration, linkage and analyses to facilitate biomedical research in Australia and abroad.

With acknowledgement of our entire team: employees; members; collaborators; patient advocates; and board directors, BioGrid's achievements would be impossible without you, a very sincere thank you to you all.

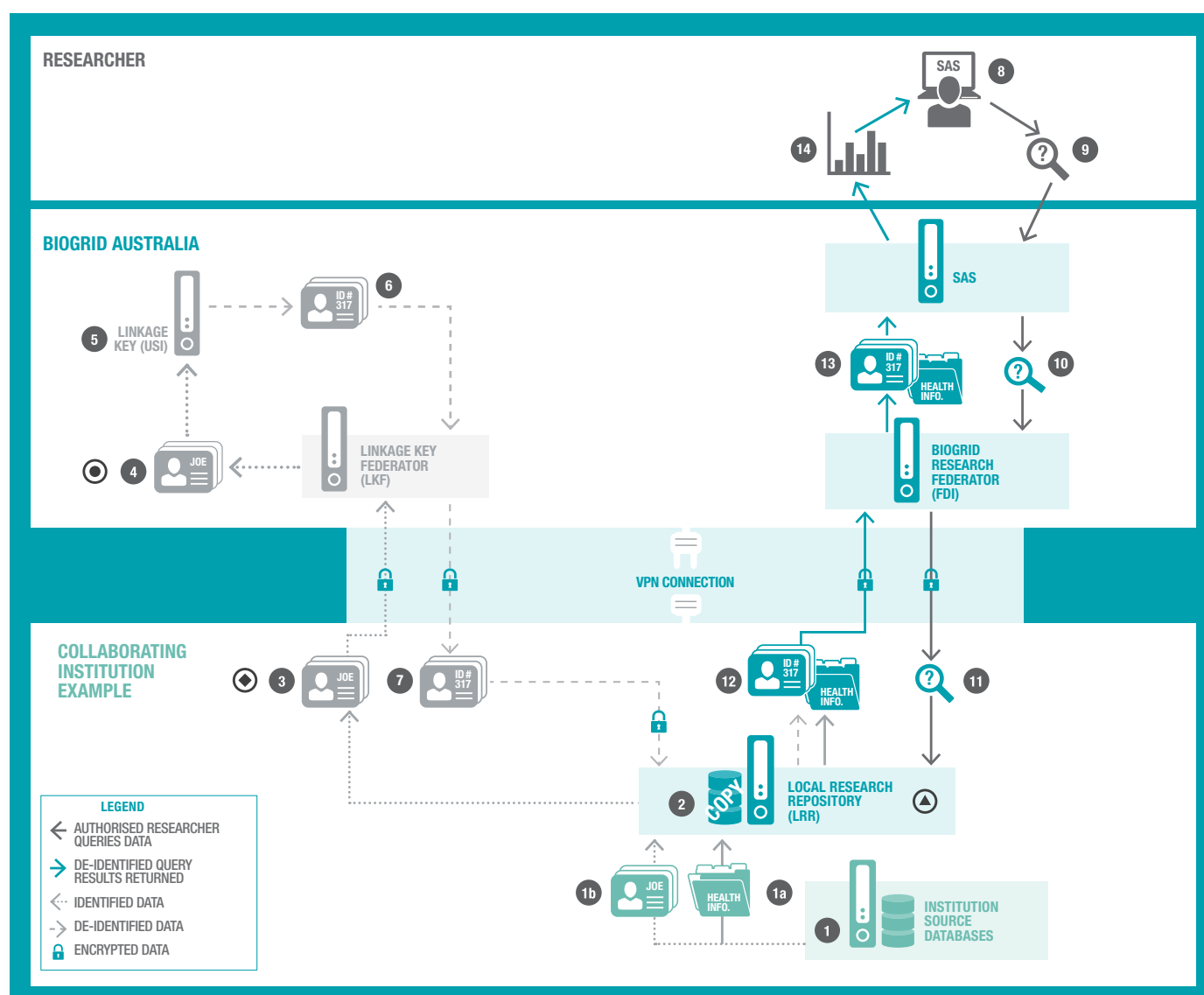
## About BioGrid

Data governance, security and ethics are at the core of BioGrid's federated data sharing platform that securely links patient level clinical, biospecimen, genetic and imaging data sets across multiple sites and diseases for the purpose of medical research.

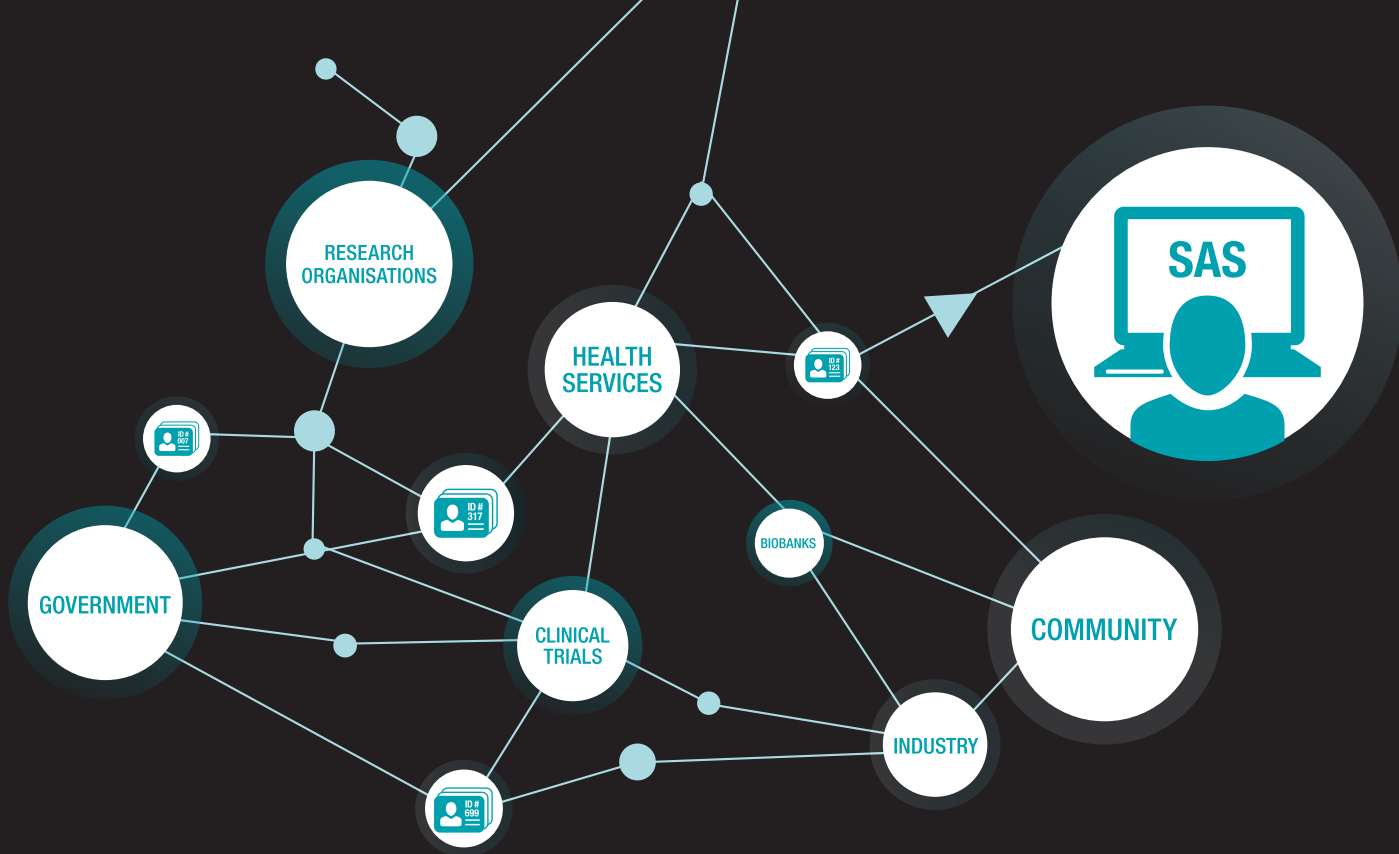
BioGrid's infrastructure and data management strategies address the increasing need by authorised researchers to dynamically extract and analyse data from multiple sources whilst protecting patient privacy.

In the health sector, BioGrid is a trusted independent virtual real-time data repository. Investment in BioGrid has facilitated a combination of technology, collaboration and ethics approval processes for data sharing that exist nowhere else in the world.

For more information on how BioGrid works, what data is linked to BioGrid and how to access data, go to [www.biogrid.org.au](http://www.biogrid.org.au)







1. Patient information is recorded in one or more data sources (i.e. databases, spreadsheets), which are stored on a collaborating institution's computer network. This information comprises clinical health information data and identifiers.
  - 1a. Clinical health information data are the collection of facts and opinions about an individual's health and wellbeing. Treatment details are an example of clinical health information data.
  - 1b. Identifiers are the data items, which identify the individual who is described within a patient record. A patient's name is an example of an identifier.
  2. The patient information is copied into replica data sources, which are stored on the collaborating institution's Local Research Repository (LRR), on a nightly basis or frequency agreed by the collaborating institution.
  3. A limited set of identifiers from each new patient record are sent from the replica data sources to BioGrid Australia's Linkage Key Federator (LKF) via a secure encrypted Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection.
  4. The Linkage Key Federator (LKF) forwards the identifiers to BioGrid Australia's Linkage Key server. This server hosts the Unique Subject Identifier (USI) database.
  5. The identifiers are compared with the USI database's records to establish whether data about the patient already exists within a BioGrid-linked data source.  
If a match is found for a patient's data, the patient has previously been allocated a USI. If no match is found for a patient's data, the patient's set of identifiers and a new USI are written to the USI database.
  6. The USIs for the matching and non-matching patients are sent back to the LKF.
  7. The USIs are sent back to the LRR via a secure encrypted VPN connection and stored with their associated clinical health information data.
  8. Once authorised access via the BioGrid Australia Data Access Application System has been provided to the researcher, they can commence querying the de-identified data they have approval to access.
  9. The researcher submits a data query to BioGrid Australia's statistical analysis (SAS) computer via the Internet.
  10. The SAS computer forwards the query to the FDI.
  11. The FDI requests the specified data from each of the relevant LRRs via a secure encrypted VPN connection.
  12. The clinical health information data and USIs from applicable patient records are sent to the FDI via a secure encrypted VPN connection. These data are combined into a temporary table. The table is removed from the FDI upon completion of the query.
  13. The SAS computer reads and processes data from the temporary table.
  14. The SAS computer presents the results of the query to the researcher.
- BioGrid provides alternative matching methodology referred to as exact matching using a cryptographic hashing function when individual identifiers cannot be brought together in one place for comparison.
- ⬆ Highly secure hash generating software is installed at collaborating institution. The hashing algorithm is run at collaborating institution's site on the replica data sources. A unique hash value is created for each set of identifying patient data. No identifying information ever leaves the source site.
  - ⬇ Unique hash value from each new patient record is sent from the replica data source to BioGrid Australia's Linkage Key Federator (LKF) via a secure encrypted Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection. No identifying information ever leaves the source site.
  - ⦿ The LKF synchronises its matches with the BioGrid Australia's Linkage Key server. This server hosts the Unique Subject Identifier (USI) database.



# Projects

## Building Analytical Capability for Data Driven Research

The VCCC Alliance Strategic Research Plan 2017-2020 is designed to deliver increased research capability, capacity and translation into practice and increased clinical trial access and participation through seeding new initiatives and developing new models of application, leveraging current activities and building the skilled workforce. The prioritised programs are highly interconnected, but can be considered in three broad groupings: rapidly advancing areas of research; clinical trials research and translational research enablers.

Within these broad groupings, nineteen programs are being developed. One of the programs in the category of “Rapidly advancing areas of research” is Building analytical capability for health data-driven research.

The VCCC will invest approximately \$1.3m in better use of existing health data for research. The key elements of this program are:

- a platform that facilitates sharing of, and access to, VCCC and external cancer health data for research
- building academic capability in the analytical, computational and data sciences that underpin data-driven research
- bringing together data science and clinical expertise.

The goals of the program include better use of electronic data that is already collected by the VCCC hospitals for research and enriching hospital datasets through patient-level record linkage to external datasets. In addition, the program aims to grow the VCCC research portfolio in data-driven research including health services research, health economics and patient outcomes-focussed research.

Given BioGrid's specific expertise in this area, discussions commenced in 2016-17 between BioGrid, VCCC Alliance and the University of Melbourne about funding a project that aims to unlock the power of existing health data for research.

# Linking Type 1 diabetes data to include adult data

The Australasian Diabetes Data Network (ADDN) project was initiated in 2012 with paediatric hospitals across Australia funded by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). ADDN Phase 2 (ADDN2) commenced in 2016 with the key objective of adding adult hospitals to ADDN which resulted in a partnership with the Australasian Paediatric Endocrine Group (APEG) and the Australian Diabetes Society (ADS), funded by the JDRF. To collect longitudinal data on Type 1 diabetes patients, it is critical to include data from adult hospitals as paediatric patients are required to transition from children's to adult's hospitals at 18 years of age.

The aims of the ADDN from the commencement of the project have been:

- Create a longitudinal prospective database for Type 1 diabetes
- Provide benchmarking across diabetes centres to drive quality improvement
- Encourage and support national collaboration
- Increase patient-centred research
- Facilitate collaboration with a broad range of investigators
- Inform policy development for diabetes management
- Linkage to other datasets

The research will involve both paediatric and adult centres across Australia, including:

- WA - Perth Children's Hospital and Fiona Stanley Hospital
- SA - the South Australian Women's and Children's Hospital and Lyell McEwin & Modbury Hospitals

- QLD - Lady Cilento Hospital and Mater Hospital Brisbane
- NSW – Children's Hospital Westmead, John Hunter Children's Hospital, and Westmead Hospital
- VIC – Royal Children's Hospital, Monash Children's Hospital, Royal Melbourne Hospital, St Vincent's Melbourne, and Sunshine Hospital (Western Health)

Participating centres provide six-monthly uploads of de-identified data into the ADDN, held securely at the University of Melbourne. The data collected will include data about the patient (demographics, diagnosis details), visit data, co-morbidities, family history and other medications being taken.

ADDN is supported by JDRF Australia, the recipient of the Australian Research Council Special Research Initiative in Type 1 Juvenile Diabetes.



# Projects

## Harnessing the power of ‘big data’ to close the gap on indigenous cardiovascular health disparities

Cardiovascular (CV) disease has an earlier age of onset in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and is the largest contributor to the health gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. However, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people are less likely to receive evidence-based cardiovascular care despite being at higher risk for heart attack and stroke.

However, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people are less likely to receive evidence-based cardiovascular care despite being at higher risk for heart attack and stroke. It's not clear why this is the case, and this is what Associate Professor Luke Burchill and his team set out to investigate by linking clinical data collected by Australian general practices, hospitals and government agencies to determine how variation in CV risk, events and treatment influences Indigenous and non-Indigenous health outcomes. With the assistance of a Melbourne Academic Centre for Health (MACH) grant, A/Prof Burchill will be leveraging the data linkage pioneered by the VCCC Alliance to link hospital admissions data to NPS MedicineInsight primary care data.

BioGrid will provide the data linkage and curation support for this project, as well as assisting the project team to address the concerns of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities regarding data sovereignty. The resulting linked dataset will provide new insights into how cardiovascular disease is assessed and treated across the care continuum.

The project team aims to:

1. Compare evidence-based-cardiovascular care for Indigenous vs. non-Indigenous Australians
2. Contrast cardiovascular disease prevalence and incidence differ greatly for Indigenous versus non-Indigenous Australians
3. Assess cardiovascular risk and mortality in Indigenous versus non-Indigenous Australians
4. Recalibrate existing risk prediction tools for Indigenous Australians
5. Assess the impact of evidence-based cardiovascular care on cardiovascular health and economic outcomes including the cost-effectiveness of early cardiovascular disease prevention.



## Student Project

Application of health information management knowledge that informed BioGrid's systems. For a number of years now BioGrid has enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship with La Trobe University's College of Science, Health & Engineering, School of Psychology & Public Health.

Students on placement have the opportunity to test and improve their skills in a real-world environment and BioGrid benefits from their good work.

This year has been no exception. We welcomed Rebecca Sugirthakumar during September 2017 when she joined us for a placement as part of her Master of Health Information Management. Rebecca's BioGrid supervisor was Javier Haurat and he supported her to engage with the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC), the site of her project on comparison of data sets.

After Rebecca mastered BioGrid's analytical and visualisation tools, she applied her knowledge of data and coding standards, such as ICD10, to BioGrid's data sets. Her focus was on VCCC hospital-based data sets such as ePAD for prostate cancer to produce a data set visualisation report. Rebecca commented "Completing a placement with BioGrid has been extremely valuable as it has now solidified all the learnings and theory that has been taught at university and its relevance to health information. This placement has given me real-world insights on the processes involved in providing a data linkage service to extract health information for research purposes. BioGrid has given me the opportunity to apply my ICD 10 coding skills to develop data set standards documents for data collection tools.

***"Through the guidance of my supervisor and the support of the online SAS community, I have been able to develop competency in using SAS Enterprise Guide for extracting data and creating reports. These projects have developed practical skills and experience that will be invaluable to my future career in health information."***

**Rebecca Sugirthakumar**

As a part of her assessment Rebecca produced a VCCC data set visualisation and comparison report and a presentation for BioGrid employees and members.

Her work proved to be valuable to BioGrid as she was able to streamline the process of creating reports on data set comparisons.

***"Rebecca is an extremely motivated student who demonstrated the ability to absorb large amounts of information. Her knowledge of ICD10 proved invaluable to BioGrid because the integration of its coding system is vital to research."***

**Javier Haurat, BioGrid**



# Directors' Report

The directors present their report on BioGrid Australia Limited for the financial year ended 30 June 2018.



**Professor Bryan Williams**  
PhD, Hon FRSNZ

**Director and Chairman since March 2009**  
**Chairman March 2009 – September 2018**

Emeritus Director and Distinguished Scientist,  
Hudson Institute of Medical Research,  
2017–present

Institute Director and CEO, Hudson Institute  
of Medical Research (2014–2017)

Director, Monash Institute of Medical Research  
(2006–2013)

Director, Pacific Edge Ltd (New Zealand)  
(2013–present)

Director, Pacific Edge Pty Ltd (Australia)  
(2008–present)

Director, Cancer Trials Australia Pty Ltd,  
(2009–2014)

Director and Chairman, MEI Pharma Inc.  
(2006–2013)

Member of the Victorian Cancer Agency  
Consultative Council (2009–2012)

Director, Centre for Cancer Research, Monash  
Institute of Medical Research (2006–2012)

Professor, Department of Genetics, Case  
Western Reserve University, Cleveland, USA,  
(1993–2005)

Chairman, Department of Cancer Biology,  
Lerner Research Institute, The Cleveland Clinic  
Foundation in Cleveland, USA, (1991–2005)



**Dr Robert Grenfell**  
MBBS, MPH, FAFPHM, MAICD

**Director since October 2017**  
**Chairman since September 2018**

Director – Health and Biosecurity, CSIRO,  
2015–present

Director, Grenfell Health Consulting  
(1997–present)

Director, Maree Stopes Health (2011–2016)

Chair, General Practice Victoria (2007–2010)

Director, General Practice Victoria (1998–2007)



**Associate Professor Paul Cooper**  
BSc, PhD, GradDipBus, FACHI,  
CHIA, GAICD

**Director since August 2018**  
**Deputy Chairman since September 2018**

Director, Calliston Consultants Pty Ltd, 2016  
to present

Secretary, Health Informatics Society Australia,  
Victorian Branch (2017–present)

Director, Digital Health, Department of Health  
and Human Services, Victorian Government  
(2017–2018)

Director, Victorian Continence Resource Centre  
(2015–present)





**Dr Julian Clark**  
BSc (Hon), PhD, MAICD, FTSE

**Director since March 2009**  
**Resigned April 2018**

Head of Business Development, The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, 2003–present

Director, Australian Genome Research Facility (2015–present)

Director, Catalyst Therapeutics Pty Ltd (2012–present)

Director, Cancer Trials Australia Pty Ltd (2009–present)

Director, BACE Therapeutics Pty Ltd (2009–2016)

Chairman & Member, Sansom Institute Advisory Committee, University of South Australia (2006–present)

Director, Julian Clark Consulting Pty Ltd (1999–present)

Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Therapeutics CRC Pty Ltd (2007–2009)

Director, Alchemia Limited (2006–2008)

Director, Genera Biosystems Pty Ltd (2004–2007)

Director, Meditech Research Limited (2004–2006)



**Mr Christopher Arnold**  
B Comm, MBA, FCPA, FAIM, MAICD

**Director since March 2014**

Executive Director, Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc., 2010–present

Director, Melba Opera Trust (2017–present)

Director, Christ Church Grammar Foundation (2012–present)

Director, Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc (2009–present)

Chairman, Telediagnostics Pty Ltd (2010–2016)

Principal, Hodgson Associates (2009–present)

Chairman, Human Variome Project International Ltd (2014–2017)

Director, Human Variome Project International Ltd (2008–2017)

Director Philanthropy Australia (2003–2009)

Director Australian Communities Foundation (1999–2007)



**Mr David Polonsky**  
B Bus, CA, TIA, MAICD

**Director since January 2015**

Director, DRP Consulting Pty Ltd, 1996–present

Director, Moore Stephens (Vic) Pty Ltd (formerly Nexia Melbourne Pty Ltd), (2011–2017)

Director, Private Ancillary Funds various to present

Director Spirit of Australia Foundation 2018 to present

# Directors' Report



**Professor Karin Verspoor**  
BA, MSc, PhD, GCUT

**Director since August 2016**

Deputy Head of Department (Operations), Department of Computing and Information Systems, University of Melbourne 2015–present

Deputy Director, ARC Industrial Transformation Training Centre in Cognitive Computing for Medical Technologies (2018–present)

Fellow, Centre for Business Analytics, Melbourne Business School (2015–present)

Deputy Director, Health and Biomedical Informatics Centre, University of Melbourne (2014–present)

President, Australasian Language Technology Association (ALTA) (2013–2014)

Scientific Director, Health and Life Sciences, National ICT Australia (NICTA) (2012–2014)



**Dr James Dromey**  
BSc PhD

**Director since August 2018**

Chief Operating Officer, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, 2016–present

Director, GI Therapies (2012–present)

Director, Prota Therapeutics (2016–present)

# Directors' Report

## Meetings attended

The following outlines meetings held and attended by each of the Directors in 2016–18.

Director	Board of Directors		Audit & Risk Committee	
	Held	Attended	Held	Attended
Bryan Williams	7	7		
Rob Grenfell	6	5		
Julian Clark	6	0	4	0
Chris Arnold	7	7	3	3
David Polonsky	7	7	4	4
Karin Verspoor	7	7		
Paul Cooper	0	0		
James Dromey	0	0		

The entity is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. As such, no shares are issued or held by directors. If the entity is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the entity. At 30 June 2018 the number of members was 35.

## Principal activities

The principal activities of the Company are data sharing that advances health research by linking privacy-protected and ethically approved clinical, imaging, biospecimen and genetic data among a wide network of health collaborators.

During the year there was no significant change in the nature of those activities.

## Company's objectives

The company's objectives are to:

- Facilitate internationally competitive medical research into the causes of ill health and disease;
- Provide an ethically approved privacy-protected service to connect data sources;
- Invest in technology development to ensure ongoing alignment with leading technology that supports privacy-protected data connection; and

- Be sustainable in order to fulfill the company's vision and mission and to service the needs of its' members.

To achieve these objectives, the Company:

- Supported the Victorian Department of Health and Victorian Cancer Agency by providing data linkage and data management services for state funded cancer research projects;
- Worked with key stakeholders in the health sector to facilitate major research projects in Victoria and Australia;
- Provided ongoing training and support for quality specialist staff committed to providing a technology platform that supports medical research through privacy-protected data connection; and
- Retained a business development focus targeting organisations with the resources to support project work with the company.

## Key performance measures

The Company measures its own performance through the use of both quantitative and qualitative benchmarks. The benchmarks are used by the directors to assess whether the company's short-term and long-term objectives are being achieved.

	2018		2017	
	Actual	Benchmark	Actual	Benchmark
Total Number of Members	35*	40	34*	38
Current Institution Ethics Approvals	38	40	36	38
Approved Active Research Projects	133	120	107	94
Journal Publications to Date	236	229	204	182
% Income from Membership Subscriptions	44%	20%	19%	20%

\*At 30 June 2018 there are 5 non-member collaborator institutions, a total of 40 BioGrid Australia collaborators.

## Dividends

The Company Constitution forbids the payment or distribution of any profits, income or assets to the members.

# Directors' Report

## Directors' remuneration

The directors did not receive remuneration from the Company with the exception of reimbursement of expenses relating to their director role.

## Indemnification of officers and auditors

During the year the Company paid a premium in respect of a contract insuring the directors of the Company, the Company secretary and all executive officers of the Company and of any related body corporate against a liability incurred as such a director, secretary or executive officer to the extent permitted by the Corporations Act 2001. The Company has not otherwise, during or since the year, indemnified or agreed to indemnify an officer or auditor of the Company or of any related body corporate against a liability incurred as such an officer or auditor.

## Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The financial report for the year ended 30 June 2017 has been prepared on a going concern basis, which contemplates continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and the settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business.

The Company generated a profit from continuing operations for the reporting period of \$95,096 (prior year loss \$161,157), resulting in a positive Net Equity position of \$20,774 at 30 June 2018 (\$74,322 deficiency at 30 June 2017).

Likely developments in the operations of the Company and the expected results of those operations in future years have not been included in this report as the inclusion of such information is likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the Company.

Notwithstanding the above, the Directors believe it is appropriate to prepare the financial report on a going concern basis given the circumstances summarised below:

- The Company is expected to trade profitably for the current financial year;
- The Directors are continuing to work with key stakeholders who have and continue to show their support for the Company and its future operations;
- The Directors are continuing to work with government (Federal and State), existing and potential customers and clients in industry to increase revenue and margins and expand the services and operations of the Company within Australia and overseas;
- The Company remains the only collaboration network in Australia with the legal and ethical framework to enable the sharing of real-time health and medical data for research. Accordingly it is well positioned to take advantage of opportunities as they arise nationally and internationally; and
- The Company continues to develop and improve its national data linkage platform in collaboration with key suppliers using global vendor hardware and software.

Having considered the above factors, the directors have concluded that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Should the Company be unable to continue as a going concern, it may be appropriate to realise its assets and discharge its liabilities at amounts different to those stated in the financial report.

## Events subsequent to balance date

Since the end of the financial year, the Company has traded profitably, which has resulted in an improved position of the Company as at the date of signing this Report.

## Auditor's Independence Declaration

The lead auditor's independence declaration in accordance with section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, for the year ended 30 June 2018 has been received and can be found on page 5 of the financial report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



**Rob Grenfell, Director**



**David Polonsky, Director**

**Melbourne, 30 October 2018**

**BioGrid Australia Limited****31 136 185 647****Auditor's Independence Declaration**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2018 there have been:

- a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in Section 60.40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

**Saward Dawson Chartered Accountants****Jeffrey Tulk**

Partner

Blackburn, Victoria 3130  
30 October 2018

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**PRINCIPALS:** Bruce Saward FCA      Peter Shields FCA  
                         Joshua Morse CA      Jeff Tulk CA  
                         Matthew Stokes CA  
**DIRECTORS:** Marie Ickeringill SSA      Cathy Braun CA  
                         Murray Nicholls CA      Vicki Adams CA CPA CFP®

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# Financial Report

## Statement of Income and Expenditure and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Revenue	2	1,659,611	1,507,469
Consultant expenses	3	(1,316,524)	(1,367,928)
License fees		(96,947)	(89,135)
Administrative expenses		(51,429)	(104,699)
Professional fees		(51,064)	(70,191)
Doubtful debt expense		(26,859)	—
Depreciation		(13,010)	(7,700)
Bank charges		(1,067)	(1,467)
Other expenses		(7,615)	(27,506)
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities</b>		<b>95,096</b>	<b>(161,157)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
Items that will be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss when specific conditions are met		—	—
<b>Total other comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>95,096</b>	<b>(161,157)</b>

## Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	174,877	33,998
Trade and other receivables	5	318,332	281,842
Other assets	6	95,499	6,445
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>588,708</b>	<b>322,285</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	7	2,039	4,649
Intangible assets	8	39,492	49,892
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>41,531</b>	<b>54,541</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>630,239</b>	<b>376,826</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	9	336,733	329,348
Other liabilities	10	272,732	121,800
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>609,465</b>	<b>451,148</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>609,465</b>	<b>451,148</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>20,774</b>	<b>(74,322)</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated surpluses		20,774	(74,322)
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>20,774</b>	<b>(74,322)</b>



## Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

2018	Accumulated Surpluses \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2017	(74,322)	(74,322)
Surplus for the year	95,096	95,096
Balance at 30 June 2018	20,774	20,774

2017	Accumulated Surpluses \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2016	86,835	86,835
Deficit for the year	(161,157)	(161,157)
Balance at 30 June 2017	(74,322)	(74,322)

## Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Receipts from customers		1,959,154	1,567,613
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,789,259)	(1,551,367)
Interest received		3	2,083
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	11	169,898	18,329
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment		–	(1,187)
Payment for intangible asset		–	(49,892)
Net cash used by investing activities		–	(51,079)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Funds received and held on behalf of Global Variome		–	66,999
Funds spent on behalf of Global Variome		(29,019)	(319,163)
Net cash used in other activities		(29,019)	(252,164)
Net cash increase (decreases) in cash and cash equivalents		140,879	(284,914)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		33,998	318,912
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	4	174,877	33,998

# Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

## Note 1 Accounting policies

### (a) General information

BioGrid Australia Limited is a Company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The directors have prepared the financial reports on the basis that the company is a non-reporting entity because there are no users who are dependent on its general purpose financial reports. These financial reports are therefore special purpose financial reports that have been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

### (b) Basis of preparation

The financial reports have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the directors have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members.

The financial reports, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in notes. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

### (c) Revenue

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised upon delivery of the service to customers. Portions that are deemed not yet earned or matched against expenditure are recorded as income received in advance on the statement of financial position. Where the grant or contract relates to support of payments to fixed term employees, these are recognised over an equal period over the life of the contract.

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement income and expenditure and other comprehensive income when the entity obtains control of the grant and it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the company and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised as revenue when received.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

### (d) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short-term borrowings in current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

### (e) Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables include outstanding funds invoiced to customers for membership fees and completed projects or milestones. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets.

### (f) Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the asset.

#### Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all plant and equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to BioGrid Australia Limited commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

### (g) Intangibles

#### Amortisation

Amortisation is recognised in profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of intangible assets, from the date that they are available for use.

Amortisation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted if appropriate.

#### Software

Software has a finite life and is carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. It has an estimated useful life of between three and five years.

## Note 1 Accounting policies continued

### (h) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

### (i) Income taxes

No current or deferred income tax assets or liabilities have been raised by the company as it is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. The company is a registered charity under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

### (j) Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Company during the reporting period which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

### (k) Global Variome transactions

In 2016, BioGrid entered into an agency agreement to act on behalf of Global Variome in relation to their operations in Melbourne. At the end of the 2017 financial year, the arrangement with Global Variome had ceased and it was agreed that the balance of unspent funds of \$29,019 be transferred to Melbourne Health who subsequently took over operations in the current financial year.

The receipt of funds and payments of expenditure is not included in the statement of income and expenditure as the company considers this arrangement to be that of an agency relationship.

### (l) Going concern

The financial report for the year ended 30 June 2018 has been prepared on a going concern basis, which contemplates continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and the settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business. The Company generated a profit from continuing operations for the reporting period of \$95,096 (prior year loss \$161,157), resulting in a positive Net Equity position of \$20,774 at 30 June 2018 (\$74,322 deficiency at 30 June 2017).

Likely developments in the operations of the Company and the expected results of those operations in future years have not been included in this report as the inclusion of such information is likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the Company.

Notwithstanding the above, the Directors believe it is appropriate to prepare the financial report on a going concern basis given the circumstances summarised below:

- The Company has traded profitably since the end of the financial year,
- The Directors are working more closely with key stakeholders who have and continue to show their support for the Company and its future operations,
- The Directors are continuing to work with government (Federal and State), existing and potential customers and clients in industry to increase revenue and margin expand the services and operations of the Company within Australia and overseas,
- The Company remains the only collaboration network in Australia with the legal and ethical framework to enable the sharing of realtime health and medical data for research. Accordingly it is well positioned to take advantage of opportunities as they arise nationally and internationally, and
- The Company continues to develop and improve its national data linkage platform in collaboration with key suppliers using global vendor hardware and software.

Having considered the above factors, the directors have concluded that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Should the Company be unable to continue as a going concern, it may be appropriate to realise its assets and discharge its liabilities at amounts different to those stated in the financial report.

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Note 2 Revenue</b>			
<b>Operating revenue</b>			
– Commercial-led projects		460,546	659,123
– Member subscriptions		728,094	308,280
– Investigator-led projects		327,646	368,750
– Government projects		–	120,000
– Donations		4,822	6,794
– Grants		130,000	–
– Interest received		3	2,083
– Other income		8,500	42,439
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>1,659,611</b>	<b>1,507,469</b>
<b>Note 3 Consultancy expense</b>			
Consultant expenses include BioGrid staff salaries and wages, which is paid to Melbourne Health who manages the payroll and employment affairs for the company.			
<b>Note 4 Cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Cash at bank		174,877	33,998
		<b>174,877</b>	<b>33,998</b>
<b>Note 5 Trade and other receivables</b>			
<b>CURRENT</b>			
Accounts receivable		347,877	281,842
		(29,545)	–
		<b>318,332</b>	<b>281,842</b>
<b>Note 6 Other assets</b>			
<b>CURRENT</b>			
Prepayments		95,499	6,445
		<b>95,499</b>	<b>6,445</b>
<b>Note 7 Plant and equipment</b>			
<b>Plant and equipment</b>			
At cost		42,908	42,908
Less accumulated depreciation		(40,869)	(38,259)
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>		<b>2,039</b>	<b>4,649</b>
<b>Note 8 Intangible assets</b>			
<b>Computer software</b>			
At cost		52,000	52,000
Less accumulated depreciation		(12,508)	(2,108)
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>		<b>39,492</b>	<b>49,892</b>

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Note 9 Trade and other payables</b>			
<b>CURRENT</b>			
Trade payables		227,400	191,738
Accruals		92,617	132,774
GST payable		16,716	4,836
		<b>336,733</b>	<b>329,348</b>

## Note 10 Other liabilities

<b>CURRENT</b>			
Industry project income received in advance		–	83,250
Membership income received in advance		272,732	9,531,
Funds repayable to Global Variome		–	29,019
		<b>272,732</b>	<b>121,800</b>

## Note 11 Cash flow information

<b>Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with net current year deficit</b>			
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year		95,096	(161,157)
Cash flows excluded from surplus attributable to operating activities			
– Depreciation		13,010	5,592
– Provision for doubtful debts		26,859	–
Changes in assets and liabilities			
– (Increase)/decrease in trade and term receivables		(63,349)	72,558)
– (Increase)/decrease in other assets		(89,054)	5,187
– (Increase)/decrease in trade payables		7,385	129,723
– Increase/(decrease) in other liabilities		179,951	(33,574)
		<b>169,898</b>	<b>18,329</b>

## Note 12 Company details

The registered office of the Company is:

BioGrid Australia Limited  
Level 8, CMR Building  
Royal Melbourne Hospital  
300 Grattan St,  
Parkville Victoria 3052

## BioGrid Australia Limited

31 136 185 647

### Directors' Declaration

The Directors have determined that the Company is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The Directors of the Company declare that:

- (a) the financial report and notes are prepared in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, and;
- (b) In the Directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15 (2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.



**Robert Grenfell**  
Director



**David Polonsky**  
Director

Melbourne, 30 October 2018

## Independent Audit Report to the members of BioGrid Australia Limited

### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of BioGrid Australia Limited (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, the statement of income and expenditure and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Company is in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- a. giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2018 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and

- b. complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

### Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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Matthew Stokes CA  
**DIRECTORS:** Marie Ickeringill SSA Cathy Braun CA  
Murray Nicholls CA Vicki Adams CA CPA CFP®

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## Emphasis of Matter

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist BioGrid Australia Limited to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

## Responsibilities of Directors for the Financial Report

The Directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Saward Dawson**

**Jeffrey Tulk**  
Partner

Blackburn, Victoria  
30 October 2018

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