

Advancing health research through collaboration

ANNUAL REPORT 2010–2011



**BIOGRID
AUSTRALIA**
Health through information

BIOGRID MEMBERS



ACT Health
Canberra Hospital

**Adelaide Health Service
(Central Northern
Adelaide Health Service)**
Royal Adelaide Hospital
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Lyell McEwin Hospital

AlfredHealth

Alfred Health
The Alfred
Caulfield Hospital
Sandringham Hospital



Austin Health
Austin Hospital
Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital



Ballarat Health Services
Ballarat Base Hospital
Queen Elizabeth Centre



Barwon Health
Geelong Hospital



Bendigo Health
Bendigo Hospital



Eastern Health
Angliss Hospital
Box Hill Hospital
Healesville Hospital
Maroonah Hospital



Goulburn Valley Health
Goulburn Valley Hospital



Latrobe Regional Hospital



**Ludwig Institute for
Cancer Research**



Melbourne Health
The Royal Melbourne Hospital



Northern Health
The Northern Hospital



Peninsula Health
Frankston Hospital
Rosebud Hospital



**Peter MacCallum
Cancer Centre**



**Radiation Oncology
Victoria**

Southern Health

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



**St Vincent's Hospital,
Melbourne**



**Tasmanian Government
Department of Health
and Human Services**
Royal Hobart Hospital
Launceston General Hospital



**The Royal Children's
Hospital**



**The Royal Women's
Hospital**



**The University of
Melbourne**



**The University of
New South Wales**



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



Western Health
Western Hospital
Sunshine Hospital
The Williamstown Hospital

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ABOUT BIOGRID

BioGrid Australia Limited is a leading data sharing technology company providing a secure infrastructure that advances health research by linking privacy-protected and ethically approved data among a wide network of health collaborators. BioGrid links real-time de-identified health data across institutions, jurisdictions and diseases to assist researchers and clinicians improve their research and clinical outcomes. The web-based infrastructure provides ethical access while protecting both privacy and intellectual property.

BioGrid was established in 2003 with the foresight of the Bio21 Cluster collaboration as the Molecular Medicine Informatics Model. State and Federal Governments have enabled the establishment then expansion of the infrastructure over three funding phases. The most recent funding from the Victorian State Government Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development (now known as Department of Business and Innovation) leveraged the infrastructure to develop the Australian Cancer Grid.

In 2009 BioGrid became an independent not-for-profit company and is now owned by 25 collaborators representing 41 hospitals and research organisations across five states and territories.

BioGrid's core specialist services include:

- Infrastructure support and development
- Data connection ethics assistance
- Data connection, linkage and integration
- Web-based data access application system
- Data querying, interrogation, analysis and reporting
- Dataset creation and development

SUPPORTED BY



As health research and planning becomes more complex, the need for collaboration significantly increases. BioGrid's web-based infrastructure has the capacity to uniquely identify and ethically integrate data collected about a patient across multiple institutions.

BioGrid has the capability to link data with other datasets, produce tailored reports for auditing and reporting and provide statistical analysis tools to conduct more advanced research analysis.

Over the past 12 months, further expansion of the Australian Cancer Grid and activity across other disease areas, has contributed to an increase in privacy-protected patient records linked to BioGrid (202,429 at 30 June 2011) and a 13% increase in databases linked.

For more information on how BioGrid works, what data is linked to BioGrid and how to access data, go to www.biogrid.org.au.

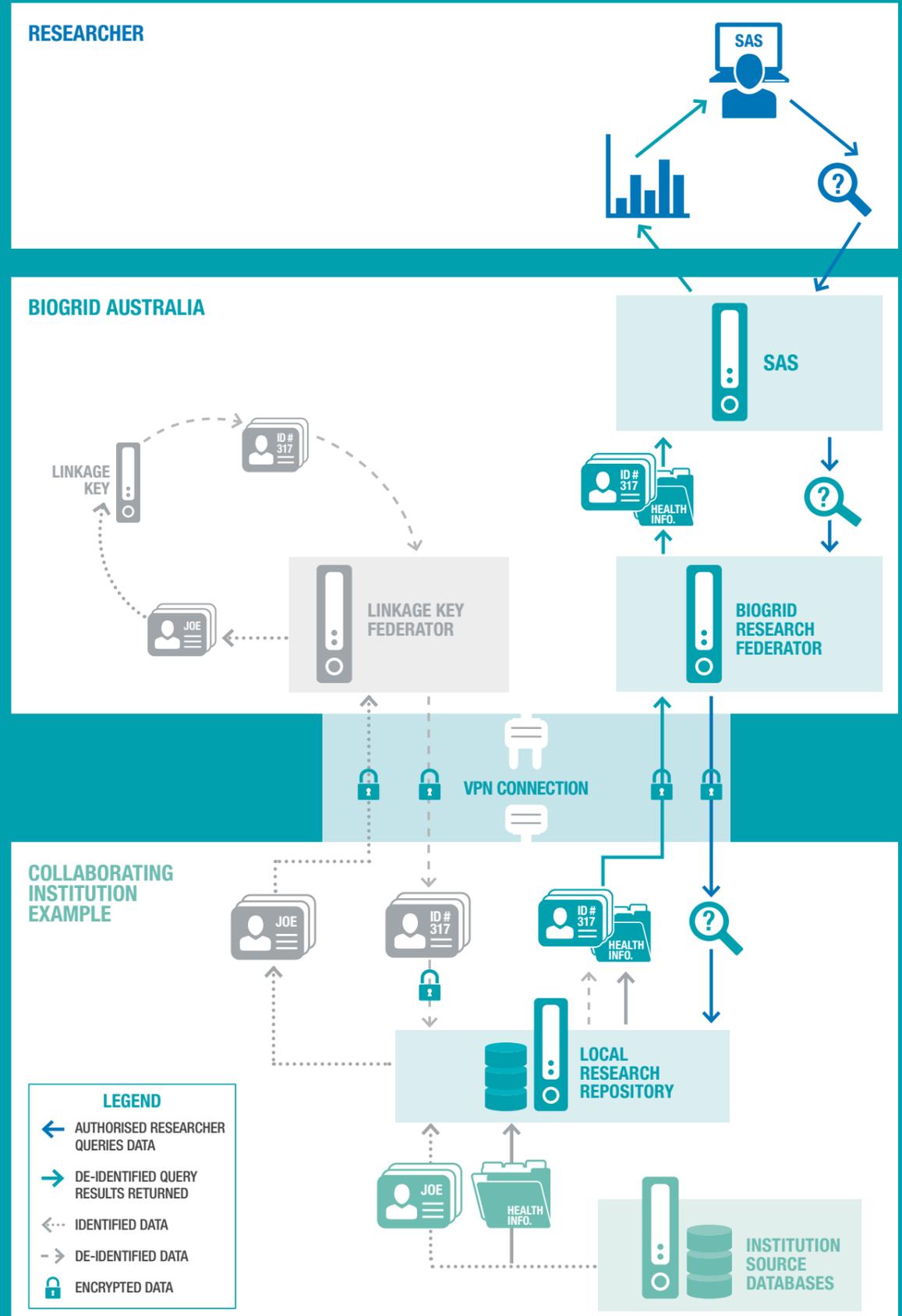
OUR VISION

Integrating health and research data to facilitate improved health outcomes.

OUR MISSION

Providing a technology platform for the ethical integration of data from individuals, health services, industry, research organisations and governments for research to reduce the burden of disease and improve human health.

HOW BIOGRID WORKS



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Centre of Analysis of Rare Tumours: CART-WHEEL.org

Since its launch in April 2010 by Professor Sir Gustav Nossal, the CART-WHEEL.org rare tumour database has attracted more than 240 registrants and approximately ninety people have returned their consent forms for the use of their clinical information for future research.

Funded by the Victorian Cancer Agency, the first project utilising the CART-WHEEL.org database will attempt to validate the patient self-entered data via CART-WHEEL.org with original source medical data. This project is currently recruiting patients; the results are keenly anticipated.

The Picchi Brothers Foundation is supporting a research fellow and this has facilitated the commencement of other rare tumour projects. One project is targeting a rare subset of ovarian cancer and is an important preliminary study to support a larger international collaborative project. The international project will determine the gene expression of this poorly understood high-grade subset of mucinous ovarian cancer with the aim of clarifying treatment options for women with this rare but highly lethal disease.

CART-WHEEL.org is also facilitating another study in small cell cancer of ovary by the Translational Genomics Research Institute and Van Andel Research Institute, of which both are collaborating sites investigating the molecular/genetic pathways driving this rare but aggressive disease mainly affecting young women.

Many international gynaecologists have taken active interest in the potential utility of the CART-WHEEL.org rare tumour database as a platform for future collaborative work on rare gynaecological cancers. CART-WHEEL.org was recently introduced in an international gynaecological journal^[1].



CART-WHEEL.org Facebook page.

As part of promotional activities, CART-WHEEL.org has embraced social media by creating Facebook and Twitter accounts with daily cancer news and information updates. Cancer forums have also been utilised to spread the word of CART-WHEEL.org to the wider cancer community. Proof of principle projects utilising the CART-WHEEL.org data and social networking approaches will continue to drive consumer usage of CART-WHEEL.org.

^[1] Bae S, Friedlander M, Scott C. **CART-WHEEL.org can facilitate research into rare gynaecological tumors.** Int J Gynaecological Cancer. In Press. 19 May 2011.

Researchers first to develop a multi-SNP risk prediction model for newly diagnosed epilepsy patients

Determining the optimal treatment for patients with newly diagnosed epilepsy is problematic. Slave Petrovski and Professor Terry O'Brien were the first to develop a multi-SNP risk prediction model to predict the likelihood that a newly diagnosed epilepsy patient will respond to the most common anti-epileptic drugs. Following this research, clinical parameters such as a patient's pre-treatment mood disorder was also found to predict their response to epilepsy treatment.

Their findings have important clinical translation as they suggest that treatment of any neuropsychiatric disorder in parallel with anti-epileptic therapy could improve the control of seizures in patients newly diagnosed with epilepsy^[1].

BioGrid Australia plays an important role in managing the data and facilitating the research efforts of the pharmacogenomics team. Their research into the field of epilepsy pharmacogenomics has been presented at over a dozen national and international scientific meetings, resulting in an international patent^[2], and has won numerous achievement awards.

^[1] S Petrovski, C E I Szoeko, N C Jones, M R Salzberg, L J Sheffield, R M Huggins, T J O'Brien (2010) **Neuropsychiatric symptomatology predicts seizure recurrence in newly treated patients.** Neurology 75: 11. 1015-1021 Sep

^[2] Slavé Petrovski, Cassandra E Szoeko, Leslie J Sheffield, Wendy D'souza, Richard M Huggins, Terence J O'Brien (2009) **Multi-SNP pharmacogenomic classifier is superior to single-SNP models for predicting drug outcome in complex diseases.** Pharmacogenet Genomics 19: 2. 147-152 Feb



Magnetic Resonance Imaging Scan.

BioGrid enabled data supporting continuation and expansion of a National Bowel Cancer Screening Program in Australia

Bowel cancer is a significant public health issue in Australia. Screening for bowel cancer with faecal occult blood testing (FOBT) has been proven to save lives by diagnosing cancer at an early stage, when the likelihood of cure is high. Clinical trials have demonstrated that such screening reduces deaths from bowel cancer by 15–30%, equating to almost 1,000 lives saved per year. The current Australian National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) is limited to specific age groups rather than the broader population. Little evidence is available to assess if it is having the desired impact. The cost effectiveness of such a program was also unknown.

Impact on stage at diagnosis

BioGrid is supporting clinicians to capture a comprehensive dataset on patients with bowel cancer. Through multi-site data linkage an adequate sample size has been analysed to compare the outcomes for those diagnosed by the NBCSP versus those diagnosed when symptoms are detected.

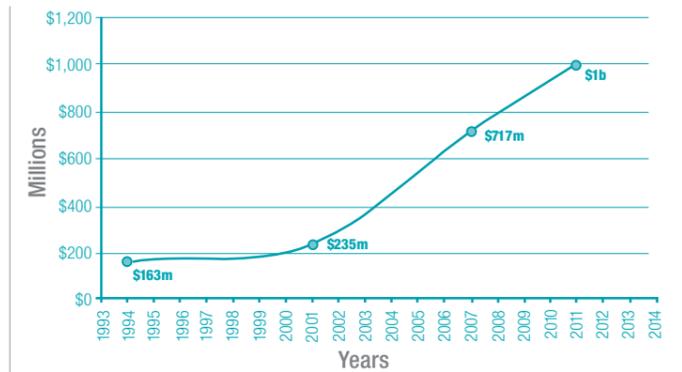
Stage of Cancer Diagnosis	NBCSP	Symptoms
A	40%	14%
B	25%	31%
C	25%	24%
D	3%	15%

Cost of treating bowel cancer

Data linked through BioGrid has enabled a comprehensive analysis of the cost of treating bowel cancer according to the stage at which the cancer was diagnosed. Compared to 1999 estimates the cost of treating early stage cancer in 2010 is largely unchanged whereas the cost of treating advanced cancer has escalated dramatically.

Stage of Cancer Diagnosis	\$cost 2010	\$cost 1999
A	23,100	17,100
B	63,500	33,400
C	80,000	25,800
D	97,300	6,300

New treatment options that benefit people with advanced bowel cancer bring with it significant public health costs. Analysing the forecasted expenditure, the estimate for the national cost of treating bowel cancer will be one billion dollars in 2011.



Rapidly escalating cost of treating bowel cancer.

Data linked through BioGrid has demonstrated that despite the limited scope of NBCSP, it is leading to earlier diagnosis of bowel cancers and this earlier diagnosis is directly leading to increased survival from this disease. Additional analysis related to the increasing cost of treating advanced bowel cancer creates a compelling argument for the cost effectiveness of screening.

This research project is currently in submission for publication.

Research findings inform Head and Neck cancer treatment

The Head and Neck module of the Australian Comprehensive Cancer Outcomes and Research Database (ACCORD) at BioGrid is now in its fourth year of use, headed by Associate Professor David Wiesenfeld. This data collection tool has been invaluable for clinical research into Head and Neck cancers at The Royal Melbourne Hospital. The database captures all disciplines involved in the care of patients with various Head and Neck malignancies.

A project examining surgical outcomes for cancers of the tongue identified a subset of patients more likely to have local tumour recurrence. The research findings have resulted in suggested alternative surgical techniques and additional treatment to reduce this^[1]. Adenoid cystic carcinoma is a rare salivary gland malignancy. A review of records over a 22-year period confirmed that tumour size at diagnosis is the most important predictor of outcome^[2].

Utilising the BioGrid analytical software tools to interrogate the ACCORD data has allowed research into the outcomes and risk factors for patients with Head and Neck tumours.

^[1] Matthew J Lin, Anthony Guiney, Claire E Iseli, Malcolm Buchanan, Tim A Iseli (2011) **Prophylactic Neck Dissection in Early Oral Tongue Squamous Cell Carcinoma 2.1 to 4.0 mm Depth.** Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg 144: 4. 542-548 Apr

^[2] A F Deangelis, A Tsui, D Wiesenfeld, A Chandu (2011) **Outcomes of patients with adenoid cystic carcinoma of the minor salivary glands.** Int J Oral Maxillofac Surg Mar

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



It is with great pleasure that I present the 2010–11 Annual Report for BioGrid Australia. This year's report provides a comprehensive review of the progress to date and outlines the valuable work BioGrid does to facilitate health research in Victoria and Australia.

The focus of the Board has continued to be on financial sustainability for BioGrid post the Australian Cancer Grid

funding. During the year, the state government committed interim funding for 2011-12 during which time BioGrid is working with Victorian government agencies supporting the establishment of an integrated translational research platform for the cancer community in Victoria.

This leverages the substantial work that has been done by BioGrid in developing the Australian Cancer Grid (ACG), a project funded by the Victorian Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development (now known as Department of Business and Innovation). The ACG Project was successfully completed in June 2011, on time, on budget, with project milestones achieved.

Over a five-year period the project expanded from its initial pilot sites to members across five states and territories covering 41 hospitals and research organisations. There are now 69 databases linked to BioGrid representing 202,429 privacy-protected patient records. The ACG Project established BioGrid's reputation for facilitating privacy-protected health research. It has enabled research outcomes that are translating into changed clinical practise and treatment.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank the Victorian Government for their ongoing engagement with BioGrid and their funding of the Australian Cancer Grid until June 2011. In addition, I would like to acknowledge the ACG Project Board (The University of Melbourne and Melbourne Health), and the BioGrid Member Management Committee for their ongoing support and contribution to this significant project. Importantly, on behalf of the Board I would like to thank the BioGrid staff for the steadfast commitment they have shown over the years to this project that has enabled so much to be achieved.

The strategic direction of the business continues to focus on further developing data linkage in major cancers such as lung, breast, prostate and bowel cancer. In the coming year, BioGrid will be providing data linkage and management services to several Victorian Cancer Agency funded projects in areas of lung cancer, bowel cancer and the Cancer 2015 project.

Other disease areas such as neurology, endocrinology and cardiology are planning to extend their data collection and research activities with assistance from BioGrid when appropriate funding is available.

Substantial progress has been made over the past year with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) regarding linkage to the National Death Index. This will allow BioGrid to obtain Australia wide death data for approved research projects. Ongoing discussions have resulted in approval of an amendment to BioGrid's data access application review procedure to comply with AIHW requirements. Over the next few months work will commence on the technical process to achieve data linkage.

Ongoing liaison with the National Cancer Research Institute Informatics Initiative, UK and the National Cancer Institute's caBIG (Cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid) initiative, USA, has identified an opportunity for BioGrid to be involved in a five-nation cancer research project, across the USA, England, Wales, Scotland and Australia. The project is proposed as a demonstration project testing the potential and capacity of the international cancer informatics initiatives to conduct collaborative research. Collaboration will provide opportunities for Australian researchers to understand international trends in clinical informatics, with access to additional tools and data.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have contributed to BioGrid's successes, especially the BioGrid staff and all the clinical leaders and researchers for their hard work and perseverance during the year. In addition, special thanks to the executive management team, Mr Bob Atwill (Chief Executive Officer), Ms Maureen Turner (General Manager), A/Prof Peter Gibbs (Clinical Director) and Dr Marienne Hibbert (Project Director), for their dedication and commitment to the ongoing development of BioGrid.

Since 2003 Melbourne Health has continued to act as Secretariat and home for the Australian Cancer Grid project and the BioGrid team. The continued support for BioGrid from the Melbourne Health executive team is greatly valued and appreciated.

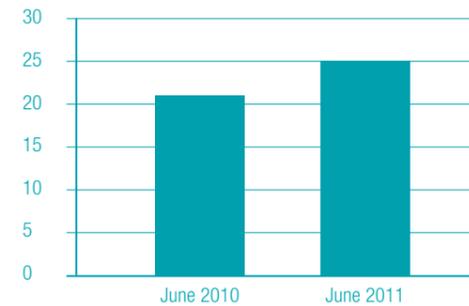
Finally, I would like to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of my fellow Directors, Rob Merriell and Julian Clark, both of whom have worked tirelessly setting and achieving fiscal and strategic goals for BioGrid.

The next 12 months offer a number of opportunities and challenges for BioGrid. Our key objective is to maximise the current business model to address future strategic fit with the establishment of an integrated translational research platform for the cancer community in Victoria.

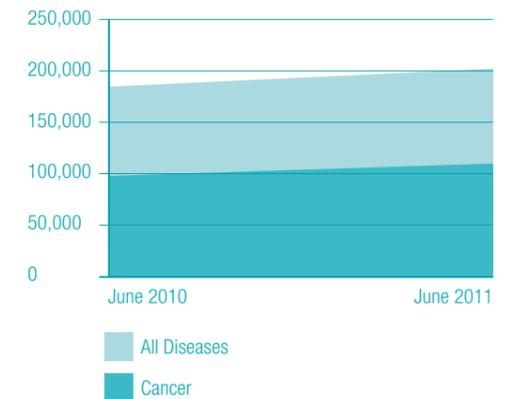
Professor Bryan Williams
Chairman, BioGrid Australia

KEY GROWTH INDICATORS

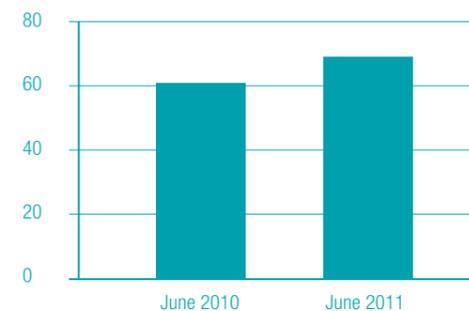
Number of BioGrid members



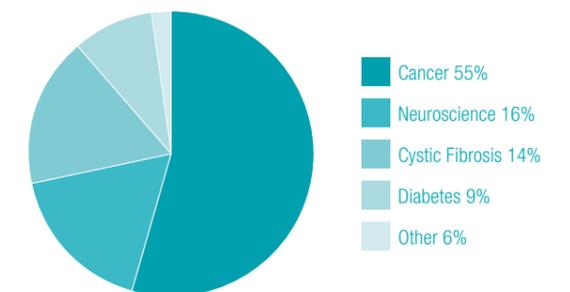
Number of privacy-protected patient records



Number of databases linked to BioGrid



Type of databases linked to BioGrid at 30 June 2011



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



Reflecting on the past 12 months, it has been a busy and challenging time for BioGrid as it transitions from a fully funded government project to a business providing data services to the health research sector. I continue to be impressed with what BioGrid has achieved in building a robust proven infrastructure that has the capacity to support an integrated translational research platform for Victoria. We look forward to

working closely with the cancer community, the Victorian Cancer Agency and the state government to make this vision a reality in the coming year.

The key challenge that the organisation has faced during the year is to achieve financial sustainability for the future. Revenue has been generated from membership fees and services provided to researchers and industry. Engagement with the pharmaceutical and biotech industry has been important in developing the future sustainability of BioGrid. This year has progressed well with Roche Products, Amgen Australia and Merck Serono Australia signing contracts to address key collaborative research needs in cancer. Negotiations with a number of global pharmaceutical companies in cancer and other therapeutic areas are in progress and will deliver quality research outcomes and improve BioGrid's reach and financial position.

During the year, BioGrid welcomed Northern Health (The Northern Hospital), Barwon Health (Geelong Hospital), and the University of New South Wales as new members. These members have research interests in cancer as well as other disease areas. Over the past 12 months, further expansion of the Australian Cancer Grid and activity across other disease areas, has contributed to an increase in privacy-protected patient records linked to BioGrid (202,429 at 30 June 2011) and a 13% increase in databases linked.

Ongoing discussions with key translational research initiatives, such as the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre, the Monash Comprehensive Cancer Consortium and the Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre, have facilitated potential future opportunities for BioGrid's specialist expertise in data linkage and management. In the coming year, BioGrid will be providing these specialist services to several Victorian Cancer Agency funded projects in areas of lung cancer, bowel cancer and the Cancer 2015 project.

The production of a short video showing how data analysis and presentation is made easier for researchers by utilising BioGrid has been successfully used to raise awareness of the value of linking data through BioGrid. Developed in consultation with data analysts and researchers this allows researchers to discover how to analyse and present their project data utilising the SAS tools available through BioGrid. The video is now available on the website and will be featured in future member road show presentations.

According to *Pew Internet & American Life Project 2011* the most prolific Internet users are those either with a rare disease or caring for someone with one. The CART-WHEEL.org rare cancer database (funded by the Victorian Cancer Agency, developed by BioGrid, managed by A/Prof Clare Scott and Dr Susie Bae) invites people from all over the world to submit information about their particular tumour so that more research can be done in these understudied rare cancers. The reach, accessibility and immediacy of social networking encouraged CART-WHEEL.org to establish Facebook and Twitter accounts earlier in the year to engage with consumers to increase awareness in the community of this valuable research resource. Initial indications are that social media will be instrumental in driving consumers to CART-WHEEL.org. Research activities associated with CART-WHEEL.org are continuing to be supported with funding from the Victorian Cancer Agency and the Picchi Brothers Foundation.



[CART-WHEEL.org Twitter page.](#)

A farewell function was held on 30 March 2011 to honour the significant contribution that Dr Marianne Hibbert has made to Bio21 Cluster MMIM then BioGrid Australia through her role as Project Director. This provided an opportunity for key stakeholders, members, researchers and BioGrid staff to acknowledge and thank Marianne for her passion, hard work and commitment over the past seven years and to wish her all the best for the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the BioGrid staff for their enormous dedication to the company. The commitment the staff have shown over the years is what has enabled so much to be achieved. BioGrid is in a robust position to capitalise on the opportunities that the coming year holds and to deliver real progress in facilitating quality health research.

Mr Bob Atwill
Chief Executive Officer, BioGrid Australia

CLINICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT



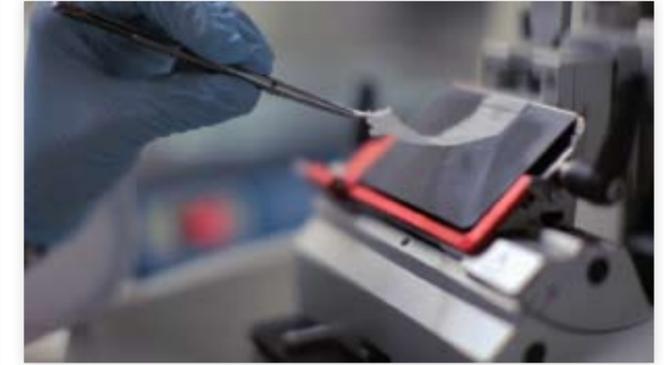
In my roles of Clinical Director of BioGrid Australia and Chairman of the BioGrid Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), the past 12 months have seen continued expansion with the addition of new sites, new tumour types and disease areas, and greater research output. Being involved with BioGrid since its inception, as a founding clinical researcher, my role has been to generate increasing engagement from

clinicians and industry with a goal of developing data collection across a broad spectrum of diseases, with the long term aim of improving clinical outcomes for patients.

Meeting quarterly throughout the year, the cancer SAC comprises representatives from member organisations and affiliates who have expertise in particular tumour stream areas. During the year two new Scientific Advisory Committees were established. A Life Sciences SAC was formed to ensure member representation in other disease areas. A Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee was established to lead and oversee the validity of commercial activities of the company to ensure projects are aligned with BioGrid's strategy such that industry can support research activities without compromising any of our core values. The role of the SAC's is to lead and oversee the rapidly expanding and evolving science and research activities of BioGrid, including reviewing and approving data access requests from researchers.

The four-year collaborative study between BioGrid and Roche Products has continued to provide insight into how clinicians choose from the multiple potential treatment options available for patients with advanced bowel cancer. The first of many research papers related to this activity will be submitted toward the end of 2011. With the current project scheduled to accrue the planned 1,000 patients across Australia toward the end of 2012, discussions are underway as to how this project could be continued and expanded.

Enabling sustainable data capture by minimising the amount of data entry support required is a key focus of BioGrid. Data is now being collected across a number of tumour streams and institutions using a successfully developed chemotherapy prescribing module for ACCORD (Australian Comprehensive Cancer Outcomes and Research Database). This enables clinicians to generate treatment scripts rapidly and safely, with routine capture of all treatment data without the need to separately complete data forms. A planned link with eviQ will mean access to all standard treatment protocols and other eviQ resources. Further efforts to incorporate data capture into routine care are the planned creation of electronic operative notes and discharge summaries. The completion of a new ACCORD module, Hepatocellular Carcinoma, in collaboration with the Melbourne Hepatocellular Carcinoma Interest Group has been part of the significant further development of resources in the last 12 months.



Tissue sections being prepared for researchers.

CSIRO's Preventative Health National Research Flagship has been associated with BioGrid since its inception, driven by a shared belief in the importance of high quality, linked epidemiological and clinical longitudinal data to health research and its translation into clinical practice and informed health policy and guideline development. BioGrid has assisted CSIRO, Melbourne Health (Victoria) and Flinders University (South Australia) to link together two leading national colorectal cancer surveillance databases across state boundaries increasing significantly their power as a research resource. Similarly it is helping both CSIRO and Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research researchers to link molecular data on colorectal tumours with clinical disease, treatment and outcome data to develop biomarker-guided, personalised approaches to improved patient treatment and management.

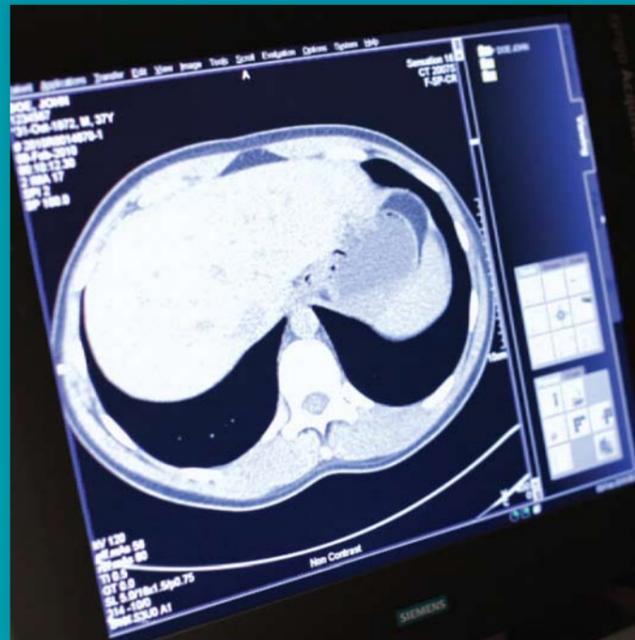
Research activities in the non-cancer area of life sciences also achieved major results throughout the year. Separate studies into diabetes and cystic fibrosis data resulted in evaluation of different aspects of care and treatment plans benefiting patients. A world-first study comparing the outcomes of anti-epileptic drug therapy was conducted with the findings recently being published in the journal, *Neurology*.

There has been increasing enthusiasm from pharmaceutical companies in supporting prospective data collection projects that address specific questions related to clinician decision making, and treatment selection and outcomes in routine practice. These projects while addressing often quite specific questions are also supporting capture of our standard dataset. With each of these projects being developed with a national vision they will not only provide a revenue stream that is critical to support and expand data capture and research, but also will create additional interest and engagement in BioGrid across Australia.

BioGrid is working with state government agencies to support the establishment of an integrated translational research platform in Victoria. In time, data linkage across clinical data, biospecimens, registry data, biomarkers, genomics and imaging will provide a rich source of information for clinical research that will enhance the efficiency of biomarker discovery and validation research.

Associate Professor Peter Gibbs
Clinical Director, BioGrid Australia

TESTIMONIALS



Computerised Tomography Scan.

“BioGrid staff have the high level skills needed to extract data from hospital IT systems and to link data from a variety of clinical datasets. At Monash we are developing increasing collaboration with BioGrid to improve the monitoring and benchmarking of clinical outcomes with the aim of improving the quality of healthcare provided in hospitals. This will be achieved in part by linking data from clinical registries with that of other hospital and administrative data. Clinical registries provide outcome data from an increasing range of medical and surgical conditions. Our collaboration with BioGrid will help maximise the value of these resources for both research and improving patient care.”

Professor John McNeil

*Professor and Head, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine
Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University*

“Due to the support of groups like the Victorian Cancer Agency, we are seeing rapid growth in the number of translational research projects that are generating large amounts of patient-based data. This is particularly important for common cancers like lung and prostate, where large datasets are being generated through registries, the health services, clinical trials, biobanking and primary care projects. In addition, our catchment area southeast of Melbourne is undergoing enormous growth in population, such that our increasing burden of cancer care services needs to keep pace with research outcomes, as well as measurements of care quality and effectiveness. BioGrid provides us with an enormous opportunity to link these efforts in a way that can accelerate research outcomes for cancer patients.”

Professor Neil Watkins

*Interim Research Director, Monash Comprehensive Cancer Consortium
NHMRC Senior Research Fellow, Monash Institute for Medical Research
Professor of Cancer Biology, Monash University
Consultant Physician, Monash Medical Centre*

“BioGrid has played an important role in managing and analysing the data that has facilitated the research efforts of the pharmacogenomics team collaborating across Australia, Scotland, England and Hong Kong. The epilepsy pharmacogenomics team occupies a unique and advantageous research position internationally due to the extensive network of collaborations in fields as wide-ranging as epilepsy, genomics, bioinformatics and biostatistics. The team’s research in the field of epilepsy pharmacogenomics has been presented at over a dozen national and international scientific meetings, resulting in an international PCT patent, and has been recognised with numerous achievement awards.”

Slave Petrovski PhD

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

“By working with BioGrid, our team has been able to research the areas of tumour associated epilepsy and prognostic factors in glioblastoma multiforme. These projects were undertaken by linking and then analysing the epilepsy, brain tumour and hospital pathology databases through BioGrid. This is a good example of the research and clinical questions that can be answered when collecting data prospectively. Linking your clinical and research data to other data sources within BioGrid ensures that your data can be made as useful as possible.”

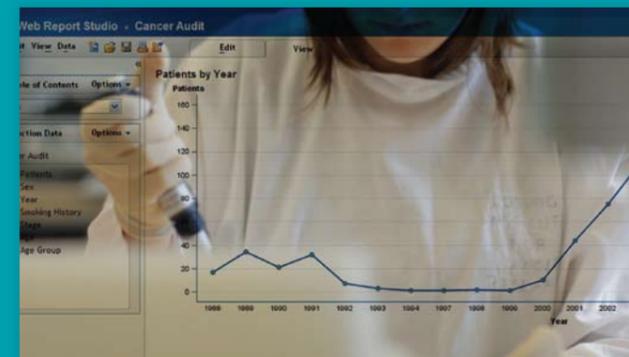
Dr Kate Drummond

*Head of Neuro-oncology, Consultant Neurosurgeon,
Director of Basic Surgical Trainees, The Royal Melbourne Hospital*

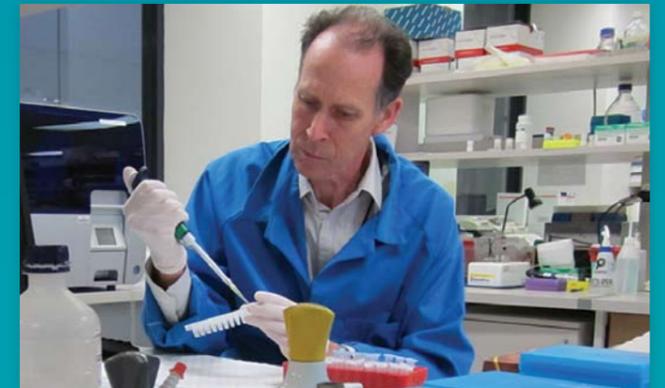
“We’re frequently asked “what’s happening in the real world” since clinical trial data from other companies trials and the subsequent publication thereof, often focus on particular aspects of the study, glossing over or even omitting areas of potential interest and significance. BioGrid can provide a guide to understanding what is happening in the real world and acts as a useful hypothesis generating tool for future research, some of which may never have been realised.”

Mr Steven Quinn

Health Economics Senior Manager, Amgen Australia Pty Ltd



Data through BioGrid facilitates bench to bedside research.



Trevor Lockett – Photo courtesy of CSIRO.

“CSIRO’s Preventative Health National Research Flagship has been associated with BioGrid since its inception, driven by a shared belief in the importance of high quality, linked epidemiological and clinical longitudinal data to health research and its translation into clinical practice and informed health policy and guideline development. BioGrid has helped us and our collaborators at Melbourne Health and Flinders University of South Australia to link together two leading national colorectal cancer surveillance databases across state boundaries increasing significantly their power as a research resource. Similarly it is helping both CSIRO researchers and our colleagues at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research to link molecular data on colorectal tumours with clinical disease, treatment and outcome data to develop biomarker-guided, personalised approaches to improved patient treatment and management. Improving the interoperability between the Victorian Cancer BioBank and BioGrid will provide a key opportunity for a step change in the efficiency of our biomarker discovery and validation research.”

Trevor Lockett PhD

*Theme Leader, Colorectal Cancer & Gut Health
Preventative Health National Research Flagship
and CSIRO Food and Nutritional Sciences*

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The names and details of the company's directors in office during the 2010–2011 financial year and until the date of this report are as follows:



Professor Bryan Williams PhD, Hon FRSNZ

Director and Chairman since 2009

Director, Monash Institute of Medical Research (MIMR) and Director, Centre for Cancer Research, MIMR

Director and Chairman, Marshall Edwards Inc. (2006 – present)
 Director, Cancer Trials Australia Pty Ltd, (2009 – present)
 Director (Australia), Pacific Edge Biotechnology Ltd (2009 – present)
 Member of the Victorian Cancer Agency Consultative Council, (2009 – present)
 Chairman, Department of Cancer Biology, Lerner Research Institute, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, USA, (1991 – 2005)
 Professor, Department of Genetics, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, USA, (1993 – 2005)

Photo courtesy of Monash Institute of Medical Research.



Mr Robert Merriel BA, Grad Dip Psychology, Grad Dip Accounting, CPA

Director and Company Secretary since 2009

Associate Director, Healthcare Management Advisors

Director, BioComm Services Pty Ltd (2007 – present)
 Director, Australian Technology Fund Pty Ltd (2004 – 2011)
 Member, BioGrid Management Committee (2004 – 2011)
 Chairman, BioGrid Management Committee (2005 – 2009)



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

Director since 2009

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

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

Photo courtesy of The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

Meetings Attended

The following outlines meetings held and attended by each of the Directors in 2010 – 2011.

Director	Board of Directors		Audit & Risk Committee	
	Held	Attended	Held	Attended
Bryan Williams	7	7		
Robert Merriel	7	7	3	3
Julian Clark	7	7	3	2

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 2011 the number of members was 25.

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Company are data sharing that advances health research by connecting privacy-protected and ethically approved clinical, imaging and biospecimen 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:

- Further developed the Australian Cancer Grid (ACG) to support cancer research across Australia; the ACG Project funded by the Victorian Government was completed in June 2011;

- 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.

Dividends

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

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.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

The lead auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2011 has been received and can be found on page 14 of this report.

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

On behalf of the Directors

Bryan Williams, Director

Melbourne, 27 September 2011

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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 2011 there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Saward Dawson Chartered Accountants


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Peter Shields CA Tim Flowers CA

ASSOCIATE: Cathy Braun CA

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2011

	Note	2011 \$	2010 \$
Revenue	2	4,040,865	6,635,537
Professional fees		(49,402)	(35,272)
Consultant expenses		(1,579,228)	(2,142,866)
Bank charges		(331)	(84)
Matching and in kind contributions		(2,205,250)	(3,507,800)
License fees		(21,148)	(198,185)
Administrative expenses		(92,467)	(114,866)
Other expenses		(81,471)	(121,297)
Surplus from ordinary activities	3	11,568	515,167
Other comprehensive income			
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the period		11,568	515,167

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2011

ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,111,760	166,357
Trade and other receivables	5	574,530	1,655,689
Other assets	6	12,000	5,661
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,698,290	1,827,707
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
TOTAL ASSETS		1,698,290	1,827,707
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	7	110,236	63,914
Income in advance	8	1,061,319	1,248,626
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,171,555	1,312,540
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,171,555	1,312,540
NET ASSETS		526,735	515,167
EQUITY			
Retained surpluses		526,735	515,167
TOTAL EQUITY		526,735	515,167

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2011

2011	Retained Surpluses \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2010	515,167	515,167
Surplus for the period	11,568	11,568
Balance at 30 June 2011	526,735	526,735

2010	Retained Surpluses \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2009	-	-
Surplus for the period	515,167	515,167
Balance at 30 June 2010	515,167	515,167

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2011

	Note	2011 \$	2010 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from customers		1,536,810	268,019
Payments to suppliers and employees		(599,781)	(101,662)
Interest received		8,374	
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	9	945,403	166,357
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		945,403	166,357
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		166,357	-
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	4	1,111,760	166,357

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Period Ended 30 June 2011

Note 1 Accounting policies

1a General information

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 *Corporations Act 2001*.

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

1b 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 *Corporations Act 2001* and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the directors have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members.

The financial reports have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in notes.

The material accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation of this report are as follows:

1c 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.

1d 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*.

1e Revenue

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised upon delivery of the service to customers.

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement of 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.

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

1f 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.

Note 2 Revenue

	Note	2011 \$	2010 \$
Operating revenue			
- Government grants	2a	1,210,641	2,300,000
- Matching in kind contributions	2b	2,205,250	3,507,800
- Melbourne Health		-	224,627
- Member subscriptions		189,750	-
- Interest received		8,374	-
Other income	2c	426,850	603,110
Total Revenue		4,040,865	6,635,537

2a Government grants relate to Australian Cancer Grid Grant Income from the State of Victoria, managed by Melbourne Health on behalf of the members.

2b This represents Members matching in kind non-cash contributions under the Australia Cancer Grid funding agreement.

2c Other income relates to client contracts with BioGrid Australia Limited.

Note 3 Surplus from ordinary activities

Expenses

Remuneration of auditor			
Auditing or reviewing the financial report		4,750	3,850
Other services		1,650	2,680
		6,400	6,530

Note 4 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank		1,111,760	166,357
		1,111,760	166,357

Note 5 Trade and other receivables

CURRENT			
Trade receivables		536,545	407,063
Receivable from Melbourne Health	5a	37,985	1,248,626
		574,530	1,655,689

Receivable from Melbourne Health

5a At the completion of the Australian Cancer Grid Project (funded by the State of Victoria, managed by Melbourne Health) on 30 June 2011, there was a surplus of \$37,985 held by Melbourne Health. This committed expenditure is for budgeted infrastructure upgrades that commenced in May/June 2011.

Note 6 Other assets

CURRENT			
Prepayments		12,000	5,661
		12,000	5,661

Note 7 Trade and other payables

CURRENT		
Unsecured liabilities		
Trade payables	1,280	-
GST payable	94,749	41,788
Accruals	14,207	22,126
	110,236	63,914

Note 8 Income in advance

	Note	2011 \$	2010 \$
Government grants		1,037,985	1,248,626
Other deferred income		23,334	-
		1,061,319	1,248,626

Note 9 Cash flow information

Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with profit after income tax			
Net income for the period		11,568	515,167
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities			
Changes in assets and liabilities			
- (Increase)/decrease in trade and term receivables		1,074,820	(412,724)
- (Increase)/decrease in income in advance		(210,641)	-
- Increase/(decrease) in trade payables and accruals		69,656	63,914
		945,403	166,357

Note 10 Company details

The registered office of the company is:
BioGrid Australia Limited, 6 North, Main Building, The Royal Melbourne Hospital, 300 Grattan St, Parkville 3050, Victoria

Note 11 Members' guarantee

The company is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* and is a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the company. At 30 June 2011 the number of members was 25.

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 report.

The directors of the company declare that:

- The financial report and notes, as set out on pages 15 to 18, are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* and:
 - comply with Accounting Standards; and
 - give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2011 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report.
- 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.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



Bryan Williams
Director



Julian Clark
Director

Melbourne, 27 September 2011

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BioGrid Australia Limited

31 136 185 647

Independent Audit Report to the members of BioGrid Australia Limited**Report on the Financial Report**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of BioGrid Australia Limited (the company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2011, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory information and the directors' declaration.

The Responsibility of the Director's for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report, are appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the company's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

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BioGrid Australia Limited

31 136 185 647

Independent Audit Report to the members of BioGrid Australia Limited**Independence**

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, provided to the directors of BioGrid Australia Limited would be in the same terms if provided to the directors as at the date of this auditor's report.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion the financial report of BioGrid Australia Limited is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2011 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

Basis of accounting

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 *Corporations Act 2001*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Saward Dawson Chartered Accountants


Tim Flowers
Partner

Blackburn, Victoria 3130
Dated: 27.9.11

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Health through information

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