

# Business Events Tasmania Case Study

The Wild and Comparative Immunology Consortium



## THE WILD AND COMPARATIVE IMMUNOLOGY WORKSHOP 2019

- DESTINATION:** Hobart, Tasmania  
**DATE:** 5-6 Dec 2019  
**DELEGATES:** 35 industry delegates  
**VENUE:** RACV Apartment Hotel Hobart

The Wild And Comparative Immunology Workshop is an innovative event for professionals working in the immunology and wildlife research. The event brought together over 35 international and nationwide researchers in showcasing complementary research and technology areas of the field. A public 'Science in the Pub' event featuring a panel of speakers from the workshop was held during the event period, attracting over 80 people to attend. The inaugural event was a resounding success and provide the springboard for several new opportunities to establish the UTAS and Tasmania brand as a leader in wildlife research and applied studies.

### WHO ARE THEY?

Andy Flies, ARC Discovery Early Career Research Fellow at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research, a specialist institute of the University of Tasmania, is among those advocates of realizing the full conservation and biomedical research of wildlife and veterinary studies. In December 2019, to begin to coordinate these research efforts, Andy, Dr. Jerome Le Nours (Monash University), and other research fellows co-organised their first workshop in Hobart, Tasmania.

It successfully fulfilled the aim of fostering collaborative linkages from a wide range of scientific expertise, to in-depth discussions on topics including reagent techniques and applications, real-world immunology, new model species development, as well as immunology in the future.

## LEGACIES

at a glance

### Publication in *SCIENCE*

the world leading journal

### WACI Consortium

officially established from the event

### Special Interest Group

recognised and funded by federal government

### International Connection

with researchers from top institutions around the globe

### The Young Tall Poppy Science Awards

won by the event's key organiser

## LASTING LEGACIES

### Event and industry

The public event gave Tasmanian's the opportunity to learn from international experts.

In July 2020, the paper “Rewilding Immunology”, derived from the workshop was published in *Science*, one of the top scientific journals in the world. To date, the article has led to many new international connections, including researchers from Yale, Oxford, and Princeton.

The Wild and Comparative Immunology Consortium has been officially recognised as a Special Interest Group (SIG) by the Australia and New Zealand Society for Immunology. This elevates the profile of the group whilst providing annual funding.

Based on the success of this first workshop, the Consortium organised a 4-day ‘virtual’ WACI in December 2020, which attracted over 150 registrations from more than 12 countries. The event included 33 presentations with broad participation from around the world, demonstrating the significant interest of the scientific community in these topics.

# BUSINESS EVENTS TASMANIA

### *BET Ambassador*

*I had never organised a conference before this effort. BET was extremely helpful in finding potential venues, sponsors, and running a successful event.*

*--- Andy Flies*

Andy Flies as a key organiser of the event has achieved significant career advancement as a result of his involvement in the WACI workshops. It includes being invited to present at national and international conferences in his field of expertise and being named the 2020 Tasmania Young Tall Poppy of the Year.

The Young Tall Poppy Science Awards, an initiative of the Australian Institute of Policy and Science, aims to recognise excellence in research as well as enthusiasm for communicating science beyond the walls of the laboratory. The Awards are widely considered to be an early indicator of Australia’s future scientific leaders, identifying excellent early-career scientists. Andy was selected to be one of the seven lead investigators on a \$35 million grant application in 2021, with 45 investigators, including researchers from Harvard, Yale, and Princeton.

Indirectly, Andy’s involvement in the 2019 WACI workshops has resulted in him being awarded a five-year UTAS research fellowship in 2021. During the pandemic, his elevated research profile has resulted in him becoming a regular contributor on COVID topics in the media.

## WORKING WITH BET

As Andy experienced, hosting a business event raises your profile and provides a platform to showcase your research to your industry peers, creating opportunities for future collaboration and investment. BET can help with coordinating the bid, securing state funding and connecting you with professionals to manage the logistics of the event, leaving you to focus on what you do best.