

Society for Mathematical Biology Annual Meeting

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Sydney, Australia

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The [2018 Annual Meeting](#) for The [Society for Mathematical Biology](#) is a grand opportunity to discover the latest and greatest research bridging the gaps between the biological and computational worlds. This year's annual meeting was held down under in the beautiful Sydney, Australia. At the opening ceremony, a respected elder of the city, [Uncle Chicka](#) set the tone by welcoming us all to country and urging us to look after country and look after each other. After setting the tone for the conference, we moved straight into the first of many great plenary sessions with [Dr. Tiina Roose](#) from the University of Southampton who presented on multiscale image based models in biology. Other plenary speakers included [Dr. Toshiyuki Nakagaki](#) (transport networks designed by current-reinforcement rule), [Dr. Jane Heffernan](#) (modelling immunity), [Dr. Yoh Iwasa](#) (coupled social and ecological dynamics for ecosystem management), [Dr. Hugh Possingham](#) (mathematics in nature conservation), [Dr. Melissa Knothe Tate](#) (inverse and recursive approaches to discover and predict emergent behavior), [Dr. Jennifer Flegg](#) (mathematics of wound healing), and [Dr. Alex James](#) (spider monkeys, Peruvian fishing boats, and sulking albatross).

In between these pivotal plenary talks there was a diverse range of math bio talks that catered to every attendee. A few of the topics included infectious diseases, cancer, HIV, epidemiology, population dynamics, wounds & healing, interdisciplinary approaches, multiscale modeling, and education. All of this is coupled with frequent coffee and tea breaks throughout the day to foster extended conversation on all of the novel research ideas that were recently discussed. Naturally, this all led to additional, after-hour discussions over dinner and/or drinks at some of the great restaurants and pubs that downtown Sydney had to offer.

One notable occurrence of this meeting was the initiation and first meeting of the [oncology subgroup](#) chaired by [Dr. Alexander R. A. Anderson](#) and [Dr. Heiko Enderling](#). This indicates both the growing community of mathematical oncologists and The Society's willingness and leadership in supporting its members as it aims to push the field forward. As exemplified by the structure of the annual meetings, and as [Dr. Carrie Diaz Eaton](#) said previously, "to keep great talent in mathematics, we need to show that all mathematicians are valued in our community."