

**Concurrent Session F**  
**Tuesday 1 September**  
**11.45am – 12.35pm**



**Session 4**

**Leading Research & Teaching Outcomes Through the UNSW Bio-Medical Precinct**

**Fiona Larkin, Geoffrey Leeson**

*Root Projects Australia, University of New South Wales*

*Fiona Larkin is a Senior Project Manager with Root Projects Australia. Fiona holds a Bachelor of Architecture (Hons), University of Sydney and a Bachelor of Science (Architecture), University of Sydney.*

*Fiona has over 15 years' experience in the management of complex multi-faceted projects for public and private clients. These have included planning and delivery within high profile operational and heritage environments. Clients for whom Fiona has recently completed projects include the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), Carriageworks at Eveleigh, and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.*

*Fiona acted as the Principal's Representative for the University of New South Wales on the \$122M Wallace Wurth Redevelopment.*

*Geoffrey Leeson is a Senior Project Manager at the University of New South Wales where he has been employed since 1991. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Australian National University and a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from the University of Canberra.*

*Geoffrey has been responsible for managing a wide range of projects from a variety of small refurbishment and public domain type projects through to major redevelopments of the University's built infrastructure. Geoffrey was responsible for the delivery of the Lowy Cancer Research Centre, a \$106M development completed in 2009 and the redevelopment of the Wallace Wurth School of Medicine. This \$146M project doubled the size of the existing building to approx. 23,000m<sup>2</sup> and provided a consolidated base for both undergraduate teaching and biomedical related research under one roof. The project was completed in 2014.*

*Geoffrey is currently managing the Biological Science Project, the third major project in the Biomedical Precinct. The first stage of the project, valued at \$165M and scheduled to be completed by mid-2017, includes the construction of a new, wet teaching and research laboratory building of approximately 21,000m<sup>2</sup>. Stage 2 will see the occupants of the existing building move into the new building and the existing building will then undergo a \$120M refurbishment.*

Over the last 10 years the University of New South Wales (UNSW) has undertaken a process of planning and development of its Upper Kensington Campus. This has been undertaken in parallel with revisions to the Kensington Campus Master Plan and in alignment with the University's strategic intent which emphasises the enhancement of effectiveness and interdisciplinarity and the practical application of research and teaching.

This work has leveraged off the teaching, research and clinical activities occurring in the area and previous studies to integrate the activities of UNSW with the Prince of Wales Hospital (PoW) as a 'Bio Hub' precinct. Stakeholders have included the University's Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Science and Faculty of Engineering, in addition to NSW Health, the Children's Cancer Institute of Australia,

Australian Cancer Research Foundation Drug Discovery Centre, and the Kirby Institute for Infection and Immunity in Society.

The aim of the University's activities has been to formalise and develop a Bio-medical Precinct which provides world-class research and teaching facilities, enabling and encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and accommodating the evolving teaching and research needs. In addition, the aim has been to develop facilities which create operational efficiencies by sharing infrastructure and by promoting environmental and business sustainability. This has included the development of spaces based on world's best practice to maximise utilisation, flexibility and adaptation.

Major projects resulting from this planning work have included the Lowy Cancer Research Centre, the Solar Industries Research Facility, the Wallace Wurth Building Redevelopment, and the Biosciences Building. Root Projects Australia's staff have assisted the University in this process starting with the development of the initial Upper Campus Feasibility Study in 2004 through to the delivery of the Wallace Wurth Redevelopment which was completed in 2014.

The presentation by Geoffrey and Fiona will commence with a brief overview of the Bio-medical Precinct, including:

- UNSW Master Plan objectives – transport, light rail and connectivity to CBD;
- Upper campus objectives and the Bio-medical Precinct -
  - Re-establishing the campus address on High Street and Botany Street,
  - Taking advantage of the proximity and potential connectivity with PoW,
  - Creating a porous edge to the campus; and
- Major steps in the development of the Precinct.

The presentation will then focus on the \$122 million Wallace Wurth Redevelopment, which has been the linchpin in the development of the Bio-medical Precinct. The facility includes 24,500m<sup>2</sup> of space which has been developed around the refurbishment and extension of 8 floor levels of the existing Wallace Wurth building. The works have involved the creation of 7,350m<sup>2</sup> of new teaching space and 7,350m<sup>2</sup> of new research laboratories, including 1 PC3, 10 PC2 and 5 PC1 laboratories. The project was delivered over 13 stages while maintaining the building as an operational facility for students, staff and researchers.

Key aspects of the facility to be presented will include:

- Adaptive re-use of the existing building's west wing and the integration of the new building shell;
- Rationalisation of a Central Energy Plant and basement level spatial configuration, including linkages into the Lowy Building and future connections with the Bioscience Building;
- Development of centralised laboratory spaces and support areas reducing duplications throughout the Precinct;
- Development of flexible multi-functional teaching and learning spaces which support remote learning opportunities;
- Concentration of key teaching spaces within the Ground Floor and First Floor levels with multiple stair access options thereby reducing the pressure and reliance on lifts. Increased physical and visual connectivity is also facilitated through the open atrium stair;
- Centralisation of storage (including chemicals and equipment) for all users and consolidation of research administration and teaching staff and their activities (including clinical skills teaching) from other areas on and off the campus resulting in the creation of greater business sustainability;
- Design and construction utilising the principles of a 5 Star Green Star rated building;
- Consultation and negotiation with Randwick Council including the elimination of the need for any new car parking provisions with the aim of emphasising the use of the existing and planned (new light rail) public transport infrastructure;

- Outcomes generated by the success of the facility, including the attraction of world leading researchers, the output of world leading research findings; and
- Operational benefits realised by the facility.