

Yeast: Products and Discovery 2015 (YPD2015) Conference

The 6th Conference of the Australasian Yeast Group

Ingkarni Wardli Building, The University of Adelaide, North Terrace, Adelaide,
2 – 4 December 2015

(Please see accompanying conference proceedings and photos of the winery tour and dinner)

The Australasian Yeast Group (incorporating the Yeast Special Interest Group of Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) held its 6th ‘*Yeast: Products and Discovery (YPD)*’ meeting from December 2-4, 2015. The venue for the conference (Ingkarni Wardli Building, The University of Adelaide) was generously provided by Adelaide University.

The YPD2015 Local Organising Committee included Paul Chambers, Jenny Bellon and Paul Henschke all of the Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI), Miguel de Barros Lopes of the University of South Australia and Paul Grbin of the University of Adelaide.

Program Advisory Committee included: Ana Traven (Monash University, Aus), Julie Djordjevic (Westmead Millennium Institute, Aus), Claudia Vickers (The University of Queensland, Aus), Evelyn Sattlegger (Massey University, NZ), Alan Munn (Griffith University, Aus), Traude Beilharz (Monash University, Aus), Rod Devenish (Monash University, Aus), Ian Macreadie (RMIT, Aus), and Marc Wilkins (University of New South Wales, Aus)

YPD2015 was well attended (72 registrants) with yeast researchers from across Australia and New Zealand.

The opening plenary address was given by Prof Ian Dawes (University of New South Wales) and was a stimulating reflection on Ian’s experiences over many years in research on cellular responses to redox stress and the current status of knowledge in this important field. Ian is a highly engaging speaker and he shared with us many of his personal experiences and insights punctuated with gems of humour.

YPD2015 featured sessions on Molecular Cell Biology, Yeasts: Understanding and Treating Disease, Systems and Synthetic Biology, Signalling, Yeast in Fermentation Industries, Student Presentations, Yeast/Environment Interactions, Evolution & Ecology and Gene Expression. The quality of the presentations was outstanding.

The talks covered diverse topics: metagenomic analysis of wild wine fermentations and “Yeast Bubbles” (A Borneman, AWRI), mechanisms of immune evasion by pathogenic *Candida* (A Traven, Monash), quantification of the filamentous growth in a yeast colony (B Binder, Adelaide), the structure and function of the TOM complex in yeast mitochondria (T Lithgow, Monash), defining the antifungal mechanisms of plant defensins (K Parisi, La Trobe), 3’ UTR dynamics and prediction of mRNA fate (T

Beilharz, Monash), altered virulence of the key laboratory version of *Cryptococcus neoformans* type strain H99 (S Arras, Queensland), overproduction of 'rose' aroma compounds in wine (A Cordente, AWRI), regulation of the yeast cell cycle checkpoint kinase Rad53 (J Heierhorst, St. Vincent's), genetic interaction networks (G Perrone, Western Sydney), indigenous wine fermentation (F Tondini, Adelaide), evolution and ecological spread of *Cryptococcus neoformans/C. gattii* (W Meyer, Sydney), strategies of phosphate acquisition by fungal pathogens (J Djordjevic, Westmead), yeast competitive fitness in fermentation environments (S Schmidt, AWRI), protein N-glycosylation and its effect on secretion and cell wall retention in recombinant *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (H Kroukamp, Stellenbosch, South Africa), improvements in oenological traits of wine yeast (M Walker, Adelaide), antifungal discovery based on structures of yeast lanosterol 14 α -demethylase (B Monk, Otago, NZ), regulation of mitophagy in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (M Prescott, Monash), proteomics of beer (B Schultz, Queensland), wine yeast biofilms and quorum sensing (E Tek, Adelaide), redirecting metabolic flux into sesquiterpene bio-products in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (B Peng, Queensland), designing whole genomes using synthetic genomics (T Williams, Macquarie), mutational studies of the yeast ortholog of human Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome Protein (A. Munn, Griffith), protein arginine methylation and regulation of intracellular phosphate (M Wilkins, New South Wales), regulation of the protein kinase Gcn2 (E Sattlegger, Massey, NZ), breeding new life into winemaking (J Bellon, AWRI), histone H3 lysine 4 methylation and RNA 3' end formation pathways and benomyl toxicity (B Dichtl, Deakin), fission yeast TOR and control of cell growth and division (J Petersen, Flinders), engineering of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* for the production of aromatics (J Krömer, Queensland), the dimorphic pathogen *Talaromyces marneffei* (A Andrianopoulos, Melbourne) and ribosome scanning and recycling as revealed by steady-state translation complex profiling (T Preiss, Australian National University) and many more.

Two students won AB Mauri-sponsored student presentation awards, each worth \$200 (Ms Jessica Chitty of the University of Queensland and Ms Seeseei Molimau-Samasoni of Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand).

As well as the scientific presentations registrants enjoyed winery tours and wine tasting (some attendees chose Hardy's Tintara winery and others chose Chapel Hill winery). After the tours we re-united for more wine tasting and a memorable conference dinner at Wirra Wirra winery (see photos).

AYG thanks the following sponsors for their support of YPD2015:



ABMauri (Mauri Yeast Australia Pty Ltd.)
www.maurivinyeast.com



Australian Society for Biochemistry
and Molecular Biology
www.asbmb.org.au



Australian Wine Research Institute
www.awri.com.au



Chapel Hill Winery
www.chapelhillwine.com.au



Coopers Brewery
www.coopers.com.au



Hardys Tintara
[\(http://hardyswines.com/au/\)](http://hardyswines.com/au/)



The University of Adelaide
www.adelaide.edu.au



Wirra Wirra Vineyards
www.wirrawirra.com