**VCE Biology Teachers’ Conference 2020**

**Tuesday 11 February 2020 at La Trobe University, Bundoora**

The VCE Biology Teachers’ Conference is an approved professional learning activity.

### Conference Program

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<td>Registrations Open/Exhibition Viewing</td>
<td>Union Hall and Annexe</td>
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<td>8.30am – 8.40am</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Housekeeping by Alex Abela STAV President and Soula Bennett STAV Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Agora Theatre</td>
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<td>8.45am – 9.30am</td>
<td>Keynote Address – Dr. Nicholas Veldhuis, PhD Joint Group Leader - Integrated Neurogenic Mechanisms Lab</td>
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<td>9.30am – 9.50am</td>
<td>Erin Wilson, VCAA Update</td>
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<td>10.00am – 10.30am</td>
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<td>Chief Assessor - Mr Hugh Latimer, Independant Consultant and Sarah Quin, Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar</td>
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<td>Meet n’ Greet</td>
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**Wifi and laptops at the Conference**

Wifi is available to participants, a username and password will be provided on the day.

**Electrical Appliance Compliance**

Please ensure that any electrical device you bring has an undated compliance tag on the power lead otherwise you will be prevented from using it.

**Disclaimer**

STAV does not accept any responsibility for any damages caused by any individual on the day.

Registration information, La Trobe University Map and all conference information is available on the [Science Victoria website](http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/conferences.html).
**Keynote Address**  
8:45am – 9:30am

Nicholas Veldhuis, PhD  
Joint Group Leader – Integrated  
Neurominogen Mechanisms Lab  
Drug Discovery Biology, Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences  
ARC Centre of Excellence in Convergent Bio-nano Science and Technology (CBNS)  
https://research.monash.edu/en/persons/nicholas-veldhuis

**Abstract:** Signalling from the inside out: a new understanding of receptor signalling in neurons  
Receptors are proteins that are localised to the plasma membrane are known to help cells to "detect and respond" to their surrounding environment, by binding to signalling molecules such as hormones and neurotransmitters. Once stimulated, receptors bring about an intracellular response by activating signal transduction pathways.  
Sensory neurons that transmit pain can respond to an injury such as a burn by stimulating thermal receptors which lead to signalling and neuronal excitation, to relay signals from the site of injury to your hand from the heat and your brain (to recognise the burn as an unpleasant sensation causing harm!).  
By closely studying receptors that mediate signalling processes in neurons, we have learnt a lot about their behaviour and how they transmit signals within and between cells. In particular, by using high resolution fluorescent microscopy, we have noticed that receptors are highly dynamic and move to many different locations including other organelles such as endosomes, to help cells sense and respond to extracellular signals such as hormones and neurotransmitters. This talk will highlight some of these new and exciting concepts and cover a variety of technologies available to investigate cell biology and cell signalling, in the context of pain transmission.

**Biography:**  
Dr. Nicholas Veldhuis is a Research Fellow in the Drug Discovery Biology Theme at the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MIPS). He completed his PhD in the Genetics Department at the University of Melbourne, followed by postdoctoral studies in pain pharmacology within the Faculty of Medicine. He joined MIPS in Parkville in 2013 and progressed to group leader in 2016. He has published 36 peer-reviewed articles and 1 patent, and his group is supported national funding agencies and partnerships with 2 pharmaceutical companies.  
His research is focussed on characterising pain pathways, and utilising nanotechnology-based approaches to develop new drug delivery strategies for regulating pain and inflammation. Much of this work is directed to toward the molecular characterisation of sensory nerve endings found in your skin and other organs, and neuron pathways that send pain signals to your brain. In collaboration with researchers in Australia and abroad, his recent research has provided new insights into pain processes, which challenge long-held views in cell biology. This has subsequently resulted in several publications showing how targeting drugs to specific cellular locations provides effective analgesia. In future, this may lead to the development of new drug delivery strategies for regulating pain and inflammation.

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**Session A**  
10:40am – 11:35am

**A1** Planning school-assessed coursework for teachers new to VCE Biology  
Erin Wilson, VCAA  
Are you new to teaching VCE Biology? New to teaching the current VCE Biology Study Design? Unsure of the VCAA requirements in relation to school-based assessment? This workshop will focus on supporting teachers new to VCE Biology to develop assessment tasks that meet the VCAA requirements in relation to the VCE Assessment Principles and the VCE Biology Study Design.  
Suitability: Unit 1-4 Biology  
Not repeated

**A2** Contemporary Science Practice in Schools?  
Dr Peta White & Mary Vamvakas, Deakin University  
Curriculum Materials FREE /online  
Explore curriculum materials that have been published by Deakin University with you and your students in mind. We have connected with contemporary science researchers and research using current local contexts and have developed lower secondary teaching and learning sequences. The sequences are presented in discrete sites and suggest activities set in the Victorian Curriculum across a range of science disciplines, many include videos of the scientists discussing their passion for science and the research. These resources are available online and are free to use and adapt to suit your specific needs. In this session you will use your own device to explore the curriculum materials and scientist and science behind them. You will be scaffolded to consider where specific resources could fit into your current teaching practice. You will be invited to discuss the learning possibilities with colleagues and be ready to use these resources on Monday.  
Suitability: ALL  
Not repeated

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**VCAA Update**  
9:30am – 9:50am

Erin Wilson,  
Biology VCAA STEM Manager

**Morning Tea/Displays**  
10:00am to 10:30am
A3  VCE Unit 1, Ecology, Hands on Simulations
Michael O’Brien, Newbyte Educational Software
Modern technology in your classroom creates fantastic opportunities to expand the understanding of your students in an engaging and fun way. This, hands on workshop, will give you some great practical ideas for covering relationships between organisms within an ecosystem as well as methodologies and techniques of primary qualitative and quantitative data collection. During the workshop we will examine several software packages including Food Webs &?” Australian Woodlands and Rocky Shore Ecology. You and your students will receive a FREE access to our online content for 4 weeks! No ongoing commitment.
Suitability: VCE Unit 1
Not repeated

A4  VCE Biology Online Learning through the Quantum Victoria Portal
Dr Scott McLean Quantum Victoria & Soula Bennett, Director Quantum Victoria
In this session, teachers will be introduced to the two FREE VCE Biology courses on the Quantum Victoria Portal. Teachers will be shown how to access the in depth individual student and class data produced when students are working through and complete a course, enabling teachers to determine their students’ point of need in these Areas of Study. These courses are available for FREE and participants will be able to access the ability to observe student growth and provide the necessary scaffolding that deepens their students’ knowledge as they prepare for the VCAA exams.
Not repeated

A5  Hooking students into VCE Biology
Emma Stevenson & Lisa Chiavaroli, Melbourne Graduate School of Education
As educators we are all familiar with the need to hook students into their learning each lesson, actively engaging them with the learning focus. VCE Biology is no different and the nature of its abstract concepts requires that these strong connections with content are made early in learning. This workshop offers a collection of Biology related hooks for teachers to experience through exploration, critique and discussion. The hooks presented for discussion will focus not only engagement of students in Biology content but also explore broader areas of literacy, revision and assessment.
Suitability: VCE Units 1, 2, 3 & 4
Not Repeated

A6  Using Wolfram technology for exploring Computational Thinking in Biology
Craig Bauling, Wolfram Research
For 30 years, Wolfram Research has been serving Educators and Researchers. In the past 10 years, we have introduced many world changing technical innovations like Wolfram | Alpha Pro, Natural Language computation, Wolfram SystemModeler, and the Wolfram Cloud products (for iPads and tablets). Many of which are being made available through large scale deployments like Egypt, Victoria Australia, and Ecuador. This suite is being deployed by Faculty and Students all around Victoria in numerous projects and in thousands of classrooms. Craig will demonstrate the key features that are directly applicable for use in Science Education with specific examples for how it is being used.
Topics of this technical talk include:
• Practical applications in Engineering, Chemistry, Physics, and Biology
• Computation using Natural English Language
• On demand Chemical, Biological, Economic, Finance and Social data
• Creating interactive models that encourage student participation and learning
• 2 D and 3 D information visualization and 3 D Printing
• Market Leading Statistical Analysis Functionality
• Mathematica as a modern programming language.
The content will help attendees with no prior experience get started with the Wolfram workflow. Since there is a large amount of new functionality, most intermediate users who attend these training sessions have reported learning quite a bit as well.
All attendees will receive an electronic copy of the examples, which can be adapted to individual courses.
Suitability: ALL
Repeated in C7

A7  Web-based bioinformatics for the classroom
Dr Anjali Sahasrabudhe, Dr Rohan Lowe, Dr Harinda Rajapaksha & Ms Madeline Toner, Outreach Program - School of Molecular Sciences
Test drive an interactive, web-based bioinformatics learning task, designed for use in the classroom. Intended as a teacher-guided, online investigation, students work through a sequence of steps to analyse complex transcriptomics data. They identify patterns in gene regulation that occur as plants respond to light, with data from actual experiments on Arabidopsis. A large dataset is refined using point and click software and then communicated in the form of graphs and tables.
Structured questions requiring an online response are spread throughout the activity to help students consolidate learning. Upon completion of the task, a personalised, scientific report incorporating student responses can be downloaded in the form of a pdf.
This guided bioinformatics task allows students to link several important concepts in the study of biology, including transcription, translation, photosynthesis and gene regulation while integrating key science skills
Delegate Note: This is a Double Session A7 & B7. Bring your own laptops fully charged.
Suitability: VCE Units 3 & 4
Double Session A7 & B7

A8  Use real-world case studies in your teaching
Dr Frazer Thorpe, Zoos Victoria
Zoos Victoria is here to help you answer your students when they ask you, Why are we learning this? You will learn how to show students that the content taught in VCE Biology is being used, right now, as part of Zoos Victoria’s conservation programs. You will explore case study investigations on local animal species, that satisfy outcomes in the VCE study design. You will hear stories and insights from the Zoos team about what science looks like out in the field. Plus there will be time to chat to other teachers about what they do in their curriculum.
Suitability: VCE Unit 1 & VCE Unit 4
Repeated in B10
A9 Human Evolution: Trends, anomalies and new discoveries
Richard Allan, Biozone Learning Media Australia

How do the most recent discoveries and scientific data gathering techniques affect how you teach this exciting but challenging topic? This presentation will explore recent advances in scientific thinking and modelling of human adaptive radiation. See how BIOZONE has developed annotated 3D models that allow students to explore early human anatomy and hominid reconstructions on their own devices. Workshop attendees will each receive a free copy of BIOZONE’s VCE Biology for Units 3&4 student edition, plus a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

Suitability: VCE Unit 4
Not Repeated

A10 Edrolo for Data, Differentiation and Exam Preparation in VCE Sciences
Mark Drummond & Kat Gentry, Edrolo

Want to learn more about how to get the most out of Edrolo with your VCE Biology, Chemistry & Physics classes? Join us for this professional development workshop where we’ll show you how to effectively use Edrolo for formative assessment and exam preparation. The workshop will include a deep-dive into using our scaffolded exam-style questions, student self-marking and accessing insightful data to guide teaching & learning in your classroom. You will also have the chance to collaborate with teachers from different schools to discuss approaches for integrating Edrolo into your VCE Science curriculum.

Delegate note: This session is for existing Edrolo users. Please bring your laptop.

Suitability: VCE Units 1, 2, 3 & 4
Not Repeated

Session B
11:45am – 12:30pm

B1 Have you thought of teaching VCE Environmental Science?
Maria James, VCAA

Do you want to teach more ecology? How about critically and creatively discussing environmental challenges and solutions with students? How about a multidisciplinary VCE subject that covers ecology, pollution, food and water security, biodiversity, energy options and climate change? Are you looking for a Year 10 option? Interesting in teaching relevant topics and case studies of interest? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then VCE Environmental Science could be your new passion. This session provides an overview of the new VCE Environmental Science study design, and will include suggested approaches to teaching, resources and sample assessments

Suitability: All
Not repeated

B2 Contemporary Science Practice in Schools?
Dr Peta White & Mary Vamvakas, Deakin University

Curriculum Materials FREE /online

Explore curriculum materials that have been published by Deakin University with you and your students in mind. We have connected with contemporary science researchers and research using current and local contexts and have developed lower secondary teaching and learning sequences. The sequences are presented in discrete sites and suggest activities set in the Victorian Curriculum across a range of science disciplines, many include videos of the scientists discussing their passion for science and the research. These resources are available online and are free to use and adapt to suit your specific needs. In this session you will use your own device to explore the curriculum materials and scientist and science behind them. You will be scaffolded to consider where specific resources could fit into your current teaching practice. You will be invited to discuss the learning possibilities with colleagues and be ready to use these resources on Monday.

Suitability: ALL
Repeat of A2 & C2
B5 Teaching Biology using Problem Based Learning
Ms Caroline Cotton, Cotton Educational Consulting
Problem-based learning (PBL) develops higher order thinking skills. Higher order thinking skills are seldom taught, but should be included as part of any curriculum.
PBL learning teaches students to develop thinking skills such as the ability to hypothesise, synthesise, analyse, evaluate, and generalise information rather than simply recall it. By solving problems students also have the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills. Come along to this session to learn how to incorporate PBL into your Biology classroom.
Delegate Note: Please bring your mobile phone to the session and ensure you know your Apple ID and Pin or the equivalent for Android devices.
Suitability: VCE Units 1, 2, 3 & 4
Not Repeated

B6 Genomics in Schools- preparing the next generation
Ms Keri Pereira, Genetic Support Network of Vic
The genomics era is ushering in new health technologies that are making the diagnosis of a genetic condition quicker and more accurate than ever before. It is clear that personalized medicine is the way of the future. Through diverse experiential learning, Genomics in Schools (GIS), provides students with an understanding of genomics and the implications for oneâ€™s own health and/or as a future healthcare professionals through teacher workshops and classroom case-studies. This initiative will explore the functional elements of genomics and its utility in healthcare, with exploration of the ethical, social challenges. GIS aims to prepare the next generation for genomics medicine era.
Suitability: VCE Units 1 & 2
Repeated in C6

B7 Web-based bioinformatics for the classroom
Dr Anjali Sahasrabudhe, Dr Rohan Lowe, Dr Harinda Rajapaksha & Ms Madeline Toner, Outreach Program - School of Molecular Sciences
Test drive an interactive, web-based bioinformatics learning task, designed for use in the classroom. Intended as a teacher-guided, online investigation, students work through a sequence of steps to analyse complex transcriptomics data. They identify patterns in gene regulation that occur as plants respond to light, with data from actual experiments on Arabidopsis. A large dataset is refined using point and click software and then communicated in the form of graphs and tables.
Structured questions requiring an online response are spread throughout the activity to help students consolidate learning. Upon completion of the task, a personalised, scientific report incorporating student responses can be downloaded in the form of a pdf.
This guided bioinformatics task allows students to link several important concepts in the study of biology, including transcription, translation, photosynthesis and gene regulation while integrating key science skills.
Delegate Note: This is a Double Session B7 & A7. Bring your own laptops fully charged.
Suitability: VCE Units 3 & 4
Double Session - B7 & A7

B8 Tracking and Analysing Student Data in VCE
Ms Chloe Nelson, Auslytics
This session explores practical ways to use formative assessment effectively in a VCE classroom to collect, track and analyse student growth and achievement data. Links to the High Impact Teaching Strategies (HITS) Framework will be incorporated including setting goals, structuring lessons, explicit teaching, worked examples, feedback, metacognitive strategies and differentiated teaching. A brief discussion of a variety of both free and paid software to assist teachers in collecting, tracking and analysing student growth and achievement data will also be included, with discounts available to attendees.
Suitability: All
Repeated in C8

B9 BIOZONE’s VCE Biology Showcase: Print & Digital
Richard Allan, Biozone Learning Media Australia
Learn how to make the most of the pedagogical innovations that underpin the BIOZONE books. Explore how collaborative learning, using BIOZONE activities in the classroom, can provide powerful learning experiences. This includes getting the most out of BIOZONE’s Teachers Digital Edition, using our enhanced WebLinks and annotated 3D models. Find out about our 2 digital options - eBooks and BIOZONE Academy - our new digital platform that transforms our workbooks into immersive online courses. Workshop attendees will each receive free copies of BIOZONE’s Biology for VCE Biology - Units 1 & 2 and Units 3 & 4.
Suitability: VCE Unit 1, 2, 3 & 4
Repeated in C9

B10 Use real-world case studies in your teaching
Dr Frazer Thorpe, Zoos Victoria
Zoos Victoria is here to help you answer your students when they ask you, Why are we learning this? You will learn how to show students that the content taught in VCE Biology is being used, right now, as part of Zoos Victoria’s conservation programs. You will explore case study investigations on local animal species, that satisfy outcomes in the VCE study design. You will hear stories and insights from the Zoos team about what science looks like out in the field. Plus there will be time to chat to other teachers about what they do in their curriculum.
Suitability: VCE Unit 1 & VCE Unit 4
Repeat of A8
Session C
2:45pm – 3:30pm

C1 Opportunities in the revised VCE Biology Study Design
Erin Wilson, VCAA
This session is an interactive extension of the VCAA Update. In addition to the key questions discussed in the VCAA Update, this session will consider further questions including ‘What would be on your wish list’ in terms of VCAA support to implement the revised VCE Biology Study Design?’ ‘How can teachers use assessment tasks from the current study design to develop engaging and compliant SAC tasks in the revised Study Design?’ Comments from the session will be collated and considered as part of the implementation of the revised VCE Biology Study Design.
Suitability: Unit 1-4 Biology
Not repeated

C2 Contemporary Science Practice in Schools?
Dr Peta White & Mary Vamvakas, Deakin University
Curriculum Materials FREE /online
Explore curriculum materials that have been published by Deakin University with you and your students in mind. We have connected with contemporary science researchers and research using current and local contexts and have developed lower secondary teaching and learning sequences. The sequences are presented in discrete sites and suggest activities set in the Victorian Curriculum across a range of science disciplines, many include videos of the scientists discussing their passion for science and the research. These resources are available online and are free to use and adapt to suit your specific needs. In this session you will use your own device to explore the curriculum materials and scientist and science behind them. You will be scaffolded to consider where specific resources could fit into your current teaching practice. You will be invited to discuss the learning possibilities with colleagues and be ready to use these resources on Monday.
Suitability: ALL
Repeat of A2 & B2

C3 VCE Unit 4, Evolution & Michael O’Brien, Newbyte Educational Software
Involves your students in the processes on Evolution and DNA manipulation. This workshop will give you some great practical ideas on how to integrate modern technologies into your teaching. You all have the chance to use stimulating software developed in Australia for the VCE syllabus. Explore evolution from founder effect to speciation. Try DNA manipulation with such techniques as PCR and recombinant plasmids as vectors. You and your students will receive a FREE access to our online content for 4 weeks! No ongoing commitment. Look for our other workshops at this conference.
Delegate note: Please bring your own laptop. A laptop or iPad is not essential, however it will help you participate more in the activities.
Suitability: VCE Unit 4
Not repeated

C4 What is Digital Agriculture?
Ms Anna-Leisa Vietz, Neha Sirwani & Bree Downes-Smith, Get into Genes, Agriculture Victoria Reasearch Division
From the hyperspectral imaging of a single grain of seed on a conveyor belt to the imaging of paddocks collected from a satellite far away, digital technologies are offering researchers a plethora of techniques to gain efficiencies in animal and plant productivity and improve biosecurity outcomes. From phenomics, metabolomics to genomics, the research undertaken at AgriBio, Centre for AgriBiosciences and Agriculture Victoria divisions regional Smart Farms, offers multiple points of intersection with the VCE Biology Syllabus and a future pointing towards the collection of big data, a reliance on the Internet of Things and the necessity for computer modelling. For a tour of AgriBio coupled with an overview of where jobs in bioscience research are heading, join up for this session and visit the plant phenomics high through-put facility, DNA sequencing labs and more.
Delegate Note: Meet at sign in desk to be walked over to AgriBio
Repeat of B4

C5 Biobrain - a Biology learning tool
Ms Caroline Cotton, Cotton Educational Consulting
Biobrain, is a Biology App that helps VCE Biology students understand key biological concepts and test their knowledge with real time feedback on their progress. Students are now be able to learn and revise Biology anytime and anywhere, on their mobile devices. Key Areas of Study are separated into topics and graded over three levels of difficulty. Biobrain uses diagrams and text to illustrate key concepts, and has a variety of question types for students to test their knowledge. Students can also keep track of their scores, review answers, and retake quizzes to ensure full understanding and learning over time. Biobrainâ?Ts learning materials include links to an illustrated glossary to assist learning without leaving the screen.
All participants will receive a free trial of Biobrain.
Delegate Note: Please bring your mobile phone to the session and ensure you know your Apple ID and Pin the equivalent for Android devices.
Suitability: VCE Units 1, 2, 3 & 4
Not Repeated

C6 Genomics in Schools- preparing the next generation
Ms Keri Pereira, Genetic Support Network of Vic
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Suitability: VCE Units 1 & 2
Repeat of B6
C7 Using Wolfram technology for exploring Computational Thinking in Biology
Craig Bauling, Wolfram Research
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Craig will demonstrate the key features that are directly applicable for use in Science Education with specific examples for how it is being used.
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Suitability: ALL
Repeat of A6

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Ms Chloe Nelson, Auslytics
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Suitability: All
Repeat of A8

C9 BIOZONE’s VCE Biology Showcase: Print & Digital
Richard Allan, Biozone Learning Media Australia
Learn how to make the most of the pedagogical innovations that underpin the BIOZONE books. Explore how collaborative learning, using BIOZONE activities in the classroom, can provide powerful learning experiences. This includes getting the most out of BIOZONE’s Teachers Digital Edition, using our enhanced WebLinks and annotated 3D models. Find out about our 2 digital options - eBooks and BIOZONE Academy - our new digital platform that transforms our workbooks into immersive online courses. Workshop attendees will each receive free copies of BIOZONE’s Biology for VCE Biology - Units 1 & 2 and Units 3 & 4.
Suitability: VCE Unit 1, 2, 3 & 4
Repeat of B9

C10 Using Peer Review to Improve Student Writing
Emma McAllister, Education Perfect
Peer review helps build student investment in writing in all areas, by making the writing process collaborative and giving students opportunities to learn from one another. By assessing whether another student’s response meets requirements, students focus on task goals instead of simply grammar and mechanics. Even strong writers benefit from this process and students report that they learn as much or more from identifying and articulating weaknesses in a peer's work as from incorporating feedback into their own. Education Perfect provides teachers with the opportunity to have students review each other’s extended response, while building their skills in writing and grammar usage, making it the perfect tool to assist with improving student’s exam taking skills.
Suitability: All
Not Repeated