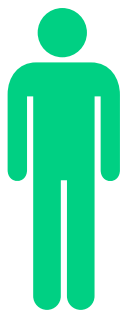


Empowering Data-Driven Health Care Decisions

Annual Report 2020-21



BioGrid Facts



42

Number of Members at 30 June 2021

representing
81 institutions



297

Journal publications
reported to date
that have utilised
BioGrid for their
research.



119

active research projects during 2020-21,
represented across all states and the ACT

Thirty-eight



Current Institution Ethics Approvals
at 30 June 2021

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	– MEDIA (Melbourne Health COVID-19 BioGrid Platform) RMH COVID-19 Project		
	– Australian and New Zealand Thoracic Surgery Database (ANZTSD)		
	– ePAD (Electronic Castrate Resistant Prostate Cancer Australian Database) Registry Year 6		
	– Learning Health System (LHS) and Informatics		

Members and Collaborators

BioGrid Australia Ltd is a not for profit company limited by guarantee. Its members are health services, universities and research institutes. At the time of this report, BioGrid's overarching evergreen collaboration agreement has been executed with 42 institutions (representing 81 sites across Australia) covering the management of governance, intellectual property, data access, undertaking projects, commercialisation and publications.



ACT Health
Canberra Hospital

AlfredHealth

Alfred Health
The Alfred
Caulfield Hospital
Sandringham Hospital



Austin Health
Austin Hospital
Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital



Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute



Ballarat Health Services
Ballarat Base Hospital
Queen Elizabeth Centre



Barwon Health
Geelong Hospital



Bendigo Health
Bendigo Hospital



Central Adelaide Local Health Network
Royal Adelaide Hospital
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital



Eastern Health
Angliss Hospital
Box Hill Hospital
Healesville Hospital
Maroondah Hospital



Fiona Stanley Hospital
Perth



Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service*
Gold Coast University Hospital
Robina Hospital



Goulburn Valley Health
Goulburn Valley Hospital



Hudson Institute of Medical Research



Latrobe Regional Hospital



Mater Health Services
Brisbane



Melbourne Health
The Royal Melbourne Hospital



Metro North Hospital and Health Service
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
Prince Charles Hospital



Metro South Hospital and Health Service*
Princess Alexandra Hospital



Monash Health
Monash Medical Centre, Clayton
Monash Medical Centre, Moorabbin
Casey Hospital
Dandenong Hospital



Monash University*

* Non-Member Collaborator of BioGrid Australia



**Murdoch Childrens
Research Institute**



**Northern Adelaide
Local Health Network**

Lyell McEwin Hospital
Modbury Hospital



Northern Health

Northern Health

The Northern Hospital



Peninsula Health

Peninsula Health

Frankston Hospital
Rosebud Hospital



**Peter MacCallum
Cancer Centre**



**Radiation Oncology
Victoria**



**St Vincent's Hospital,
Melbourne**



Health

Sydney
Local Health District

**South Western Sydney
Local Health District**

Campbelltown Hospital
Liverpool Hospital
Bankstown Hospital



ST JOHN OF GOD
Health Care

**St John of God
Health Care**

Ballarat, Bendigo, Berwick, Bunbury,
Burwood, Geelong, Geraldton, Midland,
Murdoch, Mt Lawley, Richmond,
Subiaco and Warrnambool Hospitals



Tasmanian
Government

**Tasmanian Government
Department of Health
and Human Services**

Royal Hobart Hospital
Launceston General Hospital



**The Royal
Children's Hospital**



the women's
the royal women's hospital
victoria

**The Royal Women's
Hospital**



**The University of
New South Wales**



**The University of
Melbourne**



**The University of
Western Australia**



**The Walter and Eliza Hall
Institute of Medical
Research**



**Victorian Comprehensive
Cancer Centre**



Western Health

Western Health

Footscray Hospital
Sunshine Hospital
The Williamstown Hospital

West Moreton Health

**West Moreton Hospital
and Health Service**

Ipswich Hospital, Brisbane

* Non-Member Collaborator of BioGrid Australia

Chair's Report



The 2020-21 financial year has been a difficult one for everyone, and BioGrid Australia is no exception. During this year we felt the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a serious global impact on both human health and on the operations of the health and research sectors.

This impact was keenly felt by BioGrid, and we ended the financial year with a deficit of \$232,453, a significant change from our 2020 result. However, it's pleasing to report that the governance and business development initiatives we commenced last year and continued through this year have allowed us to continue to operate with a positive net cash flow position.

This year we did see positive signs of growth, with an increased level of enquiries, which also reflects the interests of new researchers and customers for the unique and comprehensive services being provided by BioGrid.

While this is a reason to remain optimistic, it's also important to recognise the long lead times that run from initial enquiries to signed contracts. In this respect, we are confident that continuing our work on the refreshed, forward-looking business strategy that we commenced last financial year is the right course of action for the future sustainability of BioGrid.

This year was also the year that we farewelled Professor Tony Burgess, who stepped down from his role as Chair of the BioGrid Member Management Committee after 12 years of service. Professor Burgess has believed in BioGrid from our earliest days, when he first became involved with us in his role as Director of the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research in Australia.

As the Independent Chair of the Member Management Committee he has had a significant role, including working with the BioGrid Board to secure government funding for the organisation. On behalf of the Board and BioGrid's executive management team, I'd like to thank Professor Burgess for his outstanding contribution during his time working with us.

As a result of Professor Burgess's departure, the Member Management Committee elected Professor Terry Dwyer to the position of Chair of the Committee. Professor Dwyer is the Emeritus Professor of Epidemiology, Nuffield Department of Women's and Reproductive Health, University of Oxford, and prior to that was the Director of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

I'd like to acknowledge the support of my fellow directors, Chris Arnold, Paul Cooper, James Dromey, David Polonsky, Clare Scott and Karin Verspoor, who through challenging circumstances continue to work tirelessly setting and achieving fiscal and strategic goals for BioGrid.

I commend BioGrid CEO Maureen Turner and her management team and staff for their tremendous efforts in a difficult year - their continued loyalty and productivity was instrumental in keeping our many projects proceeding. I'd also like to acknowledge Melbourne Health who continues to provide tenancy, HR and IT services to the organisation.

Robert Grenfell
Chair, BioGrid Australia Board

Chief Executive Officer's Report



The 2020-21 financial year has arguably been a challenging year for BioGrid, due to the unexpected onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in February 2020.

While the impacts were not strongly reflected in our financial results in the 2019-20 financial year, they have somewhat taken their toll in this financial year, resulting in a deficit of \$232,453. However, BioGrid continues to operate in a positive net cash flow position as a result of the business development activities over the past few years.

Despite the continued challenging operating environment, BioGrid has continued to thrive due to the energy and commitment shown by the BioGrid team. We were not alone in this experience, but we were fortunate that much of our work could be completed remotely. Again, I must commend the entire team for their continued ability to be flexible and innovative in the way they worked, instilling confidence in our members and clients that we could deliver the services as agreed. I would also like to thank our members and clients for their willingness to be flexible given the unusual and unforeseen circumstances, which continued to be unpredictable throughout much of the year.

Even so, working from home and managing deadlines along with personal commitments tested everyone. We are very fortunate that staff who work at BioGrid do so because they believe in BioGrid and the support it provides the medical research sector. They are also committed to process improvement and efficiency which all members benefit from.

Despite the challenging business environment, over the past 12 months we have seen engagement from new researchers in the disease areas of cardiology, infectious diseases and immunology. It's pleasing to see new researchers working with BioGrid and because referrals are powerful tools in our sector, we encourage members to promote BioGrid to their fellow researchers.

We also noticed more enquiries this financial year from not-for-profit organisations and programs than previously, with a shift from commercial to grant funding, both government and philanthropic. This shift in the enquiry/contract mix has helped to diversify BioGrid's business, deepen the company's capabilities and assist in its growth.

In the 2021-22 financial year we expect the new BioGrid Strategic Plan to be completed, with actionable elements that can be captured in an annual business 'plan on a page' and measured in Key Performance Indicators.

Thank you to the amazing BioGrid team who worked, and continue to work, with high principles and purpose despite the difficulties we have faced this year. Their willingness to stay the course and deliver on our commitments has reinforced our members' confidence in BioGrid and cemented our continued positive reputation as a team that will exhaust all possibilities to help researchers achieve their objectives.

Thank you to my executive management team, who have, along with their day jobs, gone above and beyond to support our broader team in making the transition to the idiosyncrasies of working from home and managing the unique challenges of coping with a pandemic.

I'd also like to thank our passionate and involved Board of Directors - their support, strategic foresight and energy have been instrumental in assisting BioGrid to continue operating while putting in place the foundations for our future growth and sustainability.

I look forward to the new opportunities that the post pandemic years will hold for BioGrid and our unique team.

Maureen Turner
CEO, BioGrid Australia

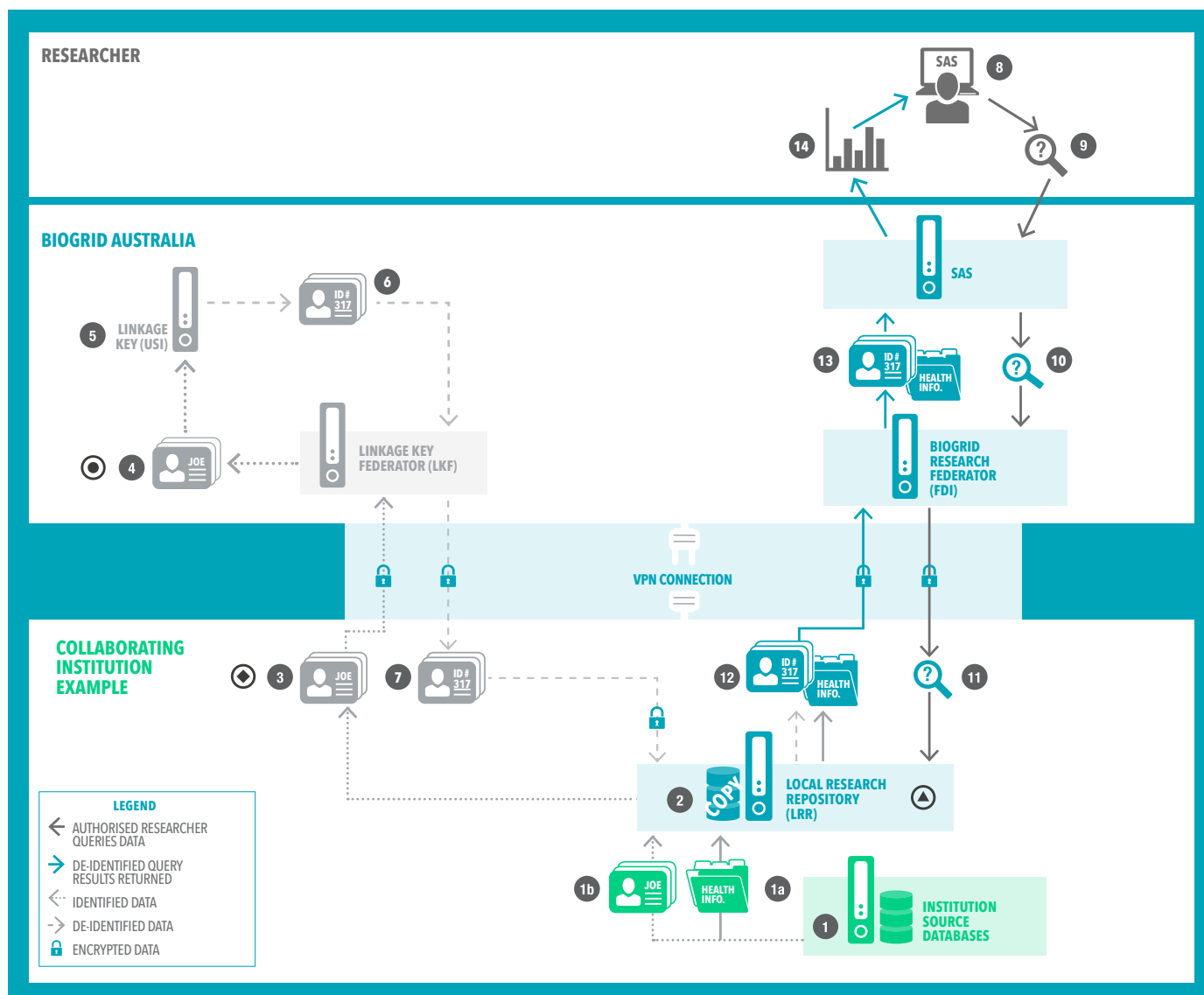
About BioGrid

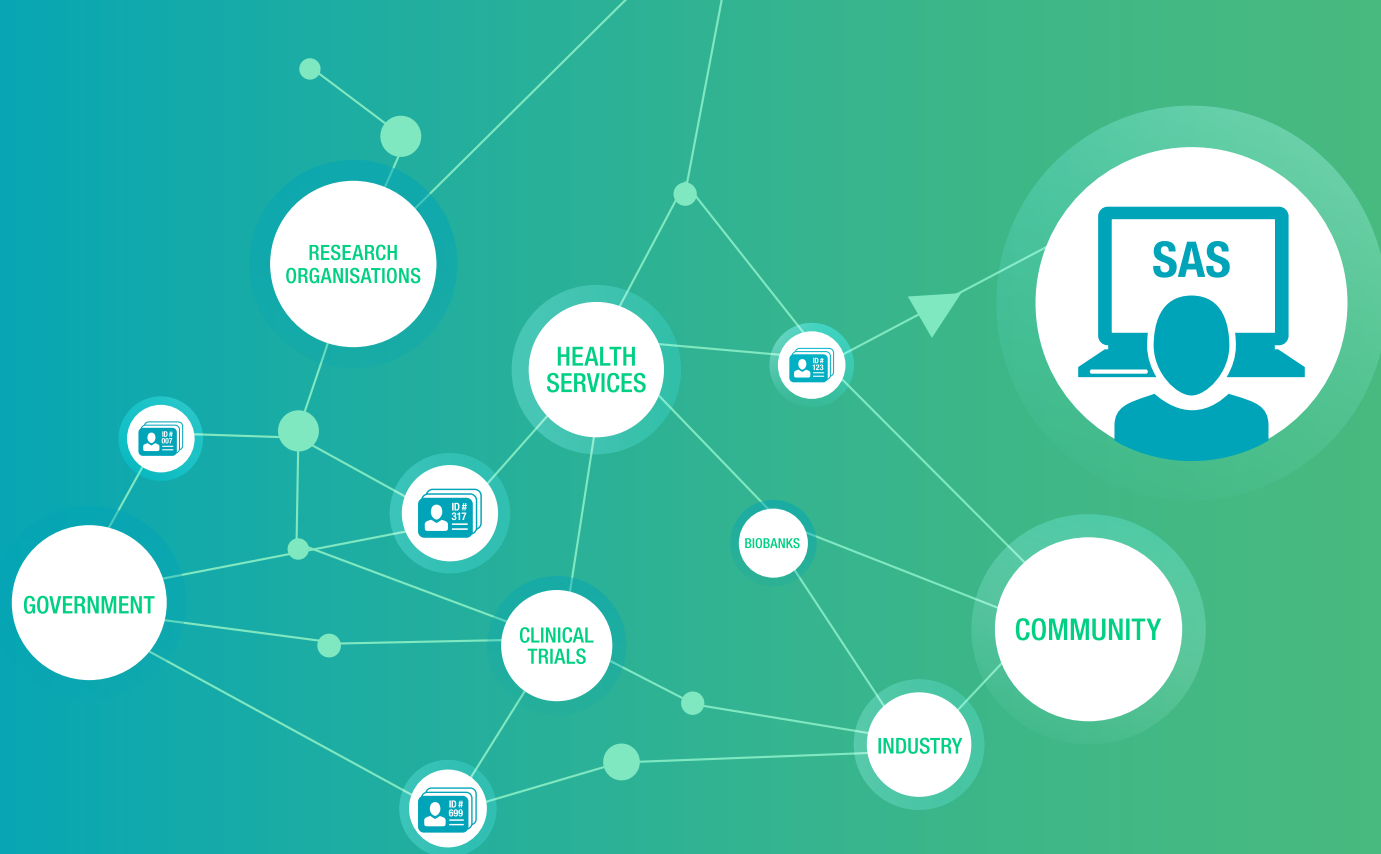
Data governance, security and ethics are at the core of BioGrid's federated data sharing platform that securely links patient level clinical, biospecimen, genetic and imaging data sets across multiple sites and diseases for the purpose of medical research.

BioGrid's infrastructure and data management strategies address the increasing need by authorised researchers to dynamically extract and analyse data from multiple sources whilst protecting patient privacy.

In the health sector, BioGrid is a trusted independent virtual real-time data repository. Investment in BioGrid has facilitated a combination of technology, collaboration and ethics approval processes for data sharing that exist nowhere else in the world.

For more information on how BioGrid works, what data is linked to BioGrid and how to access data, go to **www.biogrid.org.au**.





1. Patient information is recorded in one or more data sources (i.e. databases, spreadsheets), which are stored on a collaborating institution's computer network. This information comprises clinical health information data and identifiers.
- 1a. Clinical health information data are the collection of facts and opinions about an individual's health and wellbeing. Treatment details are an example of clinical health information data.
- 1b. Identifiers are the data items, which identify the individual who is described within a patient record. A patient's name is an example of an identifier.
2. The patient information is copied into replica data sources, which are stored on the collaborating institution's Local Research Repository (LRR), on a nightly basis or frequency agreed by the collaborating institution.
3. A limited set of identifiers from each new patient record are sent from the replica data sources to BioGrid Australia's Linkage Key Federator (LKF) via a secure encrypted Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection.
4. The Linkage Key Federator (LKF) forwards the identifiers to BioGrid Australia's Linkage Key server. This server hosts the Unique Subject Identifier (USI) database.
5. The identifiers are compared with the USI database's records to establish whether data about the patient already exists within a BioGrid-linked data source.
If a match is found for a patient's data, the patient has previously been allocated a USI. If no match is found for a patient's data, the patient's set of identifiers and a new USI are written to the USI database.
6. The USIs for the matching and non-matching patients are sent back to the LKF.
7. The USIs are sent back to the LRR via a secure encrypted VPN connection and stored with their associated clinical health information data.

8. Once authorised access via the BioGrid Australia Data Access Application System has been provided to the researcher, they can commence querying the de-identified data they have approval to access.
9. The researcher submits a data query to BioGrid Australia's statistical analysis (SAS) computer via the Internet.
10. The SAS computer forwards the query to the FDI.
11. The FDI requests the specified data from each of the relevant LRRs via a secure encrypted VPN connection.
12. The clinical health information data and USIs from applicable patient records are sent to the FDI via a secure encrypted VPN connection. These data are combined into a temporary table. The table is removed from the FDI upon completion of the query.
13. The SAS computer reads and processes data from the temporary table.
14. The SAS computer presents the results of the query to the researcher.

BioGrid provides alternative matching methodology referred to as exact matching using a cryptographic hashing function when individual identifiers cannot be brought together in one place for comparison.

- ⬆ Highly secure hash generating software is installed at collaborating institution. The hashing algorithm is run at collaborating institution's site on the replica data sources. A unique hash value is created for each set of identifying patient data. No identifying information ever leaves the source site.
- ⬇ Unique hash value from each new patient record is sent from the replica data source to BioGrid Australia's Linkage Key Federator (LKF) via a secure encrypted Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection. No identifying information ever leaves the source site.
- ⦿ The LKF synchronises its matches with the BioGrid Australia's Linkage Key server. This server hosts the Unique Subject Identifier (USI) database.

Governance

Professor Tony Burgess AC stepped down from the role of Chair of the BioGrid Member Management Committee after 12 years of service. Professor Burgess has been involved with BioGrid since its inception when he was Director of the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research in Australia. BioGrid is grateful for Professor Burgess's passionate advocacy and tireless support over the years of his tenure, supporting BioGrid's growth through recognition of the need for BioGrid's services in his field of cancer management and research.

As a result of Professor Burgess's departure, the Member Management Committee elected Professor Terry Dwyer to the position of Chair of the Committee. Professor Dwyer is the Emeritus Professor of Epidemiology, Nuffield Department of Women's and Reproductive Health, University of Oxford, and prior to that was the Director of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

Technology

During the 2020-21 financial year, BioGrid continued the strategy work commenced in the 2019-20 financial year. This included the need for a funding solution to enable BioGrid to establish a secure digital research environment (DRE), which would include implementing a common data model, and uplift its infrastructure accordingly.

The initial consulting work was completed in November 2020, enabling BioGrid to understand what research environment products and services are available in the market. A consultant will be engaged in the 2021-2022 financial year to implement an approach to providers in the market with a view to implementing a DRE within the next few years.

Business Development

With the pandemic and lockdowns in Victoria an established way of life in this financial year, the usual ways of networking and engaging with the medical research sector had to pivot into online, virtual experiences. This was managed within a short period of time, and BioGrid staff were able to resume engagement with our peers and colleagues both in Australia and overseas.

The ability to do this was essential, as our business development strategy relies on face-to-face contact with our stakeholders and prospective partners, who are extremely busy but place a high priority on professional events. These events also provide an opportunity for BioGrid staff to maintain a current and thorough understanding of the context and environment in which we and our research partners are working.

During this year, BioGrid staff were involved in a number of online engagement activities within the medical research sector. These activities are an important element of our business development strategy and aim to raise awareness of BioGrid and our services with researchers as well as understand what is currently happening in the sector and what data solutions others are adopting.

New Business

BioGrid secured two new projects during this financial year, which are covered in detail in the Projects section.

These were the MEDIA (Melbourne HEalth COVID-19 BioGrid PLATform) RMH COVID-19 Project and the Australian and New Zealand Thoracic Surgery Database (ANZTSD).

Projects

APPRISE (Australian Partnership for Preparedness Research on Infectious Disease Emergencies)

Chief Investigator: Prof Sharon Lewin, Director, Doherty Institute.

The Australian Partnership for Preparedness Research on Infectious Disease Emergencies (APPRISE) Centre for Research Excellence (CRE) recognised the importance of establishing an infectious diseases biobank to help inform emergency responses prior to COVID-19, but progress towards a single national biobank of existing specimens was stymied by issues of governance and data ownership.

The COVID-19 pandemic has provided the perfect real life case study demonstrating the value of timely access to existing specimens and creating a sense of urgency to develop a solution. BioGrid was able to address some of the previous barriers by offering a technical solution that removed the need to create a new, single biobank. Instead, the BioGrid platform will leverage existing COVID-related biobanks nationally, linking them under their current governance arrangements but enabling their specimens to become more widely searchable.

BioGrid successfully secured a contract to cover an initial 6-month pilot for the APPRISE program. This pilot will support 10 sites in contributing to a virtual biobank catalogue, to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2021.

Find out more about the [APPRISE program](#).

MEDIA (Melbourne Health COVID-19 BloGrid Platform) RMH COVID-19 Project

Principal Investigator: Prof James McCarthy, Director, Victorian Infectious Diseases Service at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, and Professor of Medicine at the Doherty Institute.

The MEDIA program proposes to deliver data linkage, transformation and ongoing data management of COVID-19 data for Melbourne Health to enable a better managed and curated COVID-19 dataset for researchers to access and use.

BioGrid secured the contract to support the implementation of a REDCap database for MEDIA with electronic consent to recruit approximately 800 patients for follow up for research. Data linkage capability will follow in the next financial year.

Australian and New Zealand Thoracic Surgery Database (ANZTSD)

Contact: A/Prof Gavin Wright, Thoracic Surgeon,
St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne and Peter MacCallum.

The Australian & New Zealand Society of Cardiac & Thoracic Surgeons (ANZSCTS) propose to provide a clinical quality registry for the routine collection and monitoring of surgical procedure data on all thoracic surgery performed in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

BioGrid is hosting and managing the pilot phase roll out of, in the first instance, a REDCap database including reporting capability. The pilot phase will initially run for two years and will engage a working group including both Australian and New Zealand surgeons. BioGrid will also provide ethics preparation and submission and project coordination.

ePAD (Electronic Castrate Resistant Prostate Cancer Australian Database) Registry Year 6

Principal Investigator: Dr Ben Tran, Medical Oncologist,
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

Prostate cancer is the most common non-cutaneous cancer in Australian men, with more than 24,000 new cases identified each year and the incidence predicted to increase further due to the ageing population. It's also the third leading cause of cancer death among men, so identifying the most effective treatment regime is a critical focus for clinicians.

ePAD (Electronic Prostate cancer Australian Database) was developed in 2016 to support clinicians by collecting real world information about patients with advanced prostate cancer.

Patients are enrolled prospectively by their clinicians when they have been diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer, and data about their subsequent treatments, responses and outcomes is tracked. The data includes information from multiple sources including medical oncologists, urologists, radiation oncologists and hospital admissions.

Four pharmaceutical companies have committed to supporting ePAD into its sixth year (April 2021 to March 2022). BioGrid won 4 contract renewals covering that 12 months period for an additional 160 patients to a total of 1,000 patients enrolled since the project commenced.

Find out more about the [ePAD program](#).

Projects

Learning Health System (LHS) and Informatics

Principal Investigator: Prof Wendy Chapman, Associate Dean, Digital Health & Informatics and Director, Centre for Digital Transformation of Health, The University of Melbourne.

Harnessing the power of data in health care is a complicated business, but the Centre for Digital Transformation of Health at the University of Melbourne is leveraging real-world data to train health professionals in Learning Health Systems (LHS) and informatics.

Using real-world data, the online course is focused on improving patient outcomes by teaching participants a range of hard and soft skills for using data to build, implement, and evaluate innovative solutions to health challenges.

BioGrid's participation will ensure that LHS participants are working with data that is the same as data they would encounter in actual practice; from multiple sources and through timeframes, enabling the tracking of treatment presentations and outcomes.

Without access to these data, the LHS developers would not have been able to design a "real-world" case study to teach the applied skills in informatics and data analytics and ensure that it was relevant to the specific Australian healthcare context.

BioGrid's rigorous data governance, privacy and security will ensure that all patient data is de-identified but can be linked appropriately and used accurately in analysis across data sources, enabling powerful modelling for the development of innovative solutions.

Find out more about the [Learning Health System \(LHS\) and Informatics program](#).

Directors' Report



Dr Robert Grenfell

MBBS, MPH, FAFPHM, MAICD

**Director since October 2017,
Chair since September 2018**

Special Health Advisor, CSIRO, (2020 – present)

Director – Health and Biosecurity, CSIRO, (2015 – 2020)

Director, Grenfell Health Consulting (1997 – present)

Director, Maree Stopes Health (2011 – 2016)

Chair, General Practice Victoria (2007 – 2010)

Director, General Practice Victoria (1998 – 2007)

Director – Health and Biosecurity, CSIRO, (2015 – present)



Associate Professor Paul Cooper

BSc, PhD, GradDip Bus, FACHI,
CHIA, GAICD, AFHEA

**Director since August 2018 and Deputy Chair since
September 2018**

Director, Longboardfella Consulting, (2020 – present)

Director, Calliston Consultants Pty Ltd (2016 – 2020)

Member, Human Research Ethics Committee, St Vincent's
Healthcare (2019 – present)

Digital Content Curator, Australasian Institute of Digital
Health, Precision Health Community of Practice (2021 –
present)

Digital Content Curator, Australasian Institute of Digital
Health, Victorian Branch (2021 – present)

Member, WEHI Advocacy and Support Committee
(2017 – present)

Associate Professor, Health Informatics Management,
Faculty Health, School of Medicine, Deakin University
(2016 – present)

Secretary, Australasian Institute of Digital Health, Precision
Health Community of Practice (2017 – 2021)

Director, Victorian Continence Resource Centre (2015 – 2020)

Secretary, Australasian Institute of Digital Health, Victorian
Branch (2017 – 2019)

Director, Digital Health, Department of Health and Human
Services, Victorian Government (2017 – 2018)

Directors' Report



Mr Christopher Arnold

B Comm, MBA, FCPA, FAICD, AFACHSM

Director since March 2014

Principal, Hodgson Associates, (2010 – present)
Director, Melbourne Anglican Foundation (2021 – present)
Director, Australian World Orchestra (2019 – present)
Director, Melba Opera Trust (2017 – 2020)
Director, Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc (2009 – 2019)
Chair, Human Variome Project International Ltd (2014 – 2017)
Director, Human Variome Project International Ltd (2008 – 2017)
Chair, Telediagnosics Pty Ltd (2010 – 2016)
Director, Philanthropy Australia (2003 – 2009)
Director, Australian Communities Foundation (1999 – 2007)



Mr David Polonsky

B Bus, CA, TIA, MAICD

Director since January 2015

Director, DRP Consulting Pty Ltd, (1996 – present)
Director, Moore Stephens (Vic) Pty Ltd (formerly Nexia Melbourne Pty Ltd), (2011 – 2017)
Director, Private Ancillary Funds (various to present)
Director Spirit of Australia Foundation (2018 – present)



Professor Karin Verspoor
BA, MSc, PhD, GCUT

Director since August 2016

Executive Dean, School of Computing Technologies,
RMIT University, (2021 – present)

Honorary Professor, School of Computing and Information
Systems, University of Melbourne, (2021 – present)

Fellow, Australasian Institute for Digital Health
(2020 – present)

Deputy Director, ARC Industrial Transformation Training
Centre in Cognitive Computing for Medical Technologies
(2018 – present)

Professor, School of Computing and Information Systems,
University of Melbourne (2017 – 2021)

Director of Health Technologies, Melbourne School of
Engineering, University of Melbourne (2020 – 2021)

Deputy Director, Centre for Digital Transformation of
Health, University of Melbourne (2019 – 2021)

Fellow, Centre for Business Analytics, Melbourne Business
School (2015 – 2020)

Deputy Head of School (Research), School of Computing
and Information Systems, University of Melbourne
(2019 – 2020)

Deputy Head of Department (Operations), Department
of Computing and Information Systems, University of
Melbourne (2015 – 2019)

Deputy Director, Health and Biomedical Informatics Centre,
University of Melbourne (2014 – 2019)

Associate Professor, School of Computing and Information
Systems, University of Melbourne (2014 – 2016)

President, Australasian Language Technology Association
(ALTA) (2013 – 2014)

Scientific Director, Health and Life Sciences, National ICT
Australia (NICTA) (2012 – 2014)

Directors' Report



Dr James Dromey

BSc PhD

Director since August 2018

Chief Innovation Officer, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, (May 2021 - present)

Chief Operating Officer, Murdoch Children's Research Institute (2016 - 2021)

Director, Raising Children Network, (2021 - present)

Director, GI Therapies, September (2012 - present)



Professor Clare Scott
MBBS, PhD, FRACP, FAHMS

Director since March 2020

Joint Division Head, Clinical Translation, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, (2019 – present)

Head, Ovarian and Rare Cancers Laboratory, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, (2010 – present)

Consultant Medical Oncologist, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (2016 – present),

Royal Women's Hospital (2010 – present),

Royal Melbourne Hospital (2006 – present)

Chair Elect, Australia New Zealand Gynaecology Oncology Group (ANZGOG) (2021 – present)

Member, Scientific Advisory Board Oncology One (2021 – present)

Director, Cancer Trials Australia (2021 – present)

Chair, International Rare Cancer Initiative (IRCI) Board (2020 – present)

Chair, Gynaecological Cancer, University of Melbourne (2018 – present)

Chair, Gynaecologic Cancer Inter-Group (GCIG) Rare Tumour Committee (2016 – present)

Chair, Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) Rare Cancers Group (2015 – present)

Director, Australia New Zealand Gynaecology Oncology Group (ANZGOG) (2014 – present)

Member, International Rare Cancer Initiative (IRCI) Board (2015 – 2020)

Co-Chair, Gynaecologic Cancer Inter-Group (GCIG) Rare Tumour Committee (2016 – present)

Chair, Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) Rare Cancers Group (2015 – present)

Director, Australia New Zealand Gynaecology Oncology Group (ANZGOG) (2014 – present)

Directors' Report

Meetings attended

The following outlines meetings held and attended by each of the Directors and Member Representatives in 2020-21.

Director	Board of Directors		Finance, Audit & Risk Committee	
	Held	Attended	Held	Attended
Chris Arnold	6	5	6	6
Paul Cooper	6	6		
James Dromey	6	4		
Rob Grenfell	6	5		
David Polonsky	6	6	6	6
Claire Scott	6	5		
Karin Verspoor	6	6		

Member Representatives on Committees

Glenn Murphy (Melbourne Health)		6	5
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Contribution in winding up

The entity is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. As such, no shares are issued or held by directors. If the entity is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the entity. At 30 June 2021 the amount the members of the Company are liable to contribute if the Company wound up is \$350 (the number of members was 35).

Principal activities

The principal activities of the Company are data sharing that advances health research by linking privacy-protected and ethically approved clinical, imaging, biospecimen and genetic data among a wide network of health collaborators. During the year there was no significant change in the nature of those activities.

Company's objectives

The company's objectives are to:

- Facilitate internationally competitive medical research into the causes of ill health and disease;
- Provide an ethically approved privacy-protected service to connect data sources;
- Invest in technology development to ensure ongoing alignment with leading technology that supports privacy-protected data connection; and
- Be sustainable in order to fulfill the company's vision and mission and to service the needs of its' members.

To achieve these objectives, the Company:

- Supported major research program initiatives by providing data linkage and data management services for state and federal funded cancer research projects;
- Worked with key stakeholders in the health sector to facilitate major research projects in Victoria and Australia;
- Provided ongoing training and support for quality specialist staff committed to providing a technology platform that supports medical research through privacy-protected data connection; and
- Implemented the redeveloped business development model for members and industry to support the long-term viability of the company.

Key performance measures

The company measures its own performance through the use of both quantitative and qualitative benchmarks. The benchmarks are used by the directors to assess whether the company's short-term and long-term objectives are being achieved.

	2021		2020	
	Actual	Benchmark	Actual	Benchmark
Total Number of Members/Collaborators	42*	43	42*	43
Current Institution Ethics Approvals	38	40	38	40
Approved Active Research Projects	119	140	124	108
Journal Publications to Date	297	295	273	295

*At 30 June 2021 there are 35 member and 7 non-member collaborator institutions, a total of 42 BioGrid Australia collaborators.

Dividends

The Company Constitution forbids the payment or distribution of any profits, income or assets to the members.

Directors' Remuneration

The directors did not receive remuneration from the company with the exception of expenses relating to their director role.

Indemnification of officers and auditors

During the year the Company paid a premium in respect of a contract insuring the directors of the Company, the Company secretary and all executive officers of the Company and of any related body corporate against a liability incurred as such a director, secretary or executive officer to the extent permitted by the Corporations Act 2001. The Company has not otherwise, during or since the year, indemnified or agreed to indemnify an officer or auditor of the Company or of any related body corporate against a liability incurred as such an officer or auditor.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The directors note the difficult trading and operating conditions since the COVID-19 outbreak in February 2020, but are now being encouraged by the increased level of enquiry which also reflects the interests of new researchers and customers for the unique and comprehensive services being provided by the Company.

The directors are also cognizant of the long lead times to convert quotes/tenders to contracts, cash flow and profitability, particularly in light of delays due to the impact of COVID-19. The directors continue to work closely with key stakeholders who have and continue to show their support for the Company and its future operations as detailed in the Company's strategic plan.

The directors are pleased to report that the governance and business development initiatives continuing to be undertaken during the year has allowed the Company to continue to operate with a positive net cash flow position which has allowed the Company to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

The Company remains the only collaboration network in Australia with the legal and ethical framework to enable the sharing of real-time health and medical data for research. Accordingly, it is well positioned to take advantage of opportunities as they arise nationally and internationally.

Strategies and activities to modernise the Company's infrastructure to a nationally accredited secure digital research environment and curated data service platform are now being developed and the directors are seeking the ongoing support of members and customers to allow the Company to progress and realise these critical strategic objectives.

Having considered the above factors, the directors have concluded that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due. Should the Company be unable to continue as a going concern, it may be appropriate to realise its assets and discharge its liabilities at amounts different to those stated in the financial report.

Events subsequent to balance date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected, or may significantly affect, the operations of the Company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Company in future financial years.

Likely developments in the operations of the Company, and the expected results of those operations in future financial years, have not been included in this report as the inclusion of such information is likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the Company.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

The lead auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2021 has been received and can be found on page 20 of this report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

On behalf of the Directors



Rob Grenfell, Director



David Polonsky, Director

Melbourne, 22 February 2022

BioGrid Australia Limited
31 136 185 647

Auditor's Independence Declaration

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2021 there have been:

- a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in Section 60.40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Saward Dawson



Jeffrey Tulk
Partner

Blackburn, Victoria 3130
Dated: 28 February 2022

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Financial Report

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue	2	2,351,154	2,026,632
Consultant expenses	3	(2,273,302)	(1,761,483)
License fees		(139,397)	(110,566)
Operational Expenses		(71,531)	(84,620)
Professional fees		(48,099)	(55,677)
Depreciation and amortisation		(48,432)	(41,756)
Bank charges		(473)	(570)
Other expenses		(2,373)	(14,867)
Deficit for the year		(232,453)	(42,907)
Other comprehensive income:			
Total other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		(232,453)	(42,907)

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	143,134	441,898
Trade and other receivables	5	290,243	92,578
Other assets	6	94,237	94,561
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		527,614	629,037
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	7	47,272	67,994
Intangible assets	8	140,934	136,895
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		188,206	204,889
TOTAL ASSETS		715,820	833,926
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	9	462,381	346,631
Other liabilities	10	221,712	223,115
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		684,093	569,746
TOTAL LIABILITIES		684,093	569,746
NET ASSETS		31,727	264,180
EQUITY			
Accumulated surpluses		31,727	264,180
TOTAL EQUITY		31,727	264,180

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

2021	Accumulated Surpluses \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2020	264,180	264,180
Deficit for the year	(232,453)	(232,453)
Balance at 30 June 2021	31,727	31,727

2020	Accumulated Surpluses \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2019	255,289	255,289
Cumulative adjustment upon adoption of new accounting standards	51,798	51,798
Deficit for the year	(42,907)	(42,907)
Balance at 30 June 2020	264,180	264,180

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
- Receipts from customers		2,375,305	2,860,993
- Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,642,335)	(2,248,347)
- Interest received		15	94
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	11	(267,015)	612,740
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
- Acquisition of property, plant and equipment		(2,865)	(43,006)
- Payment for intangible asset		(28,884)	(86,390)
Net cash used by investing activities		(31,749)	(129,396)
CASH FLOWS FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES:			
- Repayment of borrowings		-	(75,000)
Net cash used in other activities		-	(75,000)
Net cash increase (decreases) in cash and cash equivalents		(298,764)	408,344
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		441,898	33,554
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	4	143,134	441,898

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Note 1 Accounting policies

(a) Financial Reporting Framework

BioGrid Australia Limited is a Company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The directors have prepared the financial reports on the basis that the company is a non-reporting entity because there are no users who are dependent on its general purpose financial reports. These financial reports are therefore special purpose financial reports that have been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the directors have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members. Such accounting policies are consistent with those of previous years unless stated otherwise.

(b) Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, the basis of accounting specified by all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of Accounting Standards AASB 101: *Presentation of Financial Statements*, AASB 107: *Cash Flow Statements*, AASB 108: *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* and AASB 1054: *Australian Additional Disclosures*.

The company has concluded that the requirements set out in AASB 10 and AASB 128 are not applicable as the initial assessment on its interests in other entities indicates that it does not have any subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures.

The company complies with measurement and recognition of all Australian accounting standards except AASB 16: *Leases*

(c) Basis of preparation

The financial reports, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in notes. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

(d) Revenue

Operating Grants, Donations and Bequests

When the company receives operating grant revenue, donations or bequests, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15.

When both these conditions are satisfied, the company:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant;
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement; and
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the company:

- recognises the asset received in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards (for example AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138);
- recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer); and
- recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the company recognises income in profit or loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

Donations and bequests without enforceable contract are recognised as revenue when received. Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customer.

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(e) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short-term borrowings in current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

(f) Leases

Lease payments are charged as expenses on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

(g) Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables include outstanding funds invoiced to customers for membership fees and completed projects or milestones. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets.

(h) Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the asset.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all plant and equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to BioGrid Australia Limited commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Note 1 Accounting policies continued

(i) Intangibles

Amortisation

Amortisation is recognised in profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of intangible assets, from the date that they are available for use.

Amortisation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted if appropriate.

Software

Software has a finite life and is carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. It has an estimated useful life of between three and five years.

(j) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

(k) Income taxes

No current or deferred income tax assets or liabilities have been raised by the company as it is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*. The company is a registered charity under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

(l) Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Company during the reporting period which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

(m) Going concern

The company recorded a deficit of \$232,453 for the year ended 30 June 2021 (2020: \$42,907 deficit).

The directors note the difficult trading and operating conditions since the COVID-19 outbreak in February 2020, but are now being encouraged by the increased level of enquiry which also reflects the interests of new researchers and customers for the unique and comprehensive services being provided by the Company.

The directors are also cognizant of the long lead times to convert quotes/tenders to contracts, cash flow and profitability, particularly in light of delays due to the impact of COVID-19. The directors continue to work closely with key stakeholders who have and continue to show their support for the Company and its future operations as detailed in the Company's strategic plan.

The directors are pleased to report that the governance and business development initiatives continuing to be undertaken during the year has allowed the Company to continue to operate with a positive net cash flow position which has allowed the Company to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

The Company remains the only collaboration network in Australia with the legal and ethical framework to enable the sharing of real-time health and medical data for research. Accordingly, it is well positioned to take advantage of opportunities as they arise nationally and internationally.

Strategies and activities to modernise the Company's infrastructure to a nationally accredited secure digital research environment and curated data service platform are now being developed and the directors are seeking the ongoing support of members and customers to allow the Company to progress and realise these critical strategic objectives.

Having considered the above factors, the directors have concluded that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due. Should the Company be unable to continue as a going concern, it may be appropriate to realise its assets and discharge its liabilities at amounts different to those stated in the financial report.

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Note 2 Revenue		
Operating revenue		
– Commercial-led projects	411,767	141,992
– Member subscriptions	479,310	612,078
– Investigator-led projects	318,050	81,447
– Researcher user fees	35,000	10,000
– Grants	1,058,402	1,171,326
– Interest received	15	94
– Other income	48,610	9,695
Total Revenue	2,351,154	2,026,632
Note 3 Consultant expenses		
Consultant expenses include payments to Melbourne Health who provide staff contract and payroll services to BioGrid.		
Note 4 Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash at bank	143,134	441,898
	143,134	441,898
Note 5 Trade and other receivables		
CURRENT		
Accounts receivable	290,243	82,010
GST receivable	–	10,568
	290,243	92,578
Note 6 Other assets		
CURRENT		
Prepayments	94,237	94,561
	94,237	94,561
Note 7 Plant and equipment		
Plant and equipment		
At cost	134,585	131,721
Less accumulated depreciation	(87,313)	(63,727)
Total plant and equipment	47,272	67,994
Note 8 Intangible assets		
Computer software		
At cost	150,454	121,570
Less accumulated amortisation	(43,708)	(33,308)
Net carrying value	106,746	88,262
Website Development		
At cost	68,023	68,023
Less accumulated amortisation	(33,835)	(19,390)
Net carrying value	34,188	48,633
Total Intangibles	140,934	136,895

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Note 9 Trade and other payables		
CURRENT		
Trade payables	309,674	183,861
Accruals	145,014	162,770
GST payable	7,693	–
	<u>462,381</u>	<u>346,631</u>

Note 10 Other Liabilities

CURRENT		
Industry project income received in advance	110,213	113,750
Investigator income received in advance	20,267	–
Grant income received in advance	91,232	109,365
	<u>221,712</u>	<u>223,115</u>

Note 11 Cash flow information

Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with net current year deficit		
Net result for the year	(232,453)	(42,907)
Cash flows excluded from surplus attributable to operating activities		
– Depreciation and amortisation	48,432	41,756
Changes in assets and liabilities		
– (Increase)/decrease in trade receivables	(197,665)	941,142
– (Increase)/decrease in other assets	324	(88,085)
– (Increase)/decrease in trade payables	115,750	43,569
– Increase/(decrease) in other liabilities	(1,403)	(282,735)
	<u>(267,015)</u>	<u>612,740</u>

Note 12 Events after the end of the Reporting Period

The COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020 and continues to have a global economic impact. While the ongoing effect of the pandemic on the Company is unknown, changes to operations and staff have occurred as a result of government imposed movement and operational restrictions. Despite this, the directors do not expect a significant decline in income during the year ending 30 June 2022. On this basis, the directors are currently satisfied that the short term implications will not adversely affect the company's ability to continue to operate as a going concern.

Except for the above, no other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or could significantly affect the operations of the Company, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Company in future financial years.

Note 13 Company Details

The registered office of the Company is:

BioGrid Australia Limited
Level 8, CMR Building
Royal Melbourne Hospital
300 Grattan St, Parkville Victoria 3052

BioGrid Australia Limited

31 136 185 647

Directors' Declaration

The Directors have determined that the Company is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The Directors of the Company declare that:

- (a) the financial report and notes are prepared in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, and;
- (b) In the Directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15 (2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.



Robert Grenfell
Director



David Polonsky
Director

Dated: 22 February 2022

Independent Audit Report to the members of BioGrid Australia Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of BioGrid Australia Limited (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of income and expenditure and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Company is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and

- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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Emphasis of Matter

Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern

We draw attention to Note 1(m) in the financial report, which indicates that the company incurred a net deficit of \$232,453 during the year ended 30 June 2021 and, as of that date, the company's net assets was \$31,727. As stated in Note 1(m), these events and conditions indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist BioGrid Australia Limited to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Responsibilities of Directors for the Financial Report

The Directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Saward Dawson



Jeffrey Tulk
Partner

Blackburn, Victoria
Dated: 28 February 2022

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