Overview of the Victorian Platform Technologies Network

Dr Anneliese Gillard, Network Manager, VPTN
Anneliese is keen to enable great science and facilitate the creation of new scientific products and services. With a background in molecular biology and virology and experience working in biotechnology companies both in the lab and in project management, Anneliese has a solid understanding of the needs of innovators. Anneliese is a passionate science communicator and is happy to assist those looking to join the Network or looking to access infrastructure to advance their projects and help answer scientific questions.

Dr Kirstin Elgass, Manager, MHTP Node, Monash Micro Imaging
Dr. Kirstin Elgass is an optical microscopy specialist at Monash Micro Imaging, Monash University and the manager of the MMI node at MHTP. Her background is in single molecule imaging and spectroscopy in a laser optics lab in Tuebingen, Germany. During her PhD she used custom-built microscopes and novel microscopy techniques to study plant signalling processes. She then became a post-doctoral research fellow with the CXS (Centre for Coherent X-ray Science) at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia using confocal and x-ray microscopy to investigate mitochondrial morphology and dynamics. At Monash she now focuses on super-resolution techniques using primarily a home-built dSTORM system. Additionally, she aims to develop and implement novel microscopic techniques.

Dr Julia Polak, Manager, Monash Statistical Consulting Platform
Julia has completed a PhD in econometrics and currently holds a position in the Department of Econometrics and Business Statistics. Prior to her academic career, she has worked at a number of consulting firms, including Ernst & Young, developing extensive experience in statistical consulting. She has a broad range of research interests including nonparametric methods, forecasting and data visualisation, though her research is always driven by solving an interesting ‘real life’ problem.

Ms Angela Vais, Histology Senior Officer, MHTP Node, Monash Histology Platform
With a BSc from the University of Melbourne’s Department of Pathology, Angela has extensive experience in routine and specialised Histology, immunohistochemistry, multi-label immunofluorescence, project design, microtomy and cryosectioning in addition to training researchers and students in all histological techniques. Angela’s previous experience includes time spent in the capacity of Histology Supervisor, NeuroResearch Services, at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, where she designed and executed fee for service academic and commercial Histology and surgical projects, as well as providing training for Florey researchers and students in all aspects of Histology. In 2011, with the opening of the Melbourne Brain Centre, Angela supervised the Florey Histology Core Platform performing routine and specialised Histology, including processing and neuropathological diagnostic staining of post mortem human brain and spinal cord. In 2015 she was selected to supervise the Florey Advanced Microscopy and Immunohistochemistry Services where she further developed her confocal microscopy and imaging skills, multi-label immunofluorescence and established a research slide and tissue bank. Angela has also held several introductory and advanced immunohistochemistry masterclasses and neuropathology sessions on neurodegenerative diseases. Angela is passionate about helping researchers to achieve their scientific goals by providing any Histological assistance in experimental project design, implementation and troubleshooting.

Ms Vivien Vasic, Manager, MHTP Medical Genomics Facility
Ms Vivien Vasic received a BSc from Monash University and has extensive experience in managing DNA Sequencing Facilities. She was the founding member of the successful team that operates the Micromon DNA Sequencing service prior to moving to the Sequencing Centre at the Monash Health Translation Precinct on the Monash Medical Centre campus in 2002. Since then, the Centre has received NATA accreditation and expanded genomic services to encompass a range of complementary and state-of-the-art technologies. Vivien is also an accredited NATA assessor.