

Scientific Speed Dating: CV form for mentors

First & Last name:

Benjamin Howden

Affiliation:

Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory and Centre for Pathogen Genomics, University of Melbourne (Doherty Institute), Australia

Career in brief (please specify only the principal steps):

- 1988 – 1997: Medical school and general physician training (Australia)
- 1998 – 2004: Specialist training in infectious diseases and microbiology (Australia)
- 2005 – 2009: PhD in Pathogen Genomics (Vancomycin-resistance in *S. aureus*) (Monash, University, Australia)
- 2011 – 2014: Head of Microbiology, Austin Hospital, Heidelberg, Australia
- 2014 – present: Professor / Director of MDU Public Health Laboratory, University of Melbourne
- 2017 – 2022: Co-Principal Investigator “Controlling superbugs” program. Melbourne Genomics Health Alliance
- 2020 – present: Program Lead, Australian Pathogen Genomics Program
- 2022 – present: Director, Centre for Pathogen Genomics, University of Melbourne

Main field of expertise (max 3 topics of interest):

- Pathogen genomics
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Public Health Microbiology

Personal statements about myself:

- I combine clinical practice as an infectious diseases physician and public health microbiologist with research focussed on the application of pathogen genomics to understand bacterial pathogen evolution, antimicrobial resistance and public health implementation. While initially focussed on studies on *S. aureus* and *E. faecium*, my research has expanded to apply genomics to AMR pathogen more broadly in line with my role in public health microbiology.
- I led the implementation of a state-wide program for genomic-enabled surveillance and response to CPOs in Victoria, Australia which started in 2016.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic my laboratory provided support for access to pathogen genomics to countries in the Asia-Pacific region. This has resulted in a large program of work, in collaboration with WHO and other aid agencies, to support capacity building and implementation activities for genomics and AMR detection and response in countries in this region.