

**Welcome to the Autumn 2020 edition of the W+SN Newsletter!**

It has certainly been a very strange start to the year with the bushfires and COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that you and your loved ones are all safe and well. The challenges that face us as academics and researchers are definitely heightened at this time and we hope that through the W+SN we can share some interesting ways to help us stay connected and supported.

In this edition we cover the following in some detail:

+ Welcome Olga Kokshagina as co-director of W+SN

+ CSIRO collaborative workshop in planning

And some short posts:

W+SN speaker series

W+SN Call for projects

SCDF funding plans

**Welcome to Olga Kokshagina!**

We'd like to introduce the fantastic Dr Olga Kokshagina to the W+SN in a co-Leadership capacity. Olga will help Leah and Jude to steer the network and respond to the needs of the University and industry in terms of engagement. Dr Olga Kokshagina is an Innovation practitioner, researcher and advocate for open science and entrepreneurship. She leads ISPIM Special interest group on Innovation Management Methods for Industry. ISPIM is the largest community of practitioners and academics interested in innovation management. Olga is a hub leader for the Melbourne chapter of OneHealthTech grassroots community that aims for a better inclusion in healthtech. As a recipient of a Vice Chancellor Research Fellow at RMIT, she contributes to the Global Business Innovation Enabling Capability Platform. Her work focuses on several areas: strategic management of design, open & radical innovation and entrepreneurship. In particular, Olga is interested in interdisciplinary organisations set to explore grand global challenges.



**Innovation in a Time of Global Challenge**

W+SN | CSIRO Event

We are working with CSIRO to develop an online co-design workshop focused around technology challenges being faced in the W+SN priority areas of health and wellbeing, data (security, use, analytics, storage etc.) and sustainability.

The CSIRO | W+SN event will draw from cutting edge online co-design approaches to create an immersive and engaging experience for participants. The event will address topical challenges that are being faced by CSIRO and the community at large and seek to propose concepts and ideas around:

- New uses and applications for technologies
- New values for existing technological processes
- New/emerging users and relevant business models
- Ways to reuse and repurpose technologies
- Opportunities and threats to technology use/misuse

We see this as a great opportunity to foster collaboration across RMIT research groups and CSIRO and to develop innovative approaches to co-designing at a distance.

More detail to come in our next communique.

**W+SN In Short**

***W+SN Speaker series in the making***

We are working on a speaker series with the Activator that will showcase the expertise of W+SN researchers and enable us to share knowledge and expertise. We'll also record these to create a digital archive - stay tuned for more information!

***Tell us about your COVID projects***

If you have COVID projects on the boil please let us know about them. The ECPs are keen to hear about all the amazing work that is being done across the network.

***Call for projects***

Let us showcase your fantastic interdisciplinary projects on the W+SN website! All we need is an image and 100-200 words of text. The projects are housed here:

<https://www.ws-network.com.au/ws-network-projects>

***Strategic Capability Development Funding***

The CDF and SCDF funding scheme has been put on hold for the time being while the University responds to COVID-19 pressures. Once the scheme is resurrected we will be submitting our application to further support the W+SN for events, digital engagement and to launch the W+SN report.

***Want to join W+SN?***

Just send Leah a headshot and 150-200 word bio and we'll add you to the website and mailing list.

**Thank you to Professor Swee Mak, the Strategic Capability Development Fund and the following ECPs for ongoing support: Design and Creative Practice, Social Change, Advanced Materials, Biomedical and Health Innovation and Information and Systems (Engineering)**

For more information about W+SN please contact Leah Heiss, Jude Glover or Olga Kokshagina

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**Stay Well!**

**Leah, Jude and Olga**