

LAST CHANCE TO SAVE A LIFE

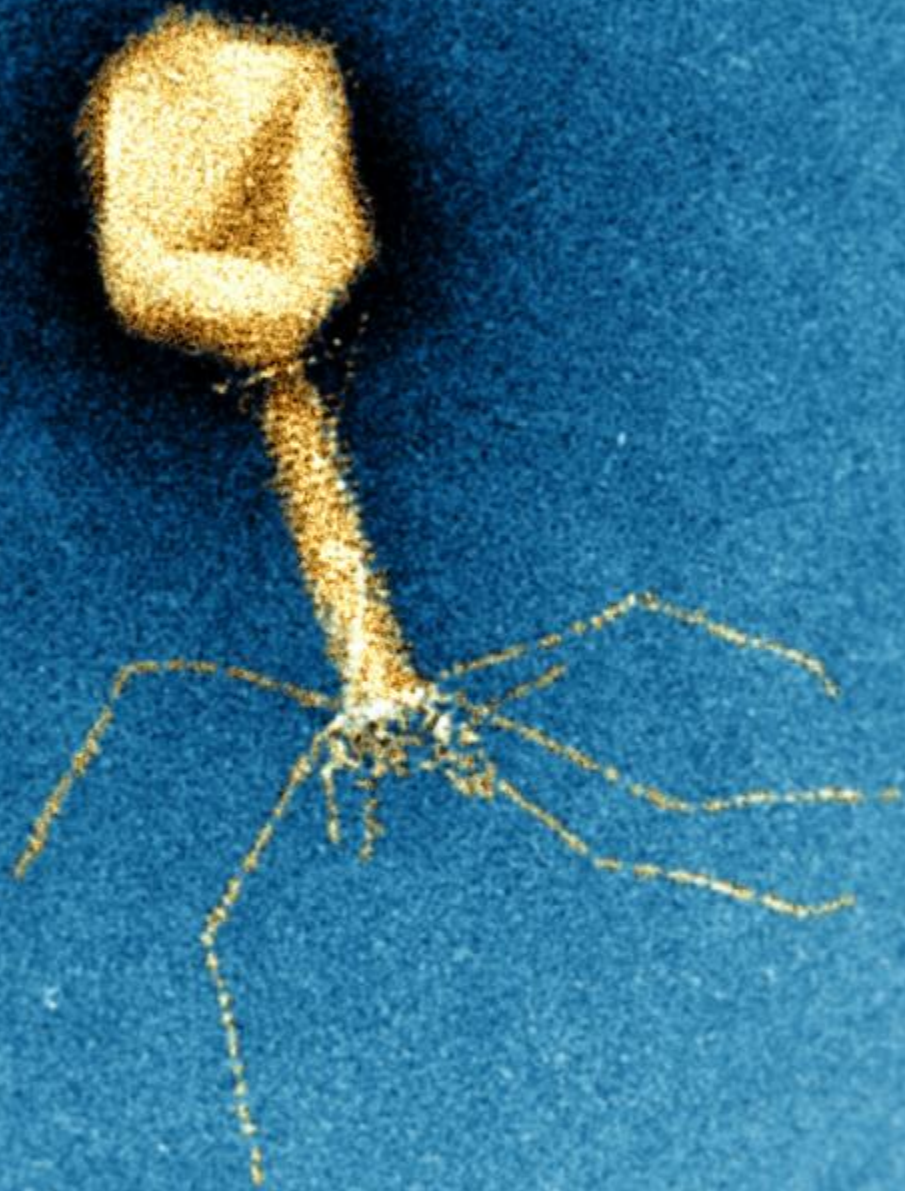
PRESS KIT
WRITER/ DIRECTOR – EMMA WATTS
PRODUCERS – ANNA MANTZOROS & SONYA PEMBERTON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER – SONYA PEMBERTON



Produced by
GENEPOOL PRODUCTIONS PTY LTD
© 2023 Genepool Productions Pty Ltd,
Special Broadcasting Service Corporation

15 Norma Barnett Lane,
Port Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Email: info@genepoolproductions.com

Electron Microscope Image of a phage - Photo by Jason Roberts



THE VIRUS THAT COULD
SAVE THE WORLD



SYNOPSIS

1 LINE SYNOPSIS:

As antibiotics fail, an elusive 100-year-old treatment promises to save lives and give hope to the world.

1 PARAGRAPH SYNOPSIS:

In a world threatened by deadly antibiotic-resistant infections, new hope emerges from the unlikeliest of sources: viruses. In Australia, patients are being injected with trillions of viruses to survive. We follow the patients, doctors, and scientists in nail-biting real time to discover the extraordinary power and challenges of 'phage therapy'; a strange and elusive 100-year-old treatment that promises to not only save patients' lives but give hope to the world.

1 PAGE SYNOPSIS:

“Last Chance to Save a Life: the virus that could save the world.” In a world threatened by deadly antibiotic-resistant infections, “Last Chance to Save a Life” paints a vivid portrait of an elusive 100-year-old therapy that could hold the key to humanity’s survival.

In Australia, as critically ill patients battle superbug infections, a new hope emerges from the unlikelyst of sources: viruses. Bacteriophages – or ‘phages’ for short - are nature’s viral warriors. These ancient viruses prey upon deadly bacteria with astonishing precision. Could phage therapy save these patients’ lives and turn the tide of the looming medical crisis?

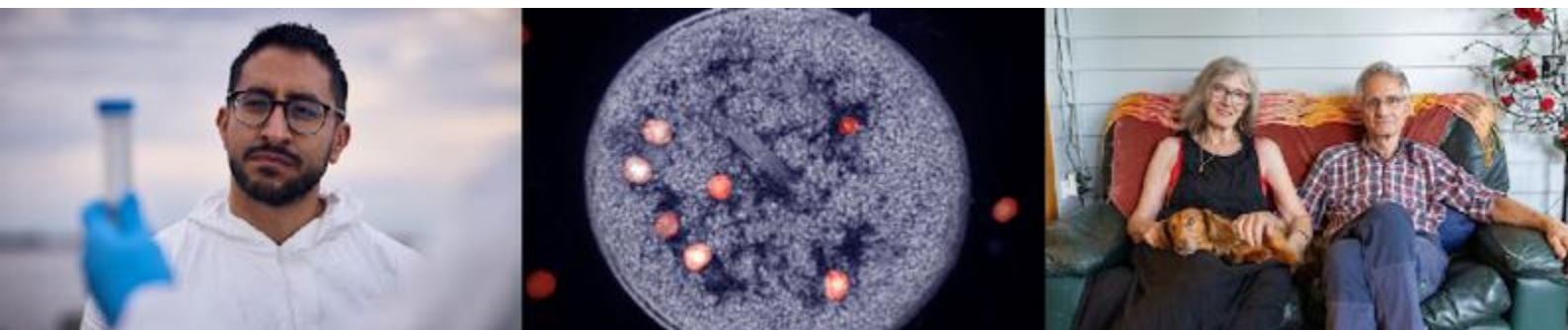
Meet Jeremy Barr and Fernando Gordillo Altamirano, brilliant young scientists haunted by the grim reality of untreatable superbugs. Led by Professor Anton Peleg, they join teams of experts to harness the power of phages. As the clock ticks, they embark on an audacious experiment.

“Last Chance to Save a Life” weaves together two parallel narratives—the race against time as the scientists seek to tame the viruses’ wild nature, and the intimate stories of patients fighting to survive. Each patient is out of conventional medical options, so they will be injected with trillions of phages in the hope they can defeat their bacterial enemy. Neither the scientists nor the patients know if this radical approach will work.

Phage therapy has a curious history, flourishing briefly in times of Stalin in the Soviet Union, but largely disappearing from Western view as antibiotics became the wonder drugs of our times. However, as many antibiotics cease working, the potential of phage therapy is being looked at anew. The world urgently needs options.

In this gripping real-time narrative, the power of human resilience shines brightly as patients and their families expose the reality of the failure of antibiotics; from the heartbreaking goodbyes of loved ones, to finding hope in unexpected recoveries. In an emotional climax, the film unveils the complexity of phage therapy, and the tantalising glimmers of hope that promise to redefine medicine’s future.

From the Emmy award-winning team at Genepool Productions, this intimate and unforgettable film bears witness to the global renaissance in phage therapy— an ancient weapon in the battle against superbugs and, perhaps, humanity’s last chance to save countless lives.





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Witnessing scientists, doctors and their patients trial locally produced phages in Australia for the very first time was incredible. I feel fortunate to have been able to tell a story with mind-blowing history, nail-biting character journeys and incredible stakes. On top of this, at its heart, this documentary is also about a critical issue that needs our attention, superbugs; something that's affected me personally, and experts predict will affect all of us in the near future.

I know about superbugs by default. My husband is a researcher who specialises in trying to understand these dangerous and clever microbes. Over the last 15 years (often over dinner...) I've heard in detail about the growing number of patients infected with bacterial infections that are resistant to antibiotics.

One aspect of the superbug crisis I find extraordinary is how little the public actually knows about it. In 2019, drug-resistant infections were associated with almost five million deaths globally (that's more than HIV, TB and malaria combined), and experts warn these infections may kill more people than cancer by 2050. Current predictions tell us that in a generation superbugs will be one of our biggest killers, but few people are aware of any of this. That's why I set out to make this documentary; I felt an untold story was playing out in hospitals around the country, and around the world, and it needed telling.

I first heard about phage therapy in 2017. It's a treatment that was developed over a hundred years ago and involves injecting patients with trillions of viruses to attack and kill superbugs. When I first brought up phage therapy with my doctor friends I was met with extreme scepticism. They rolled their eyes at my naivety. Apparently, this strange medicine (that had been adopted by the Soviets) would "never catch on in the West". But over a few years, I watched as a handful of the world's leading medical institutes began to research phage therapy. Eventually, I heard a whisper that a hospital close to home in Melbourne was about to start trials. I knew then this was a story I had to tell.

What made this experience (and our film) so unique was that no one had any idea about what was going to happen in the phage therapy trials. We didn't know who these patients might be, when they would arrive, if they would agree to a documentary crew following their stories, nor what would happen to them after they were injected with trillions of viruses. The stakes couldn't have been higher for the people we followed, and it's no exaggeration to say this trial was their last chance to live.

We were extremely fortunate. The doctors and scientists gave us incredible access to their work. This allowed us to begin filming with the patients before they were given their first dose of phage therapy, and we were able to follow them throughout their treatment. But I felt there was another side to this story. I also wanted to explore what drove the doctors and scientists to care so deeply about their work.

My crew and I were allowed into spaces where, for the very first time in Australia, scientists and doctors were producing these viruses and injecting them into patients. The feeling was electric, everyone was nervous; the patients and their families, as well as the doctors, scientists and the documentary crew. We were all desperately hoping this therapy would help these people.

While filming this documentary, I had a front-row seat to witness the superbug crisis in Australia, and it is truly scary. As Prof. Peleg says, "It's not something that's in the future; it's right here, right now". We saw doctors with long lists of patients who couldn't be helped because the 'go-to medicine', antibiotics, no longer worked.

As well as witnessing this crisis, during the filming of the documentary, I had to have emergency surgery because I contracted a superbug. I know, it's a weird coincidence and I couldn't quite believe it myself. Like most of the patients I interviewed, I have no idea where it came from, but lucky for me it was a less aggressive superbug (one that's commonly found at gyms and in the general community).

My superbug infection started off as a small lump on my leg, but quickly escalated. At the time, I was terrified, scared that my 6-year-old son would catch it and that the bug might change and evolve into something worse. Fortunately, after a few nights in hospital and an operation to cut it out, I was cured. It was unexpected (and unwelcome!).

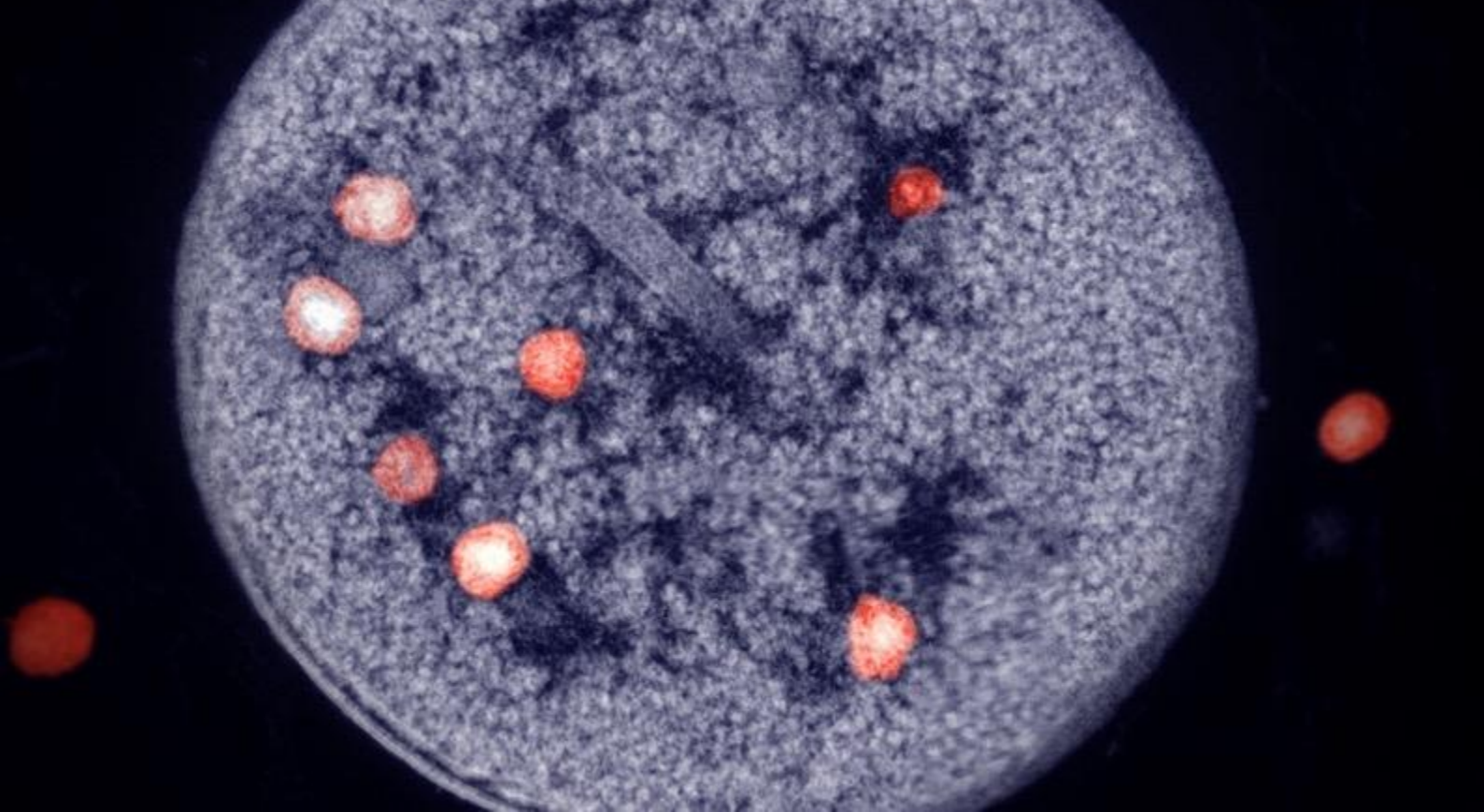


This personal experience reinforced my conviction that telling this phage therapy story was vital. If my doctors seemed unsurprised that a fit and healthy person like me could be infected with a superbug and need emergency surgery, it made me worry about what this crisis, and all our lives, might look like in the future.

We are all vulnerable.

I've made this film with an incredibly experienced team who have helped me dig deep into the story, expertly guiding me through the highs and emotionally difficult lows during the filming of this documentary. My executive producer, Sonya Pemberton, is one of Australia's best documentary filmmakers, and her experience and knowledge have been invaluable in bringing this project to fruition. My producer, Anna Mantzoros, brought her extensive professional experience, as well as some lived experience of what it is like for critically ill patients to navigate the hospital system, both of which greatly contributed to this film.

Emma Watts, October 2023



PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

Genepool Productions specialises in telling stories of science for Australian and global audiences. We have won over 80 awards for our films, including an Emmy award for Outstanding Science, and a record-breaking five Eureka Prizes for Science Journalism. We pride ourselves on making complex science stories accessible to broad audiences, with films such as *'Jabbed- Love Fear and Vaccines'*, *'Immortal'*, *'Uranium -Twisting the Dragons Tail'*, *'Cracking Covid'*, *'Carbon- the unauthorised biography'* and more.

Writer/Director Emma Watts brought the idea for *Last Chance to Save a Life* to Genepool Productions in early 2022. I was impressed by Emma, having worked with her as additional director on our feature documentary, *Cracking COVID* the year before. Emma, although very experienced in making factual programs, had not yet had the opportunity to carefully craft and create her first independent documentary. She was keen to make this directorial transition; I was keen to support Emma's first 'passion-project'.

For several years, our Genepool Productions team had been exploring making a film on the rising threat of superbugs and the potential of phage therapy - it is a vital and surprising story of science and society - but we had not yet found the right angle to carry this important tale.

Emma's concept was original and clear – the first Victorian phage therapy trial was about to begin in Melbourne. What if we were to follow the scientists and patients through the highs and lows of dealing with urgent superbug infections and, in real-time, reveal the challenges and promise of this remarkable phage therapy?

To our knowledge this has never been done before, anywhere in the world. (There are several very good international films on phage therapy, however they are retrospective, looking back at the struggles and successes.) We wanted to make something that unfolded across time, was authentic in reflecting the challenges (for both the patients and the scientists), whilst delivering an intimate, human-focused, observational story.

The stakes were high. The Melbourne scientific and medical team had never done this before (it could fail) and the patients have run out of conventional medical options (their lives were literally on the line). It was a brave proposition.

SBS came on board first, keen to support the film through development and production. They were joined by Screen Australia and VicScreen, who also supported the project from its early days. Anna Mantzoros joined us as Producer, bringing her terrific production skills and dedication to the project.

We were backed by the incredible institutions (and teams) featured in the film, Monash University and the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne and later, the Westmead Health precinct in Sydney. We are incredibly grateful for the unfettered access and tremendous advice and encouragement they provided, over the two-year period.

The greatest challenge of the film was finding and securing access with the critically ill patients who, understandably, had more important issues than taking part in a film. Emma's skill in building relationships and trust was key, requiring a depth of compassion and commitment as their real-time stories unfolded.

The three patients we feature in this film reflect three very different, but significant, outcomes: one has the happy ending we all hoped for, one ends in tragedy, and the third is left in medical limbo. This reflects a harsh reality. Superbugs are often deadly and very hard to fight, and phage therapy is not an easy fix because, despite its 100-year-old origins, we are in the early days of harnessing this unconventional medical treatment. There is much to learn, as our characters reveal.

However, as this beautiful film highlights, phage therapy offers us tremendous hope. Hope that perhaps, as the global superbug threat builds, we will have some powerful new tools to fight back.

Sonya Pemberton, October 2023



MEET THE TEAM



EMMA WATTS
WRITER/DIRECTOR

Emma Watts is an award-winning director with over 15 years of experience working in factual television and documentary in Australia and the US. She has created content for Discovery Science, BBC, Hulu, CNN, NBC, Discovery ID, The World Science Festival and every Australian network and broadcaster.

Emma specialises in creating exciting and engaging science and arts programming. She directed and co-wrote *Invisible Wars* a 3-part series for the ABC hosted by Dr Norman Swan that tracks the history of infectious disease. She wrote and directed *How To Live Younger* a 3-part health/science series that cuts through the wellness hype, and was the additional director on Sonya Pemberton's film *Cracking COVID*. Emma also directed Tony Armstrong in *A Dog's World* and Lawrence Leung in *Our Brain*, both for the ABC.

Emma is also the creator and director of the award-winning *A Diary From The Frontline* series for PBS in the US. This moving series tracked frontline healthcare workers at home and in the hospital as they faced the COVID-19 pandemic.

Emma developed, directed and was the executive producer of the documentary series *No Strings Attached* for ABC and iView. This original series received rave reviews in the press calling it "Masterful", "damn funny viewing" and "genius". It also won a stash of 'best documentary' and 'most original series' awards at festivals worldwide and secured international distribution through NBCU.

MEET THE TEAM



SONYA PEMBERTON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER /PRODUCER

Sonya Pemberton is one of Australia's leading documentary filmmakers; an Emmy Award recipient and record-breaking five-time winner of the prestigious Eureka Prize for Science Journalism. Her passion is creating quality science documentaries for international audiences. Sonya has written, directed and/or executive produced over 60 hours of broadcast documentary, her films winning over 80 international awards.

As a writer and director, her films include the multi-award-winning feature documentaries *Cracking COVID* (ABC), *Vitamina* (SBS, ARTE, CuriosityStream) and *Jabbed: Love, Fear and Vaccines* (SBS, ARTE), and the one-hour specials *Vaccines-Calling the Shots* (PBS NOVA), *Catching Cancer* (SBS, ARTE) and *Immortal* (SBS, Smithsonian Channel), which won the Emmy Award for Outstanding Science.

Sonya has also executive-produced many award-winning films, including feature

documentary *Carbon -The Unauthorised Biography* (ABC, CBC, ARTE), global science-history series '*Uranium: Twisting The Dragon's Tail*' (SBS, PBS, ZDF, ARTE), *Lawless- the real bushrangers'* (History Channel, Foxtel), *Tales of the Unexpected'* (SBS, Smithsonian Channel) and *CRUDE – the incredible journey of oil* (ABC, History Channel).

Previously Sonya was Head of Specialist Factual at ABC Television, where managed over three hundred hours of factual television; her understanding of audiences' desire for smart, accessible TV saw ratings rise across the genres.

Sonya has been personally honoured with Australian Health Journalist of the Year in 2011 and 2013, the Thornett Award for the Promotion of Reason in 2014, the Jill Robb Award in 2015, in 2016 she received the Stanley Hawes Award for contribution to documentary.

MEET THE TEAM



ANNA MANTZOROS
PRODUCER

Anna Mantzoros has a long history in television production starting in the industry for producers Simpson Le Mesurier in 1999, who were responsible for drama productions such as *Stingers*, *Halifax f.p.*, *Something In the Air*.

Anna then moved into unscripted production, and has worked freelance in many genres as a Production Manager and Line Producer. Highlights include factual productions *Jamie's Kitchen Australia*, *Grand Designs Australia*, *Stargazing Live*, *Meet the Penguins*, comedy & entertainment *Newstopia* with Shaun Micallef, *Judith Lucy Is All Woman*, *Myf Warhurst's Nice*, reality *Project Runway Australia*, *MasterChef*, *The Biggest Loser* and live news *The Project*.

In 2015, Anna was the Production Executive for Matchbox Pictures and oversaw the unscripted production slate across Australia, New Zealand and Asia. More recently, Anna has line produced factual interview series *The ABC Of...* with David Wenham and produced the documentary *Last Chance To Save A Life* for Genepool Productions.

MEET THE TEAM



FAUSTINA AGOLLEY
NARRATOR

Faustina Agolley is a Broadcaster, Writer, Actor, Producer, Voice Artist and DJ. Her work includes hosting flagship music program *Video Hits*, *The Voice* and the *Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras*. She made her stage debut with Sydney Theatre Company and Melbourne Theatre Company's co-production of the *Molière* award-winning play, *The Father* alongside theatre luminary, John Bell and toured Australia and New Zealand as Oprah Winfrey's resident DJ for her *An Evening with Oprah Tour*.

Faustina has written on queer matters and overcoming mental health struggles for *Women of Letters* (Penguin), Huffington Post, Sunday Life, ABC Life, Queerstories and The Wheeler Centre Gala.

Faustina's most recent work, *Sam*, explores loss, grief and her African identity, and is part of the first collection of African Australian stories in *Australian Letters called, Growing Up African in Australia*.

MEET THE TEAM



WAYNE HYETT ^{ASE}
EDITOR

Wayne Hyett’s career has spanned over 40 years and includes feature films, children’s drama, adult drama series and documentary dramas for all Australian networks and international audiences.

Wayne’s documentary highlights include *Captain Cook – Discovery and Obsession*, *The First Fagin*, *Australia on Trial*, *Kindness of Strangers*, *Catching Cancer*, *Vaccines: Calling the Shots*, *Uranium*, *Vitamina* and the Emmy Award-winning *Immortal*.

His drama credits include the Australian classic, *The Castle*, *The Murray Whelan Series*, *Stingers*, *The Games*, *Wicked Science*, *The Elephant Princess*, *Pirate Island* and *The Dr Blake Mysteries*.

In 2004 Wayne was awarded accreditation by the Australian Screen Editors Guild “in recognition of excellence in screen editing and outstanding contribution to Australian screen culture”.

In 2012, Wayne established the Post Production company, City Post in Melbourne. City Post provides content for Australian and International broadcasters as well as streaming services including Netflix.

MEET THE TEAM



AARON SMITH ASE
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Aaron Smith ACS is a multi-award-winning cinematographer, director and producer. He is a cinematography Masters graduate of the Australian Film Television & Radio School and was accredited by the Australian Cinematographers Society in 2021.

Aaron shot the Walkley-winning investigative productions *Revelation and Hitting Home*; the SBS observational documentary series *Addicted Australia* and *Filthy Rich and Homeless*; primetime ABC Arts programs *Books That Made Us*, *Matilda & Me*, *Making Muriel* and *Take 5 with Zan Rowe*; and ABC factual series *Employable Me*, *Love on the Spectrum* and *Better Date Than Never*. He also shot the recent feature documentary *John Farnham: Finding The Voice*, now the highest grossing Australian feature documentary ever.

Aaron co-created, co-directed and shot *You Can't Ask That* — winner of a Rose d'Or, AACTA Awards and three United Nations Association of Australia Media Awards. He directed and shot primetime ABC shows *The ABC Of...* with David Wenham, *The Checkout*, *Hungry Beast*, Myf Warhurst's *Nice, Dumb Drunk & Racist* and *Head First*.

MEET THE TEAM



DALE COCHRANE
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Dale Cochrane is an experienced cinematographer, working across documentary, television, commercial and aerial. Having filmed in every continent and throughout Australia, he also owns Raven Air, a Melbourne-based drone company established in the infancy of aerial video technology. 2022/23 saw Dale film *Folau*, a 2x1 hour episodes for ABC looking at the controversial life of rugby great Israel Folau. He was co-DoP for Stan's *Danielle Laidley: Two Tribes* and then teamed up with director Nel Minchin again (*Folau*) as DoP for *The Way We Wore*, a 3x1 hour episodes for ABC. Hosted by Celeste Barber, the show explores how fashion has shaped the cultural and social fabric of Australia. Due for release in November, 2023.

During 2021/22, Dale shared DoP role with Bruce Permezel (who co-directed with Rhian Skirving) on the MIFF 2022 Audience Award winning film *Greenhouse* by Joost. He also filmed the Catalyst episode *Urban Birds* for the ABC. After filming over four years and across five continents, *The Leadership* (Bunya Productions) premiered

at the 2020 Sydney and Melbourne International Film Festivals, winning Dale an Australian Cinematographer's Society Award (Silver).

Throughout 2020, Dale filmed the feature documentary *Off Country*, (Good Thing Productions) which premiered at the 2021 Melbourne International Film Festival.

He was DoP on ABC's Catalyst *The Grid* and *Outback Rabbis*, screening on SBS and Amazon Prime UK and he shot *Date My Race*, a one-hour documentary also screening on SBS.

Dale was also second camera and/or aerial contributor on *Lawless* (Foxtel 4x1hr), *First Contact S02* (SBS 3x1hr) and *DNA Nation* (SBS 3x1hr), stepping in as DoP for the India and Australia section of the show and shared DoP on Walkley Award Winning *Code of Silence* (ABC 1hr), and *Strictly Jewish* (SBS 1hr). He is a regular contributor as DoP on ABC's *The Weekly* and *Tomorrow Tonight* and for Network Nine's *Hamish and Andy* (five seasons).

MEET THE TEAM



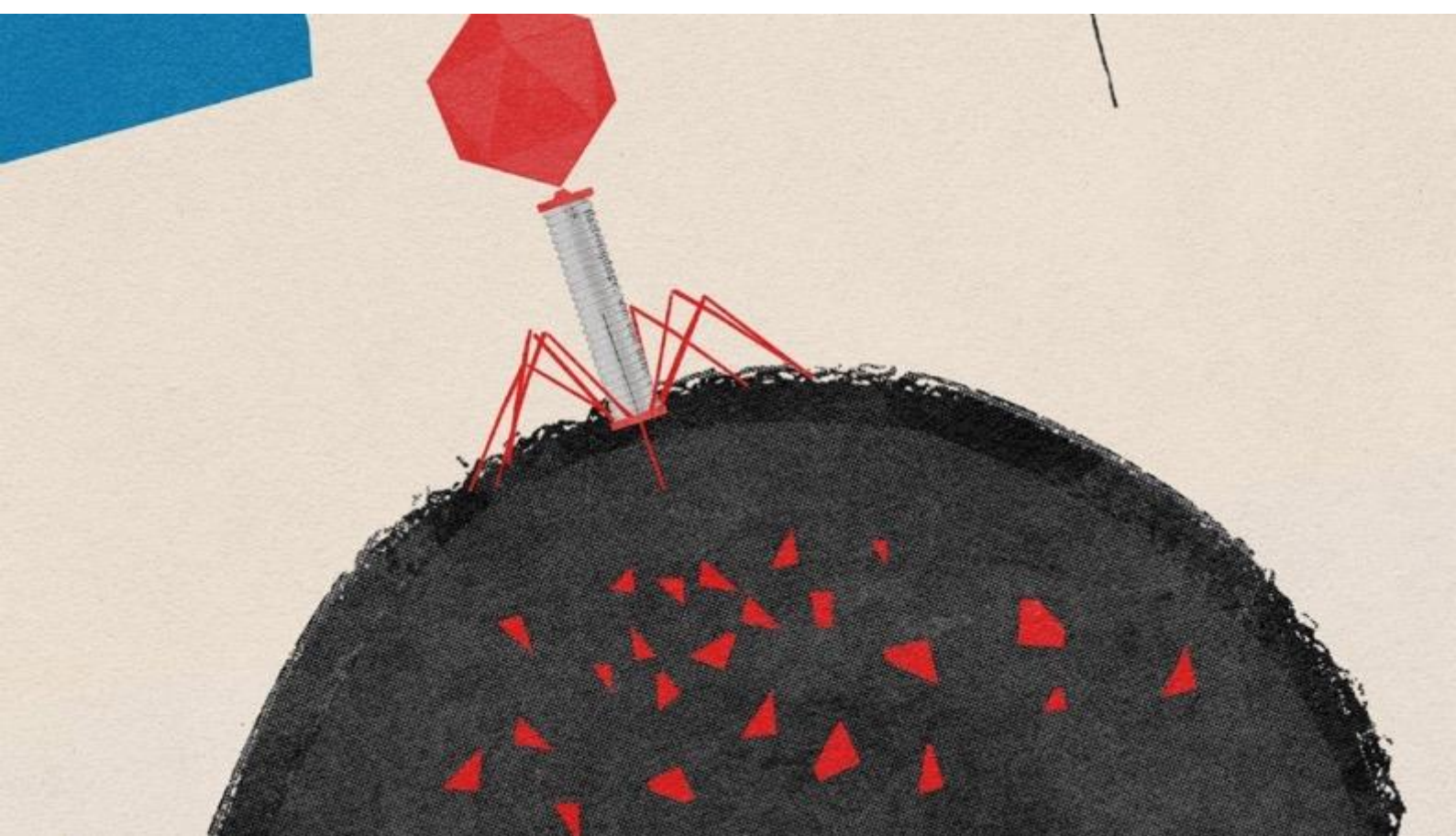
RUTH LEE MARTIN
COMPOSER

Ruth Lee Martin is a Canberra-based award-winning composer who studied composition at doctoral level at the Australian National University, where she also taught for many years. Ruth's compositional style is eclectic with many influences creeping in, but there are recurring themes: minimalism, a love of vocal experimentation, and drones in deep textural soundscapes.

Ruth's recent film music includes a television project with award winning New York (and more recently Melbourne) film director, Emma Watts for *A Diary from the Frontline* - a documentary series on COVID-19 that documents the lives of those on the frontline during the pandemic including Global Health Reporting Center in NYC (and Cape Town) and doctors and nurses in Philadelphia, Regional England, Cape Town, Vicenza (Italy) San Diego and a South African township. This series aired on PBS Newshour in the US.

She also composed the music for *Tales from Tinder* (ABC and Comedy Bites), and the multi-awarded series, *No Strings Attached* (Raindance Film Festival Official Selection, Orlando Film Festival Official Selection, Vancouver Web Fest Best Documentary, DubWebFest Winner Best LGBT, Melbourne Web Series Festival Best Australian Non-Fiction, Bushwick Film Festival Official Selection, Brooklyn Web Fest Official Selection).

www.smudgemusic.com



21:19

DESIGN, ANIMATION & VFX

21-19 is a multi-disciplinary creative agency. We are a collective of designers, directors, animators, artists, producers and strategists. We work at the convergence of art and moving image. Our clients benefit from our ability to engage with narrative, character and tone. Specializing in bringing artistic and illustrative works to life through animation.

We are often tasked by our clients to be the orchestrator of all the moving parts, aligning stakeholders and creative

DOMENICO BARTOLO
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

CHRIS MORE
DESIGN DIRECTOR

CHRIS MORE, BOBBY DAZZLER
ANIMATION

collaborators around a shared creative vision. We are well versed at executing a single minded creative proposition at scale and across a broad array of media.

Our recent film credits include; *Cracking Covid*, *Lawless - The Real Bushrangers*, *Mystify Michael Hutchence*, *Franklin*, *Vitamina*, *Palazzo Di Cozzo* and *Hot Potato - The Story of the Wiggles*.

21-19.com

CONTRIBUTORS

The patients



ILARIO FRANCO - MELBOURNE

Ilario Franco is 22 years old. He lives with his parents, Silvia and Enzo, in the outer-suburbs of Melbourne and he loves to write hip-hop tracks in his home studio. Ilario was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis (a condition that affects the lungs) when he was two years old. To make matters worse, the doctors found a rare and dangerous superbug had colonised his lungs when he was ten. Unfortunately, those with cystic fibrosis are more likely to develop infections that can't be killed with antibiotics.

Over the last few years Ilario has been rushed to hospital numerous times because that infection has made its way into his bloodstream - which can be fatal. His doctors are struggling to keep the

infection under control. The antibiotics are not working and his family are worried, he is in a dire situation and modern medicine doesn't have any solutions.

If he is accepted into the phage therapy trial, he will be the first patient to receive locally produced phages in Victoria. Ilario is desperate for the phage therapy trial to work so that he can get back to living a 'normal' life. He's just bought himself his first car and he hopes to get his licence in June.

CONTRIBUTORS

The patients



PAUL LASZLO - SYDNEY

Paul Laszlo and Ann Palumbo are a couple who play music professionally in Sydney, and they've had a hellish few years. Paul already fought one major health battle and won; he was diagnosed with mesothelioma, an asbestos related cancer 6 years ago. He had a major operation to remove both the cancer and his lung, and he recovered. Paul had energy again and was able to get back to living his life.

But shortly afterwards, he was hit with a second devastating diagnosis. He had developed a bacterial infection in his chest cavity. His doctors and surgeons have tried everything to kill it; he's had 18 surgeries and countless antibiotics to try and rid his body of the bacteria, but nothing has worked. He's been brought to the brink of death many times.

Phage therapy is Paul's last hope. If the phages don't work, he will die.

CONTRIBUTORS

The patients



NAOMI CREEK - FLINDERS ISLAND, TASMANIA

Naomi Creek first noticed a lump on her knee four years ago. She doesn't know where the infection came from, it could have been a cut or a scrape from shaving her legs or from a knee replacement many years ago. Naomi lives in one of the most beautiful places on earth, Flinders Island, but this infection in her leg haunts her.

Naomi keeps herself constantly busy by working, snorkelling, painting and saving wildlife to try and distract herself from the growing infection that will likely lead to an amputation.

Naomi's last chance to keep her leg is to access the phage therapy trial in Melbourne.

THE SCIENTISTS & CLINICIANS



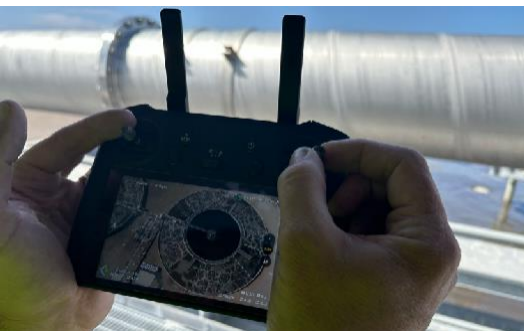
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JEREMY BARR
Phage Biologist
Monash University, Melbourne

Jeremy Barr completed his PhD in microbiology at The University of Queensland in 2011. He then moved to San Diego, USA to complete a postdoctoral position at San Diego State University.

While there he studied the interactions of bacteriophage with mucosal surfaces and was involved in a world-first phage therapy case treating a patient with disseminated, multidrug-resistant infection.

In 2016, he joined Monash University's School of Biological Sciences where he is currently a Senior Lecturer and Group Leader. His research group studies bacteriophages and their tripartite interactions with their bacterial hosts and the human body. In 2020, he joined the Centre to Impact AMR where he leads translational phage therapy work.

www.phageaustralia.org/profile/jeremy-barr
research.monash.edu/en/persons/jeremy-barr



THE SCIENTISTS & CLINICIANS



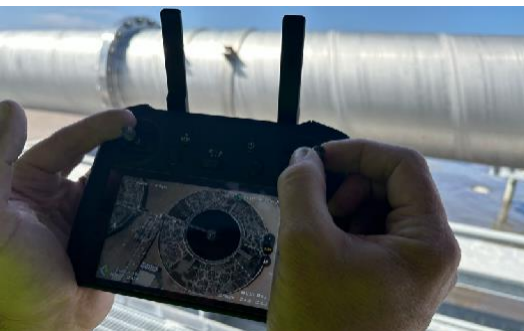
DR.FERNANDO GORDILLO ALTAMIRANO
Phage Therapy Researcher The
Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

Fernando L. Gordillo Altamirano, M.D., M.Med., Ph.D., obtained his medical degree from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (PUCE) in 2014, his master of medicine (Infection & Immunity) from the University of Sydney in 2016, and his doctor of philosophy (Microbiology) from Monash University in 2021. He is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne, investigating new ways to treat patients with antibiotic-resistant infections.

With an exceptional academic record, he graduated valedictorian from medical school, was named Victoria's international student of the year in 2020, and received the Mollie Holman doctoral medal, one of the highest honours bestowed by Monash University, in 2021. His scientific papers have been published in high-impact journals including *Nature Microbiology* and *The Lancet EBioMedicine* and he has performed science communication in outlets including *The Conversation* and the podcast *v*. He lives with his partner Tim and his dog Taquito.

lens.monash.edu/@fernando-gordillo-altamirano

www.phageaustralia.org/profile/fernando-gordillo-altamirano



THE SCIENTISTS & CLINICIANS



PROFESSOR ANTON PELEG
Director, Dept Of Infectious Diseases The
Alfred Hospital & Monash University

Anton Peleg is a Professor of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, Director of the Department of Infectious Diseases at The Alfred Hospital and Monash University, Leader in the Centre to Impact Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Monash University, and Theme Leader for Infection and Immunity at the Monash Academic Health Research and Translational Centre. He has also recently been elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.

His research interests are in hospital-acquired infections, AMR and novel solutions, bacteriophage therapy, bacterial genomics, mechanisms of pathogenesis and infections in immunocompromised hosts. He is the lead investigator on numerous AMR projects that focus on hospital, community, aged care, and regional (Pacific Island countries) settings. He is also an active clinician working in the area of transplant infectious diseases and hospital-acquired infections. Prof. Peleg has received numerous national and international awards for his advanced research and contribution to Infectious Diseases and Microbiology.

www.alfredhealth.org.au/about/bio/dr-anton-peleg
research.monash.edu/en/persons/anton-peleg
www.phageaustralia.org/profile/anton-peleg

THE SCIENTISTS & CLINICIANS



PROFESSOR JON IREDELL
Director, Centre For Infectious Diseases and
Microbiology
Westmead Hospital & University Of Sydney

www.sydney.edu.au/medicine-health/about/our-people/academic-staff/jonathan-iredell.html

www.westmeadinstitute.org.au/people/researcher-profiles-search/professor-jon-iredell/biography

Jon Iredell is Professor of Medicine & Microbiology at Sydney Medical School, Director of the Centre for Infectious Diseases and Microbiology at WIMR, and Senior Staff Specialist in Infectious Diseases & Microbiology at Westmead Hospital. He is an infectious diseases physician and clinical microbiologist specialising in critical infections and transmission of antibiotic resistance.

Prof. Iredell has been actively involved in various organizations related to healthcare quality and gene technology. He has contributed to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) Multi Resistant Gram-negative Taskforce and the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee of the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator. He is also part of the executive committee of the Australian Group on Antibiotic Resistance (AGAR). Within his roles, Prof. Iredell supervises the NSW Antimicrobial Resistance reference laboratory at Westmead and heads the bacterial pathogenesis group, focusing on antimicrobial resistance, plasmid biology, and phage biology at Westmead Institute.

Prof. Iredell's groundbreaking work in phage therapy and his collaborative efforts with Prof. Ruby Lin and Dr. Ameneh Khatami have been supported by the MRFF Frontiers Stage 1 grant. This funding has enabled the establishment of Phage Australia, a significant initiative in the field of phage therapy. He was awarded over \$3.5 million AUD by the Office of Health and Medical Research, NSW State government to set up a sustainable phage production service for NSW and Australia-wide in 2023.

THE SCIENTISTS & CLINICIANS



PROFESSOR RUBY LIN
Deputy Director, Phage Australia
The Westmead Institute For Medical
Research, Sydney

Ruby Lin is Adjunct Professor and the Deputy Director for Science and Biotechnology at Phage Australia, a program that focuses on phage therapy, microbiology, clinical and laboratory medicine, genomics, informatics, and biotechnology. With expertise in genomics and biotechnology, Dr. Lin has successfully obtained over \$13 million AUD in competitive research funding.

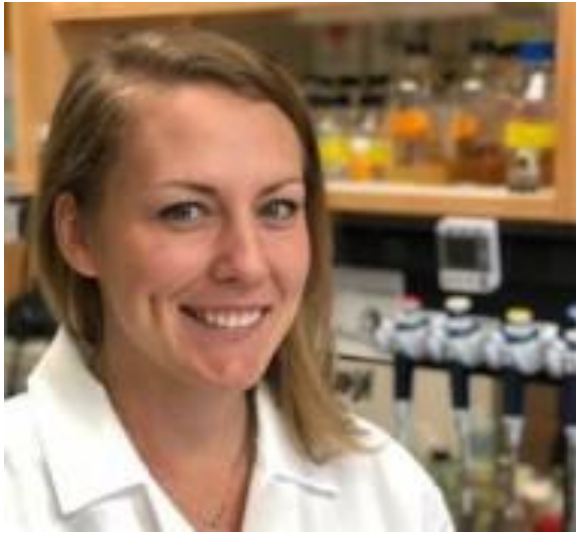
Between 2017 and 2019, Dr. Lin led the Westmead Bacteriophage Therapy Team, along with Professor Jon Iredell, in conducting a successful first-in-human-GMP-phage clinical trial, demonstrating the safety and feasibility of phage therapy.

Dr. Lin has made significant contributions to the field of phage therapy, including introducing therapeutic monitoring of immune gene expression responses in patients undergoing phage therapy. Her collaborative research efforts with Professor Jon Iredell resulted in the filing of patents in the United States and Europe. She played a key role in establishing the genomics and biobanking arm of phage therapy as a clinical service at Westmead, and her team's adult phage therapy clinical trial, published in *Nature Microbiology* in 2020, set the precedent for the implementation of locally produced phage treatment under a nationally approved standardised treatment and monitoring protocol known as the STAMP protocol.

She has published over 120 peer-reviewed papers, white papers, and news articles, with an H-index of 37, and her work on phage therapy has garnered significant media attention, being featured in news outlets such as Channel 7, Channel 10, ABC radio, and *Nature Microbiology*.

www.phageaustralia.org/profile/ruby-lin

THE SCIENTISTS & CLINICIANS



DR JESSICA SACHER
Phage Therapy Researcher
The Westmead Institute For Medical
Research, Sydney

Jessica Sacher co-founded Phage Directory in 2017, a global network of phage researchers from more than 80 countries.

She has since directed its phage-sourcing and community-building efforts, including coordinating over 50 phage-finding efforts, where a network of more than 1,300 members of the global phage community volunteer their time and lab space to identify active phages for patients.

In 2022, she joined Prof. Jon Iredell's group in Sydney, Australia as a postdoctoral research scientist for the Phage Australia project. She is working to develop and streamline Phage Australia's phage selection, biobanking, and manufacturing process, to make phage therapy available for patients Australia-wide and eventually beyond.

Jessica Sacher received her PhD in Microbiology and Biotechnology in 2018 from the University of Alberta, Canada.

www.phageaustralia.org/profile/jessica-sacher

GENEPOOL (POOL)



GENEPOOL PRODUCTIONS

Based in Melbourne, Genepool Productions specialises in creating quality science documentaries for Australian and international audiences. Sonya Pemberton, 2012 Emmy award winner and record breaking five-time winner of the prestigious Eureka Award for Science Journalism, leads the company.

Previous projects include the critically acclaimed and multi-award-winning science documentaries, *Immortal*, *Catching Cancer*, *Jabbed – love, fear and vaccines*, *Vaccines - Calling the Shots*, *Uranium- Twisting the Dragon's Tail*, *Vitamina - the sense and nonsense of vitamins*, *Cracking COVID* and, most recently, *Carbon- The Unauthorised Biography*.

Genepool works in partnership with scientists and broadcasters across the world.

Principal production & development funding from:
SCREEN AUSTRALIA

Produced with the assistance of:
VICSCREEN

Developed and produced in association with:
SPECIAL BROADCASTING CORPORATION

International Distribution:
ABACUS MEDIA RIGHTS

© 2023 Genepool Productions Pty Ltd, Special Broadcasting Corporation