

ANZMAG News – Report on the Symposium to honour Professor Frances Separovic AO

By Professor Ray Norton and Associate Professor Sylvia Urban

On September 30th 2019, a Symposium in honour of Professor Emeritus Frances Separovic AO was held at the Bio21 Institute, The University of Melbourne. The program included a session on Frances' contributions to magnetic resonance and the NMR community with contributions from Sylvia Urban (RMIT University), Ray Norton (Monash University), Paul Gooley (Bio21 Institute) and Luke O'Dell (Deakin University).

The talks highlighted Frances' research in solid-state NMR, in particular of membrane-associated peptides and proteins, as well as her outstanding contributions to the fields of magnetic resonance and biophysics through her involvement in organising conferences and serving on the governing bodies of various societies, including ANZMAG.

The second session focussed on Frances' contributions to Women in Science and biophysical chemistry with contributions from Leann Tilley (Bio21 Institute), Uta Wille (Bio21 Institute), Marc-Antoine Sani (Bio21 Institute) and Mibel Aguilar (Monash University).



The speakers and session chairs at the Prof Frances Separovic Symposium

Frances is a leader in science and has received many awards and honours. Key milestones include becoming the first Victorian female Professor in Chemistry in 2005, serving as the first female Head of the School of Chemistry, University of Melbourne (2010-2015), and most recently being appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia.

Frances is a strong advocate for women in STEM and a role model for Women in Chemistry and Women in Science. She has been a valuable mentor to many young women establishing their careers in science. Currently she is in/on the way to Antarctica as part of the fourth Homeward Bound Program (<https://chemistry.unimelb.edu.au/news/frances-separovic-setting-sale-to-antarctica>). She is also active on Twitter as @francesbiophys and still involved in helping the next generation of women in STEM.



The symposium dinner

Bibliography

Karas John A., Keizer David W., Sani Marc-Antoine (2019) Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Study of the Peptide FRANCESSEPAROVIC. Australian Journal of Chemistry, <https://doi.org/10.1071/CH19357>