HyTECH June 2026 Update

ARC Training Centre for Hyphenated Technologies

A brief summary of Centre updates, research highlights, and upcoming engagements.

CENTRE UPDATES

- The final PhD student has joined the UQ node — all nodes are now fully staffed and research-ready.
- Dr Elvis Okoffo transitions to a DECRA-funded role. Postdoc recruitment is in its final stages.
- **Extra Steering Committee (online, July):** Finance review, workplan approvals (incl. Australian Antarctic Division funding to UTAS), and affiliate applications.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Award — Conference in Riva del Garda: Yuying Feng wins the Chromaleont Travel Scholarship and ABC Springer Best Poster Award at the 44th ISCC & 21st GCxGC Symposium. Congratulations Yuying!
- Nanoplastics Workshop: Six institutes tackle nanoscale plastics challenges — great UTAS-UQ node collaboration.
- New Publication - PFAS: Postdoc Ibraam Mikhail and Trajan Scientific deliver on-site PFAS analysis from sampling to results in 6 hours.
- New Publication - Bovine Milk: Kevin Ghavalas publishes his first PhD manuscript on flavour analysis in bovine drinking milk. Well done Kevin!

ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION

- Career Conversations Round 2 Completed: HyTECH ECRs strengthened their professional networks through direct engagement with industry partners and senior academics — building the connections that matter for their careers beyond the lab.
- **Inclusive Seminar Series** in development with ARC participation. More details to follow.

UPCOMING

2 July 2026	HyTECH Online Seminar — 3:00-4:15 pm
29 July 2026	Steering Committee Meeting (online)
9-11 Nov 2026	HyTECH Annual Meeting — Brisbane · Save the date!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT — JUNE 2026

Sherlyn Ardison

PhD Candidate · Deakin University

WHAT I'M WORKING ON

Investigating whether the quality of raw milk can predict how well UHT milk stays fresh and stable on shelf.

REAL-WORLD IMPACT

Could help the dairy industry flag shelf-life issues at the raw milk stage — earlier intervention, less waste, better quality for consumers.

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT

I completed pilot-scale UHT processing and presented a proof-of-concept GC-MS approach at the AIFST Food Microbiology Conference.

Mingxia Lai

PhD Candidate · University of Tasmania

WHAT I'M WORKING ON

Analysing Antarctic water samples using solid-phase cartridges to understand polar environment chemistry — in collaboration with the Australian Antarctic Division.

REAL-WORLD IMPACT

If successful, his method could allow Antarctic water samples to be extracted and preserved in the field, meaning only small filter cartridges would need to be transported back to the laboratory instead of large volumes of water.

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT

I'll be working at the IMAS Ice Core Laboratory, cutting ice cores that I helped collect during the 2025–26 Antarctic field season.

Tobias Hulleman

PhD Candidate · The University of Queensland

WHAT I'M WORKING ON

Using machine learning to predict which chemicals may not degrade in the environment — by learning patterns from their molecular structure.

REAL-WORLD IMPACT

Tackles two problems: the shortage of experimental data regulators rely on, and the high cost of generating it — faster, cheaper risk assessment.

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT

My biggest win this year has been starting on some work which I am very excited about. Developing a new library search algorithm for non-target high resolution mass spectrometry which uses molecular network-based matching instead of matching single spectra.

We'd love to hear from you

Collecting testimonials from industry partners, students & researchers.

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