



# Me a e / e V ce C a ce a d P e de



Innovation has always been part of JCU's DNA. One of the distinguishing features of our University – and potentially one of our main competitive advantages – is the strength of our research, addressing the challenges and opportunities for the Tropics world-wide.

With three tropical campuses – Cairns, Singapore and Townsville – JCU is unique among Australian universities, woven into the intellectual, economic

# Me a e / e E ec -e

In support of our commitment to investing in future enabling infrastructure and technologies we are deepening our engagement with northern Queensland to make it easier to do business with JCU. This is part of our long-term strategy to build 'innovation with impact' in northern Queensland through partnerships with industry. We are geared towards outcomes and so our aim is to provide the best possible environment to support innovation. We have a significant capability as one of the world's leading research universities. By working collaboratively, new ventures can be launched, partnerships established and significant economic outcomes can be achieved.

## Professor Chris Cocklin

Provost and Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Innovation

Universities, and particularly those in regional areas such as ours, have the ability to provide education, research, and innovation to help address issues and needs within our communities. Universities play a key role in society as knowledge creators, and are seen as impartial actors that are able to work with community and industry to develop interdependent innovation processes. Within the university's learning and teaching activities, we strive for innovation and are fortunate to provide facilities such as the JCU Ideas Lab, to encourage our students to explore new concepts, to

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The Division of Tropical Health and Medicine's commitment to innovation has positioned JCU



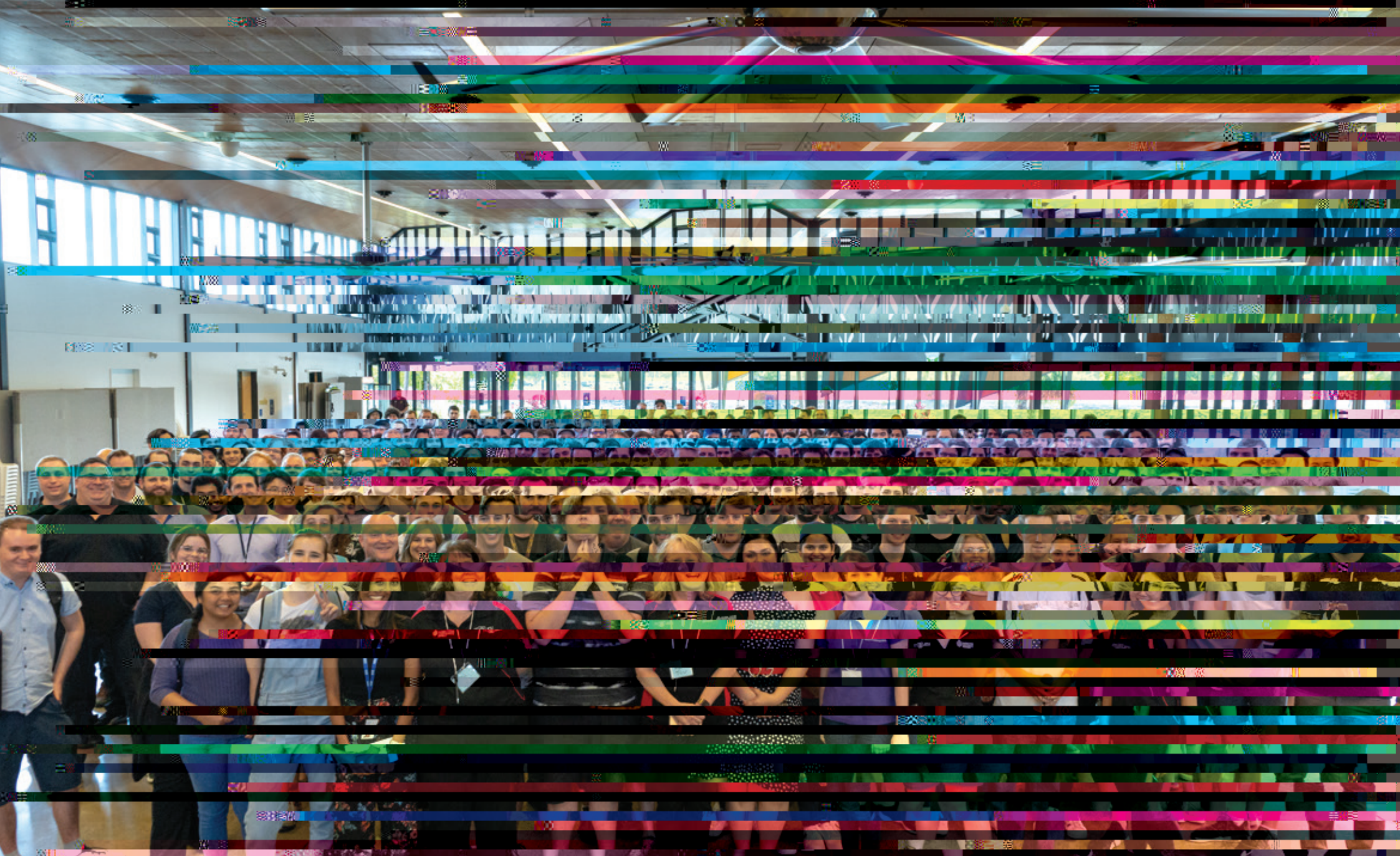
















# CITY LAB

Urban Thinkers Campus / Urban Design, Ecology & Governance / Future Cities

In the last 10 years, the population of the Cairns region has grown on average 1.9 per cent annually. Predictions are that two thirds of future population growth in Tropical North Queensland will be in the Cairns region, presenting unique challenges for urban and economic development. JCU's Dr Taha Chaiechi, Australian Director of the Centre for International Trade and Business in Asia (CITBA), is spearheading a collaborative approach to these challenges with the 2019 Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC).

Taha, an applied economist, says she has one clear goal. "My ultimate goal is that we understand a framework, or develop a toolkit, that we can use for the future in order to create climate resilient cities. Cities that are not only a place to live but places that are business destinations, and social destinations, so everything together."

The difference of the UTC model is the required inclusion of a diverse cross-section of the population in the discussion of issues and the formulation of solutions. "You have to involve the local authorities, you have to involve academia, private organisations, women, children, youth, and older persons, professionals, businesses, farmers, Indigenous peoples, so it has to be participatory and inclusive."

While the Cairns UTC event formulates solutions to local issues, it will contribute to a constellation of events that create change on a global scale. "The report [from the Cairns UTC] goes back to the United Nations Habitat and everybody can see it becomes a learning tool as well for other areas and regions, so it's a dialogue that starts at a small scale and becomes really huge and global."

This event forms part of a larger collaborative project between JCU's Three Tropical Campuses, Jacob Wood, Associate Dean of Research for the College of Business, Law and Governance (CBLG) and and Taha Chaiechi, CITBA Australian Director, lead a team of academics from the CBLG and the College of Science and Engineering that researches the issue of "Community empowerment, transformative cities, and building a climate-resilient economy".

Directly aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 8, SDG11, SDG13 and SDG17, the flagship project seeks to examine two key objectives.

Explore the hidden relationships that exist between socio-environmentally responsible communities and their ability to unlock inclusive and sustainable growth capacities.

Provide empowered solutions for capacity building within communities so as to facilitate climate-change actions, and achieve our vision for the development of transformative cities.



FOCUS AREA

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Commercialisation

### Develop strategic partnerships

Our aim is to provide global perspectives and connection through strategically selected collaborations and partnerships that work to strengthen our local communities.

#### INITIATIVES

- 4.1 Engage with industry, community, and public sector partners to accelerate our capacity for innovation.
- 4.2 Deliver innovation challenges in key industry sectors such as agriculture, health, tourism and the environment.
- 4.3 Build and strengthening partnerships with key industries within our local communities and build leadership capacity to support them to compete on a local and global scale

### Deliver experiential learning

Facilitate opportunities for the delivery of experiential learning across the whole innovation cycle from ideas to impact.

#### INITIATIVES

- 4.4 Facilitate experiential learning opportunities in the art of innovation, entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship.
- 4.5 Provide intellectual leadership around the challenges and opportunities facing the Tropics.
- 4.6 Cultivate opportunities for staff and students to develop solutions to emerging issues faced by the university and our partners.

### Global Connectivity

Develop and foster linkages with the global innovation ecosystem in support of commercialisation and entrepreneurship.

#### INITIATIVES

- 4.7 Establish an incubator program designed to support and foster regional start-ups.
- 4.8 Establish linkages with global landing pads and avenues for venture capital to support internationally focused spinouts, start-ups and scale-ups.
- 4.9 Increase collaborative research through international partnerships.







## Paragen Bio: A new Queensland academic spin-off from James Cook University

Paragen Bio, the first biotech startup from James Cook University (JCU) is focused on treating autoimmune diseases. Paragen's technology is based on research with parasitic hookworms which was conducted at JCU's Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine (AITHM) by Professor Alex Loukas and team.

The technology was developed at JCU with support from the Australian Research Council, Queensland Government, and National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).



