

# Science & Mathematics network of Australian university educators (**SaMnet**)

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## Introduction

The SaMnet project, funded by the ALTC/OLT, began in the latter half of 2011 with the aim to develop 100 leaders of change in university science and mathematics education around Australia. SaMnet currently supports a set of 21 action-learning projects designed to foster changes in pedagogy. Eight of these projects have a focus in chemistry, ranging from improving chemistry demonstrations in lectures across all three years of a program to implementing inquiry-based labs more widely.

## What does SaMnet do?

Project teams are supported by evidence from communities of practice in the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL). These communities are being consolidated around four themes that have been identified by consensus across the SaMnet's new national network:

- **National standards**
- **Laboratory and inquiry learning**
- **New media and ICT**
- **Leadership development.**

SaMnet builds on existing disciplinary and regional ties and draws on the constituency of the Australian Conference on Science and Mathematics Education (ACSME, formerly the UniServe Science Conference). Network members are collaborating to liaise with senior academic administrators to identify, develop, and publicise modes of refereed SoTL publication that will enable teaching-focused academics to advance within the traditional reward structures of science. Such opportunities for speaking with a collective voice are intended to enable appropriate and consistent reward structures to sustain the network, which in turn supports improvements in teaching. In doing so, SaMnet has a role in facilitating collaboration between the separate science discipline networks. They are:

- Vision and Innovation in Biology Education (**VIBEnet**)
- Chemistry Discipline Network (**Chemnet**)
- Physics Education Network (**PEN**)
- Collaborative University Biomedical Education Network (**CUBEnet**)
- Australian Mathematical Sciences Learning & Teaching Network (**AMSLaTNet**)

## Who is involved?

### The SaMnet HQ crew

**Manju Sharma** – Chief Coordinator  
**Will Rifkin** – Executive Manager  
**Stephanie Beames** – Creative input & operational insight for SaMnet's executive team.  
**Alexandra Yeung** – providing expertise in networking and organisation.  
**Matthew Hill** – Website and resources.  
**Waki Wohoro** – Analysis of E-mail correspondence for SaMnet.  
**Helen Georgiou** – Outreach to academics

## Who is involved?

### The chemistry SaMnet scholars are:

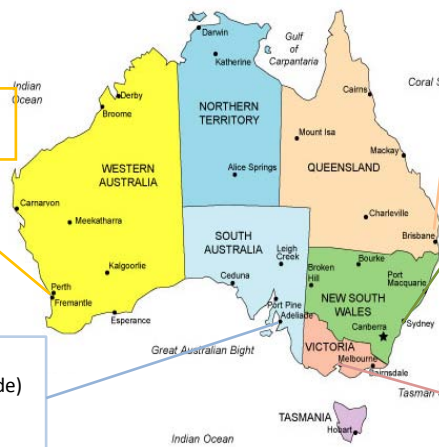
David Brown (Curtin)  
 Daniel Southam (Curtin)

Joe Shapter (Flinders)  
 Natalie Williamson (UAde)  
 Greg Metha (UAde)  
 Simon Pyke (UAde)

Madeleine Schultz (QUT)  
 Wendy Loughlin (Griffith)

Simon Bedford (UOW)  
 Glennys O'Brien (UOW)  
 Toby Hudson (USYD)  
 Chiara Neto (USYD)  
 Michela Simone (USYD)  
 Siegbert Schmid (USYD)  
 Adam Bridgeman (USYD)

Stefan Huth (La Trobe)  
 Ian Potter (La Trobe)



## Who is involved?

### Steering Committee

**Sue Jones** (UTas)  
**Cristina Varsavsky** (Monash)  
**Andrea Crampton** (CSU)  
**Marjan Zadnik** (Curtin)  
**Brian Yates** (UTas)  
**Liz Johnson** (La Trobe)  
**Kelly Matthews** (UQ)  
**Simon Pyke** (UAde)

## Upcoming SaMnet activities

2012	2013
SaMnet writing workshop 1 (16 July 2012)	Leadership workshops (February 2013)
Australian Conference on Science and Mathematics Education (Sept 2012) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations by SaMnet Scholars</li> <li>• National meeting for SaMnet Scholars</li> </ul>	SaMnet writing workshop 2 (July 2013)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case studies completed by SaMnet Scholars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case studies completed by SaMnet Scholars continued</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skype meetings around project themes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skype meetings around project themes continued</li> </ul>

## How to get involved?

Contact SaMnet by email ([samnetaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:samnetaustralia@gmail.com)) or visit the website ([www.samnet.edu.au](http://www.samnet.edu.au)).

## Conclusion

The SaMnet Steering Committee are now looking at sustaining the network of Australian Science and Mathematics University educators beyond the funding period.