

2020 Survey of ARC Training Centre Members

ARC Industrial Transformation Training Centre for Uniquely Australian Foods

In September and October 2020, Postdoctoral Researchers, Drs Kamalesh Adhikari and Gabi Netzel, invited members of the 6 core groups of the ARC Training Centre to participate in a survey to gather responses in regard to the performance and areas for improvement of the Training Centre. The survey was emailed to 53 members with 46 valid responses being received. The groups participating in this survey were:

1. Chief Investigators/Associate Investigators
2. Postdoctoral Researchers
3. HDR Students
4. Industry Partners
5. International Collaborators
6. Indigenous Enterprise Group

The findings of the survey were presented at the Training Centre's Annual Workshop on 30 October 2020.

Summary of Responses

1. Chief Investigators/Associate Investigators

Q1. Would you like to be involved in one or more of the following activities?

- HDR Supervision/ mentoring
- Indigenous engagement
- Collaboration with Industry
- Organisation of national/ international workshops/ training
- Communication and publicity of the Centre

Response: All CIs expressed an interest in being involved in all activities with the majority selecting 'Organisation of national/international workshops/training'.

Q2. How would you rate the performance and growth of the Centre?

- Project management/ administration
- International and national collaboration
- Innovation in research
- Industry collaboration
- Indigenous engagement
- Sharing of research results
- Overall impact

Response: The CIs rated all aspects of the performance and growth of the Centre as *Excellent* with one response to ‘Project management/administration’ being rated as *Poor*.

Q3. How would you rate the communication within the Centre?

- Between Chief Investigators/Associate Investigators
- With Indigenous Enterprise Group
- With Indigenous Advisory Group
- With Industry Partners
- With International Collaborators
- With Postdoctoral Researchers
- With HDR Students

Response: The majority rated communication as *Excellent* with one response to ‘Indigenous Advisory Group’, ‘Industry Partners’ and ‘International Collaborators’ being rated as *Poor*.

Q4. Have you discovered or identified any ethical or legal issues that the Centre needs to manage immediately or in the near future?

Response: Two respondents raised issues:

- Best/most appropriate approach to acknowledge Indigenous contribution and traditional Knowledge on publications and presentations
- Data curation, storage and management. Publications.

2. Postdoctoral Researchers

Q1. Would you like to be involved in one or more of the following activities?

- HDR supervision/mentoring
- Indigenous engagement
- Industry engagement
- Organisation of national/international workshops/training
- National/international collaboration

Response: All Postdocs expressed an interest in being involved in all activities. Some comments:

- I don't have any experience in Indigenous engagement and only limited industry engagement experience.
- I am aware that there are several postdocs who are associated with the centre but not directly funded by it. While it is interesting and valuable for us to be involved (both for the project and ourselves), it limits our ability to commit time to the project.

Q2. How would you rate the performance and growth of the Centre?

- Project management/administration
- International and national collaboration
- Innovation in research

- Industry collaboration
- Indigenous engagement
- Sharing of research results
- Overall impact

Response: The majority of Postdocs responded to all aspects of performance and growth as *Very Good* with just 1-2 responses as *Neutral* or *N/A*. Some comments:

- I have no opinion on industry collaboration, indigenous engagement or the overall impact
- I haven't been a part of the centre for long enough to really know some of these.
- I'm not sure how to rate this. I feel I need to compare it to something, therefore my ratings are not low but not high.

Q3. How would you rate the communication within the Centre?

- Between Postdoctoral Researchers
- With Industry Partners
- With Chief Investigators/Associate Investigators
- With Indigenous Enterprise Group
- With Indigenous Advisory Group
- With International Collaborators
- With HDR Students
- With Administration

Response: The majority of the Postdocs rated communication as *Good* with one response to 'Postdoctoral Researchers', 'Chief Investigators/Associate Investigators', 'Indigenous Enterprise Group' and 'Indigenous Advisory Group' being rated as *Poor*. Some comments:

- Again, I have not been a part of the centre for long enough to know about the communication between most of these
- I'm rating thinking that it will be great to communicate with not just the different parties from the project I am working on. It will be great to talk for example, other chief investigators or indigenous group from other projects within the training centre.
- For those sitting away from the team. i.e. not based at Coopers Plains it is difficult to know what is going on.

Q4. Have you discovered or identified any ethical or legal issues that the Centre needs to manage immediately or in the near future?

Response: One respondent raised an issue:

- One of the key ethical and legal issues that I think the Centre needs to address is to provide some guidelines about prior informed consent from indigenous communities

3. HDR Students

Q1. Would you like to be involved in one or more of the following activities?

- Indigenous engagement

- Industry engagement
- Organisation of national/international workshops/training
- National/international collaboration

Response: All students expressed an interest in being involved in all activities. One comment:

- Due to COVID most of it has been challenging to incorporate.

Q2. How would you rate the performance and growth of the Centre?

- Project management/administration
- International and national collaboration
- Innovation in research
- Industry collaboration
- Indigenous engagement
- Sharing of research results
- Overall impact

Response: The majority of HDR students responded to all aspects of performance and growth as *Very Good* with 3 *N/A* in all aspects and 1 response as *Neutral* to International and National Collaboration, Innovation in Research and Indigenous Engagement. Some comments:

- Sorry for not providing any useful information here but I am really not aware of how well the Centre has been tracking in these areas
- I haven't started my project yet so can't really comment on the impact of the centre
- I am still in Tucson Arizona awaiting until I can travel and hopefully begin in April or May of 2021

Q3. How would you rate the communication within the Centre?

- Between HDR Students
- With Industry Partners
- With Chief Investigators/Associate Investigators
- With Indigenous Enterprise Group
- With Indigenous Advisory Group
- With International Collaborators
- With Postdoctoral Researchers
- With Administration

Response: The majority of the HDR students rated communication as *N/A* with four responses of *Neutral* for 'Between HDR Students', 'Indigenous Enterprise Group', 'With Postdoctoral Researchers'. Some comments:

- Again, not entirely aware of many of these aspects. However, the contact I have had thus far from Heather and Gabi has been excellent
- I have only worked so far on how to begin my HDR and arranging for a Visa.
- I am commencing on October 1st so I can't speak about communication within the centre

Q4. All HDR students are required to spend one year in industry over the duration of the project. What schedule of placement would suit you best?

Response: The majority of HDR students chose *3-6 months*. Some comments:

- This is a great initiative
- Flexible up to 12 months
- It would make more sense to split the time into shorter periods as it will be more efficient in driving my actual research

Q5. Have you discovered or identified any ethical or legal issues that the Centre needs to manage immediately or in the near future?

Response: All HDR students responded *No*.

4. Industry Partners

Q1. Would you like to be involved in one or more of the following activities?

- HDR supervision/mentoring
- HDR placement
- Indigenous engagement
- Publications
- Organisation of national/international workshops/training
- National/international collaboration

Response: The majority of Industry Partners expressed an interest in being involved in ‘Indigenous Engagement’ followed by ‘HDR supervision/mentoring’, ‘Publications’, ‘National/international collaboration’ and to a lesser extent ‘HDR placement’ and ‘Organisation of national/international workshops/training’.

Q2. How would you rate the performance and growth of the Centre?

- Project management/administration
- International and national collaboration
- Innovation in research
- Industry collaboration
- Indigenous engagement
- Sharing of research results
- Overall impact

Response: The majority of Industry Partners responded to all aspects of performance and growth as *Very Good* with 1 *Poor* for ‘Project Management/Administration’ and 6 responses as *Neutral* to Project management/administration’, Indigenous Engagement’, ‘Sharing of Research Results’ and ‘Overall Impact’. Some comments:

- The research team are fabulous. I do feel that the administration, from a legal and accounts perspective, does need some process refinement
- It is still early days and not all of these points are clear yet.

Q3. How would you rate the communication within the Centre?

- Between Industry Partners
- With Chief Investigators/Associate Investigators
- With Indigenous Enterprise Group
- With Indigenous Advisory Group
- With International Collaborators
- With Postdoctoral Researchers
- With HDR Students
- With Administration

Response: The majority of the Industry Partners rated communication as *Neutral* followed by *Very Good* and *N/A*.

Q4. All HDR students are required to spend one year in industry over the duration of the project. What schedule of placement would suit you best?

Response: The majority of Industry Partners chose *3-6 months* followed by *<3 months*.

Q5. Have you discovered or identified any ethical or legal issues that the Centre needs to manage immediately or in the near future?

Response: There were 2 issues raised:

- Clarification of IP retained by UQ? Will UQ license Project Partners to use all Project IP on an exclusive, royalty free, perpetual basis? Or can Project Partners negotiate to own all IP and license parts back to UQ perhaps?
- IP, benefit sharing, describing the research projects

5. International collaborators

Q1. Would you like to be involved in one or more of the following activities?

- HDR supervision/mentoring
- Indigenous engagement
- Industry Engagement
- Joint Publications
- Organisation of national/international workshops/training
- National/international collaboration

Response: All International Collaborators expressed an interest in being involved in 'Joint Publications' and 'National/International Collaboration' followed by 'HDR supervision/mentoring', 'Indigenous Engagement', 'Organisation of national/international workshops/training' and to a lesser extent 'Industry engagement'. A comment:

- I feel fully involved in many of these fields already ... let me know how I can contribute :)

Q2. How would you rate the performance and growth of the Centre?

- Project management/administration
- International and national collaboration
- Innovation in research
- Industry collaboration
- Indigenous engagement
- Sharing of research results
- Overall impact

Response: The majority of International Collaborators rated performance and growth as *Excellent* followed by *Very Good* with 1 *N/A* for 'Industry Collaboration'.

Q3. How would you rate the communication within the Centre?

- Between International Collaborators
- With HDR Students
- With Industry Partners
- With Chief Investigators/Associate Investigators
- With Indigenous Enterprise Group
- With Indigenous Advisory Group
- With Postdoctoral Researchers
- With Administration

Response: The majority of the Industry Partners rated communication as *Excellent* followed by *Very Good* and *N/A*. A comment:

- I met many people of the project during my visits ... and the existing contact are always excellent

Q4. Have you discovered or identified any ethical or legal issues that the Centre needs to manage immediately or in the near future?

Response: All International Collaborators responded *No*.

6. Indigenous Enterprise Group

Q1. Are you satisfied with the communication from the Centre?

Response: The majority of the Indigenous Enterprise Group responded *Yes* with 1 response of *No*. A comment:

- However I'm pleased with the recent establishment of regular meetings of the indigenous enterprise group

Q2. Are you interested in initiating a Research Collaboration Agreement with the Centre?

Response: All of the Indigenous Enterprise Group responded *Yes*.

Q3. If you answered yes in the previous question - Do you need more information about the Research Collaboration Agreement and the Centre?

Response: The majority of the Indigenous Enterprise Group responded *Yes* with 1 response of *No*.

Q4. Are the visits to the community important to you?

Response: All of the Indigenous Enterprise Group responded *Yes*. Some comments:

- These are essential in relationship building and understanding cultural protocols and in turn research benefit To communities
- Its always nice to catch up with everyone on country!

Q5. Are you satisfied how plant samples are collected and analysed by the Centre’s researchers?

Response: The majority of the Indigenous Enterprise Group responded *Yes* with 1 response of *No*. Some comments:

- N/A - this activity hasn’t commenced as yet.
- I can’t comment, as I am not aware of how the centre collects samples
- We have always been involved in the plant collections
- Needs more policy development n legal assistance to set up framework

Q6. Are you satisfied how research results are shared and presented to you/your community?

Response: The majority of the Indigenous Enterprise Group responded *Yes* with 2 responses of *No*. Some comments:

- N/A - this activity hasn’t commenced as yet
- I can not comment as I have not seen enough to say whether it is adequate
- Its very important that the research is shared because this makes sense sharing knowledge needs to work both ways
- Needs more policy development n legal assistance to set up framework

Q7. Are you interested om organising community workshops/training with the Centre?

Response: All of the Indigenous Enterprise Group responded *Yes*. A comment:

- We have enjoyed the workshops in the past and our relationship with the centre has become much closer with collaboration

Q8. Would you like to establish collaboration with industry partners?

Response: All of the Indigenous Enterprise Group responded *Yes*. Some comments:

- But these collaborations will need to be initiated by community to ensure terms and agreements are on community terms.
- We have established relationships with industry partners and are always open to new partnerships if they are mutually beneficial.
- Yes but indigenous organisations need to maintain its own autonomy