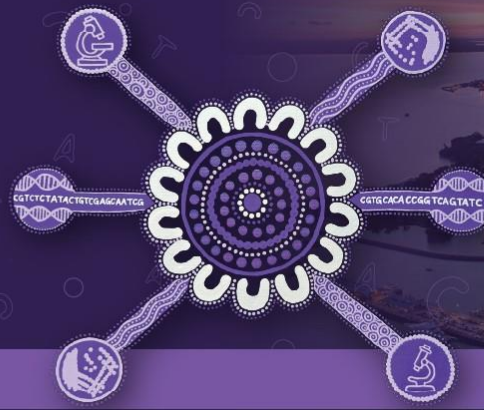


# 10<sup>TH</sup> WORLD MELIOIDOSIS CONGRESS

21-23 October 2024 - [wmc2024.org.au](https://www.wmc2024.org.au)



## Global Partnerships a key focus of the 10<sup>th</sup> World Melioidosis Congress

### 21 October 2024

Today, over 180 delegates from more than 20 countries have gathered at the Darwin Convention Centre for the opening of the 10th World Melioidosis Congress, hosted by Menzies School of Health Research.

Over the 3-day program, experts, researchers and professionals will hear from global speakers as they share their insights and knowledge in combatting melioidosis under the Congress theme of: *Unity in Diversity: Global Partnerships in Melioidosis*.

Global collaboration is crucial for tackling the many aspects of melioidosis, including regional epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment, immunology, public health, bacterial genomics, environmental factors, and vaccine development.

The delegates will experience an unforgettable blend of knowledge, camaraderie, and cultural immersion, as they collectively help to shape the future of melioidosis research, prevention, and treatment.

Led by Congress Convenor and Menzies Associate Deputy Director for Indigenous Leadership and Engagement, Mark Mayo, the dynamic program is filled with pioneering research, novel treatments and break thoughts in melioidosis prevention.

Mark, a proud descendant of the Mudburra and Mabuig/Badu peoples, has been supported by the Menzies melioidosis research team as well as an International Scientific Committee from the International Melioidosis Network.

Hosting this event locally allows Menzies to showcase its longstanding melioidosis research program, which has consistently yielded cutting-edge findings in the detection, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of the disease.

This work aims to benefit both a local and international audience, which has seen Menzies researchers collaborate globally to combat this infectious disease.

The team is currently working on developing rapid testing measures, to aid the diagnosis of the disease, as well as working with international collaborators on the possibility to develop a vaccine to support better health in endemic regions.

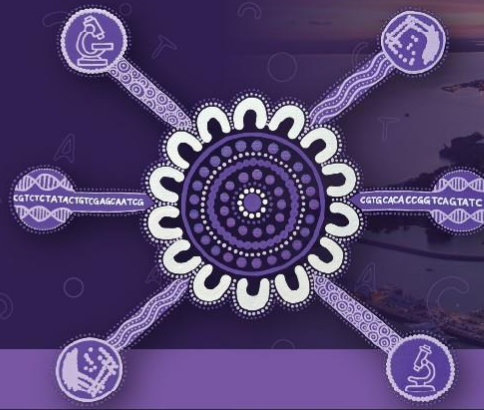
Melioidosis is a potentially life-threatening disease, caused by the soil dwelling bacteria, *Burkholderia pseudomallei*. A vast majority of cases are diagnosed in Southeast Asia and Northern Australia, making this disease a key health concern to the Northern Territory (NT).

This disease is a common cause of serious pneumonia and blood poisoning in the NT, and can be hard to detect, increasing the severe outcomes of the condition.

For more information about the Congress, visit: <https://www.wmc2024.org.au/>

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**Quotes attributable to 10<sup>th</sup> World Melioidosis Congress Convenor, Menzies Associate Deputy Director for Indigenous Leadership and Engagement and senior researcher, [Mark Mayo](#):**

“The 10th World Melioidosis Congress aims to raise awareness of melioidosis globally and search for solutions to reduce the burden of disease in endemic areas.

“This Congress is the primary in-person event for melioidosis researchers, supporting knowledge to be shared, partnerships to be formed and advancing science in this area.

“We are delighted to welcome delegates from all over the world to Darwin, many of whom we have worked with as part of the 35-year history of the Menzies Melioidosis program.”

ENDS

**Media contact:**

Phone: (08) 8946 8680 | Email: [media@menzies.edu.au](mailto:media@menzies.edu.au)

**Menzies School of Health Research**

Menzies is one of Australia’s leading medical research institutes dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and a leader in global and tropical health research. Menzies continues to translate research into effective partnerships and programs in communities across Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

**About the World Melioidosis Congress**

The World Melioidosis Congress (WMC) is a premier international forum dedicated to advancing research, collaboration, and awareness of melioidosis, a potentially fatal infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Burkholderia pseudomallei*. Found primarily in tropical regions, this bacterium resides in soil and water, often entering the body through cuts in the skin, inhalation, or ingestion. The incidence of melioidosis is closely tied to environmental factors such as heavy rainfall and flooding, making it a significant public health concern in many parts of the world.

Recognising the growing threat of this disease and the need for global cooperation, the International Melioidosis Network was established over a decade ago. This network’s primary event is the World Melioidosis Congress, a vital face-to-face forum held every three years since 1994. The congress serves as a platform for over 200 leading experts, researchers, and healthcare professionals from across the globe to exchange knowledge, share breakthroughs, and work collectively to improve the understanding, prevention, and treatment of melioidosis.

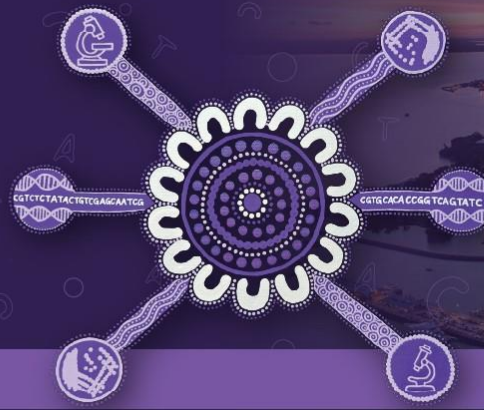
For 2024, Darwin, Northern Territory in Australia, has been selected to host the 10th World Melioidosis Congress, bringing the global community together to tackle this important disease.

**Event Details**

- **Dates:** Monday 21 October – Wednesday 23 October 2024

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- **Location:** Darwin Convention Centre, Northern Territory, Australia
- **Theme:** "Unity in Diversity: Global Partnerships in Melioidosis"

## About the [Congress event logo artwork](#):

The 10<sup>th</sup> World Melioidosis Congress artwork logo weaves together the intricate patterns of the melioidosis microbe with the rich tapestry of Aboriginal artwork.

The centre of the artwork emphasises the meeting place of the 2024 World Melioidosis Congress. The shapes surrounding this meeting place show the diverse representation of people uniting in the shared pursuit of knowledge.

The lines connecting to the meeting place represent the various paths travelled from different corners of the world, converging upon Darwin, Australia. The symbols within these lines represent different aspects of melioidosis identification and research; microscopy, *Burkholderia pseudomallei* growth on agar plates, and the forward and reverse TTS1 PCR primers across the centre.

## About the Congress event logo artist, Jayde Hopkins:

Jayde Hopkins is a proud Gurindji and Woolwonga woman from Darwin who has recently completed her undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences. She is fascinated by microbiology and genetics and hopes to become an infectious disease researcher. Jayde combines her passion for science with her talent for art.