



School of Science Seminar Series

When: Friday 9:30-10:30AM

Where: Zoom ID

Who: Prof Joel Mackay

School of Life & Environmental
Sciences University of Sydney



What: Do you need a p? - and other pressing questions

Abstract:

For 20 years, I went about the business of doing biochemistry in a state of relative ignorance about most of the fundamental principles underlying the field of statistics. Attending a talk by David Vaux about 10 years ago, which focused in part on the use and misuse of error bars, opened my eyes to to my lack of understanding of what you might imagine should be threshold concepts for an experimental scientist. Since then, I have set about starting to try to rectify the situation, which has been very good for my own understanding, but has had the unfortunate side-effect that now you can't shut me up on the topic. In this talk, I will reveal the depth of my ignorance and talk about what I've learned on the slow (and ongoing) climb out of the chasm.

Bio:

Joel Mackay trained as a chemist at the University of Auckland and a chemical biologist at The University of Cambridge before coming to Australia to postdoc with Glenn King at the University of Sydney. Over the course of the subsequent 25 years, he has succeeded in moving a total of about 20 metres up the corridor to where he runs a laboratory that is focused on the molecular mechanisms underlying mammalian gene regulation. The work of his group has been recognized by several national scientific awards, including the Gottschalk medal from the Australian Academy of Science, the Roche medal and Labgear award from the ASBMB and the Prime Minister's Life Scientist of the Year award.