

Olgatina joined AusBiotech in August 2006 as the SA Industry Development Officer and National AusBiotech Students Association (ABSA) Co-ordinator. She is employed part-time with AusBiotech and has an honours degree in biotechnology and a PhD in Medical Biochemistry.

Her commercially focused PhD project was undertaken through the Flinders University of South Australia and CSIRO Molecular and Health Technologies. Olgatina realised early on in her studies that her real passion resided in the business development and communication side of the research she undertook.

Thus, throughout her postgraduate studies she was an active committee member for the SA Branch of the Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) where she was co-convenor of the 2003 ASMR Medical Research Week EXPO in SA and was heavily involved in public relations for ASMR. In 2005, Olgatina helped to launch an ABSA branch in SA.

The major turning point in her career direction came from experiencing BIO 2005 in Philadelphia after having won a Bio Innovation SA travel scholarship. Olgatina enjoyed the networking opportunities, meeting some of the key movers and shakers in biotechnology and government and being part of the constant adrenalin buzz that is BIO.

In Feb 2006 she began a part-time position at Neubody Pty Ltd (a biotechnology facility located at the Thebarton precinct) in business management and development where she is still employed. Her employment within the industry at Neubody complements her role at AusBiotech and allows her to appreciate through experience some of the industry issues that members face.