

Dr. Kirsten Benkendorff, B.Sc. Hons (Mq), Ph.D. (UoW)  
Senior Lecturer, Biological Sciences, Flinders University, South  
Australia

Dr Benkendorff is a full-time Senior Lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences at Flinders University. She coordinates several undergraduate biology topics including Animal Diversity and Disease and Immunology. She also manages an interdisciplinary research laboratory focused on molluscan chemical defenses and their bioresource applications. She has attracted over \$1.5mill in research funding and this year was awarded a seafood CRC grant for a PhD project to investigate the antiviral defense properties of abalone. Kirsten has published over 30 peer reviewed research articles and two invited book chapters in the last 10 years. Dr Benkendorff's research has obtained national and international recognition through numerous invitations to present her research as a keynote speaker. Her achievements have also been recognized nationally through several awards, including the 2000 Young Australian of the Year Award for Science and Technology and a 2008 SA Young Tall Poppy Science Award.