

 Friday
12 October 2007

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XX-cellelence in biotech symposium challenges boardroom dominance

Thursday, 11 October 2007

AUSBIOTECH and Queensland's Women in Technology network are reaching out to women in the biotechnology industry at AusBiotech's annual conference this year, with a one-day symposium to run after the conference in Brisbane later this month.

AusBiotech chief executive Dr Anna Lavelle said that, while biotechnology is awash with clever female scientists and technologists, men dominate the most senior roles in the industry. Most listed biotech companies have male chief executives, for example, and women are under-represented at the board level.

AusBiotech will join forces with WiT/Biotech, the biotechnology industry chapter of Women in Technology, to offer a one-day symposium on the Thursday after the close of the national conference, in an effort to encourage women to actively engage and learn from the other women working in the industry.

While women may be under-represented at the board level, organisers say that a number of the most senior women in the field have offered their time to present the keynote sessions for the symposium, with a focus on balancing the gender ratio in technical areas.

"But we in no way want to exclude men from the symposium: this is an event with appeal to both sexes with outstanding keynote speakers, controversial panel sessions, professional development and networking opportunities and a unique cocktail party to conclude the day," said WiT/Biotech chair Dr Paige Maguire.

Speakers include:

- Professor Margaret Sheil FRACI C Chem, CEO, Australian Research Council;
- Dr Susan Pond, managing director, Johnson & Johnson Research;
- Anna Lavelle, CEO, AusBiotech;
- Professor Michael Roberts, NHMRC, senior principal research fellow, University of Queensland;
- Professor Zee Upton, founder, Tissue Therapies;
- Penny Bakagiannis, director, willbak.com;
- Dr Carrie Hillyard, partner, CM Capital;
- Dr Alexandra Winter, senior policy advisor, Office for Women;
- Dr Dean Moss, group manager – Life Sciences, UniQuest; and
- Dr Paige Maguire, general manager – Life Sciences, qutbluebox and chair, WiT/Biotech.

A full program and registration is available at <http://www.wit.org.au/default.asp?PageID=78> and the symposium takes place on Thursday October 25 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.



Symposium Organising
Committee Anne-Marie
Birkill, Gemma Topping
and Dominic Poon

