

# Press release

Innovation news for the **real world**



## Early career researchers showcase QUT research at Bio2007

Three inaugural **bluebox** / IHBI Bio Fellowship recipients were among the 12-strong QUT delegation representing the university at Bio2007, the annual international conference for the biotechnology industry organisation.

As winners of the Early Career Researcher Bio2007 Fellowships, IHBI researchers Louise Hafner, Mark Harrison and Joanne Voisey were picked from a pool of QUT talent to receive an all expenses paid trip to the 22,000-attendee conference in Boston in May. Also at Bio2007 representing QUT were Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Commercialisation) Arun Sharma, Professors Ross Young, Zee Upton, Colleen Nelson and James Dale, Michael McArdle, Linda Heron, and **bluebox**'s Michael Finney and Paige Maguire.

Bio2007 promised to be an exciting mixture of science, networking and commerce, and more than lived up to that promise. In addition to attending a wealth of events, including seminar sessions, ballroom luncheons, business partnering activities, and the keynote address by actor and stem cell activist Michael J Fox (a major highlight for many, which required waiting in a very long queue), the QUT contingent were able to showcase QUT's cutting-edge research in the biotechnology sector to the international community.

"It was enlightening," remarked Louise. "Bio2007 really highlighted how well our research at QUT is positioned on the global market, and how well we are progressing when compared with the other world economies."

As part of the event, various delegates hosted external networking events with QUT getting the ball rolling by hosting a luncheon at the Sheraton Boston, where Premier Peter Beattie and Dr Carol Dahl, Chief of Staff, Global Health Program & Director, Global Health Technologies for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation both spoke of their initiatives currently underway. Mark explained, "We were also able to meet with the Premier of Queensland, The State Government Biotechnology Minister and other departmental personnel, and these meetings provided us with fantastic opportunities to further promote our research at QUT."

The conference also boasted over 2000 exhibitors, supplying a virtual shopping mall of biotech companies which gave attendees the opportunities to discuss potential collaborative relationships with companies which are generally difficult to contact. As **bluebox** CEO Michael Finney noted, "Bio2007 was the perfect opportunity to illustrate that QUT has a dominant presence in the biotech industry through our commercialisation and innovation expertise."

For all QUT attendees, Bio2007 was a resounding success. "It left such a good impression that I would like to attend next year as well!" enthused Joanne. "I was impressed with the exhibition set-up, and loved spending time at the QUT booth to promote the excellent research at our own institute."

For more information on the conference, visit [www.bio2007.org](http://www.bio2007.org)

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