



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Awards celebrating women and biotech brilliance**

#### **QCTN is once again proud to be a sponsor of the 2007 WIT Awards**

Through sponsorship of the Biotech Rising Star Award at the upcoming Women in Technology (WIT) Gala Awards Dinner, Queensland Clinical Trials Network Inc. (QCTN) encourages the advancement of women in the biotechnology and technological industries.

The QCTN Biotech Rising Star Award is intended to celebrate, recognise and reward a candidate regarded as having the potential to make significant contributions to the future of the biotechnology industry or research sector – Queensland's Rising Star.

QCTN Chief Executive Officer, Mario Pennisi, said it is important to acknowledge the achievements of Queensland's women in technology through the presentation of scholarships and awards.

"As the Queensland biotech industry is advancing it is important to celebrate, recognise and reward candidates for their ability to make significant contributions to the future of the biotechnology industry or research sector in Queensland.

"WIT is one of the leading technology industry associations for women in Australia and these awards are just an example of how they continue to promote the industry and the interests of women working in it," Mr Pennisi said.

The Biotech Rising Star Award is open to applicants employed in any field of biotechnology. Applicants may be researchers, employed in private, public or university sectors, work in managerial roles or be affiliated with service industries.

QCTN not only continue to support WIT and WIB – the Biotech Chapter of Women in Technology, but also endeavours to showcase the growth, regulatory issues and opportunities in clinical trials in Queensland.

Together with this, QCTN remains steadfast in highlighting its members and their affiliates and the importance of clinical trials industry related careers in Queensland and the difficulties involved when recruiting staff.

QCTN is based in Queensland, Australia and was established in 2005 by the Queensland Government as part of its Smart State Initiative. It is an incorporated association of Queensland based, life sciences research organisations and related entities. QCTN itself does not conduct any form of clinical research; rather, QCTN is an 'umbrella organisation'.

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As a visible point of contact for domestic and international organisations seeking to undertake preclinical and clinical research in Australia, QCTN helps identify and connect organisations (sponsors) with appropriate research institutions, hospitals, CROs and other life sciences service providers. QCTN now has more than 55 entities as members.

For further information on QCTN, please visit their website – [www.qctn.com.au](http://www.qctn.com.au) or if you would like more information on the 2007 WIT Gala Awards Dinner, please visit [www.wit.org.au](http://www.wit.org.au)

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