

## MEDIA RELEASE

# TetraQ CEO, Prof Maree Smith Receives Women in Technology Highest Honour

16 October 2008

UQ's Professor Maree Smith has been awarded the Women in Technology (WiT) Outstanding Achievement Award for 2008.

The annual WiT awards focus on recognizing the achievements of women working in the information technology and biotechnology industries. The Outstanding Achievement Award establishes the recipient as the WiT Biotechnology Chapter Ambassador for the ensuing 12 months.

As CEO of TetraQ, the integrated preclinical contract research provider based at the University, Professor Smith said she was proud to receive the award and looked forward to her new role as a WiT Ambassador.

"In my other roles I have been motivated to address the gaps in service delivery with innovative practices and resources. In this new role I hope that my achievements may inspire other researchers to use their expertise and strengths to find new ways of delivering better outcomes for the people they seek to serve," Professor Smith said.

Ms Anne-Marie Birkill, President of WiT, said Prof Smith received the award for her broad range of expertise in preclinical and clinical drug development, including animal models of human disease, assay development, validation and in vivo pharmacokinetics in animals and humans.

"Professor Smith is one of Australia's leading researchers in the field of pain technologies and has particular expertise in testing the effectiveness of innovative pain drugs. During her career she has managed the intricacies of discovery and commercialisation through to service delivery, development of toolkits and company creation around intellectual property. Every facet of her work has had significant impact on the industry, making her an excellent role model for other women pursuing careers in biotechnology. She is also a generous mentor and coach for many young women," Ms Birkill said.

Professor Smith's intellectual property has led to the formation of two UQ start-up companies, including QRxPharma Pty Ltd, which achieved the largest capital raising via IPO for a biotech in Australia to date.

TetraQ is a registered business of UniQuest, The University of Queensland's main commercialisation company. UniQuest congratulates Professor Smith on her most recent achievement.

"We are delighted to see Professor Smith receive this honour. She has boosted Queensland's reputation in the biotechnology space and raised the standard of opportunities university-based research and resources can offer to international pharmaceutical companies and ultimately the global healthcare industry" said Mr David Henderson, Managing Director of UniQuest.

Professor Smith's new WiT ambassador duties will work around her current commitments as TetraQ's CEO,  
Ends.

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#### **About Tetra Q**

TetraQ was established in 2005 as the first contract research organization in Australia to provide integrated preclinical services to the global pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. Its state-of-the-art facilities and equipment meet stringent quality and testing standards, and TetraQ has GLP recognition for its bioanalytical and toxicology services. GLP recognition means that the data generated is accepted internationally for regulatory review, providing clients in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries with a high degree of assurance.

#### **About UniQuest**

UniQuest is widely recognised as one of Australia's largest and most successful university commercialisation groups. Established in 1984, UniQuest fosters links between its university commercialisation partners and the financial and entrepreneurial resources of industry, business and government. UniQuest commercialises the innovative research, expertise and technologies developed at The University of Queensland, University of Wollongong, University of Technology Sydney, James Cook University and the Mater Medical Research Institute. Its extensive intellectual property and asset portfolio includes more than 1,500 patents and 50 companies resulting from research institution-based discoveries and expertise.

[www.uniquest.com.au](http://www.uniquest.com.au)

#### **About WiT**

Women in Technology's (WiT) mission is to create a sustainable network of members focused on the advancement of women in technology industries. With over 300 members throughout Queensland, WiT is one of the leading technology industry associations for women in Australia. Since its inception in 1997 WiT has been a pioneer in the development of industry development programs. It is also the first technology industry association to bring together members from diverse technology disciplines.

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