Institute of Medical Biology
A*STAR

Seminar Announcement

- All Welcome -



Speaker : **Prof Zee Upton**
Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Title : ***"Taking a wound healing product from discovery to market – the trials and tribulations"***

Date : **21 April 2015 (Tuesday)**

Time : **4:30pm – 5:30pm**

Venue : **Creation Theatrette, Matrix Level 4**

Host : **Prof Birgit Lane**
(Tel: 64070151; e-mail: birgit.lane@imb.a-star.edu.sg)

Abstract:
Successful repair of wounds and tissues remains one of the major clinical challenges of the 21st century as the treatment and management of wounds represents a significant cost to patients, the economy and to the wider community. Moreover, wounds, such as leg ulcers, are an increasingly prevalent problem for the ageing population. They are often difficult to heal, commonly lead to long-term problems and consume approximately 3% of the total healthcare budget in developed nations. Despite the clear need for improved approaches to diagnose, treat, manage and prevent wounds, research in wound and tissue repair is relatively under-developed and has yet to adopt modern biotechnology and innovative biomaterials approaches, or evidence-based clinical practice. This presentation will describe the development and commercialisation of a novel extracellular matrix–growth factor technology and the pathway from discovery to cost-effective clinical utilisation. In addition, the presentation will highlight how the development of R&D capacity in this space has led to the establishment of the Wound Management Innovation Cooperative Research Centre. This AUS$108 million enterprise, involving 22 research, industry and government partners, is the largest wound research initiative globally and is focused on improving wound healing and quality of life for people with wounds. The presentation will also highlight the importance of conducting wound research within an interdisciplinary, national and international context.

About the Speaker:
Professor Zee Upton is a biochemist, tissue engineer and inventor, recognised nationally and internationally for her research in growth factors, extracellular matrix proteins and wound healing. Her research is conducted in the Queensland University of Technology's Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation within the Tissue Repair and Regeneration Program, an interdisciplinary consortium of 30+ researchers that she leads. Since the award of her PhD in Biochemistry in 1994 Professor Upton has developed a significant record of innovative and quality scientific research that has yielded: AUS$27+ million in research funding from both competitive grant schemes and industry; 120+ publications; over a dozen patent applications; the establishment of new, innovative, collaborative, research projects, including the successful bid to form the $108 million Wound Management Innovation CRC; and the establishment and listing of a biotechnology company, Tissue Therapies Ltd, on the Australian Stock Exchange. Professor Upton has research interests in wound healing, medical biotechnology, tissue repair and regeneration, growth factors and skin biology.