

Saturday, 12 July, 2003

THIRD THINKER TO BE BIO-SCIENCE EXPERT DR MAIRE SMITH

Premier Mike Rann today announced the third Adelaide Thinker in Residence will be the internationally-acclaimed expert in the commercialisation of bio-science research, Dr Maire Smith.

As the founding Chief Executive Officer of Manchester Innovation Ltd, the commercial arm of Manchester University in the UK, Dr Smith has accepted an invitation to become a Thinker in Residence for eight weeks in Adelaide beginning in early August 2003.

“Dr Smith’s appointment coincides with the Ausbiotech Conference in Adelaide at which she will be a key speaker. Her expertise is in biotechnology commercialisation, venture capital raising and biotechnology incubator management,” Mr Rann said.

“She has extensive knowledge and strategic management in a range of areas including oncology, vaccines, immunology, biotechnology, inflammatory diseases and anti-infectives.

“Her appointment will include working with industry leaders in the development of bio-science infrastructure for the establishment of a dedicated bioscience incubator in Adelaide that will support the growth of start-up bio-science organisations in South Australia.

“Manchester has achieved strong commercial success through the establishment of a bio-science incubator facility. It has also attracted substantial venture capital funds in to the bio-science industry growing around Manchester.”

Mr Rann said what has been achieved in Manchester by Dr Smith and her team could provide a sound model for us to follow as we look to establish an incubator in South Australia.

“With many years experience in various commercial roles with major pharmaceutical companies, Dr Smith has a wealth of commercial and product development experience,” Mr Rann said.

Dr Smith, who has led a number of biotech projects including chairing an alliance between Wellcome foundation and Centocor on monoclonal antibodies, welcomed her appointment.

“I am both pleased and honoured to accept this invitation and look forward to working with South Australia to influence the strategic development of the bio-science industry,” Dr Smith said.

Further information can be found at: www.thinkers.sa.gov.au
Or phone Louise Trivett on 08 8463 6388 or 0423 025787.