

Dr Frances Guyett to head NZ innovation hub

December 13, 2012 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau



Singapore: New Zealand Health Innovation Hub has appointed Dr Frances Guyett as its chief executive. "After an extensive international search, I am delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Frances Guyett to the position of inaugural chief executive of the New Zealand Health Innovation Hub," said Dr Murray Horn, chairman of the hub.

The New Zealand Health Innovation Hub, set up earlier this year, has been established to help nurture and grow New Zealand's health technology industry and to support the widespread adoption of leading innovations developed within the public health sector.

Dr Guyett has been working with the RMIT University Science, Engineering and Health College as director, Industry Engagement and Commercialization in Melbourne. Prior to that role, she spent six years as chief executive of RDDT Laboratories in Melbourne. RDDT Laboratories is a research organization providing services to the biotechnology, pharmaceutical and chemical industries specializing in medical devices, oncology, cardiovascular and dermatology research.

She has held other senior industry appointments in business development and pharmaceutical companies in Australia, Japan, Europe, the US and Latin American countries.

"We are very fortunate to have secured the services of someone with such an exemplary track record and proven experience. Frances' strong technical background in emerging technologies and research in aligned fields along with her international business expertise in global markets gives me confidence she will provide the Hub with strong leadership," said Mr Horn.

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Dr Frances Guyett is passionate about working alongside others to bring about opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and potentially, the wealth of countries. She has worked around the world over the past 20 years in a range of roles that have provided her with rich experiences working alongside innovators.

"There is a wealth of talent and New Zealand has what it takes to become a world-leading innovation and clinical trials centre. I am keen to learn more about some of the projects the Health Innovation Hub already has on the drawing board," she said. "I will be working to ensure the intellectual property of products such as medical devices is secured at an early stage to protect the interests of developers and maximise the global potential of marketable products."

Frances said she is particularly looking forward to meeting staff at the four foundation DHBs as well as those involved in the wider health research and technology industries. One of her first tasks will be building the capacity and capabilities of the NZ Health Innovation Hub team.

"This is a unique opportunity to set the direction of a start-up that has government backing and limitless opportunities to really make a difference. This position will draw on my international skills, contacts and experience in a young organisation which really does have the potential to improve the lives of patients and also make it easier for those who work in health and related fields to develop their good ideas. Realising potential is satisfying work," Dr Guyett said.

In addition to her current role in Australia, Frances also mentors and coaches young researchers helping them navigate the minefield of research, funding and commercialising intellectual property. She is also involved with a range of non-profit organizations providing them with strategic planning advice.

Frances Guyett was born and raised in Australia and comes from a family of entrepreneurs. Her husband is a dairy farmer and she has a daughter at university in Melbourne. They are looking forward to experiencing the kiwi lifestyle. Dr Guyett will be based in Auckland and take up the position of chief executive in January 2013.