

Creating Global Solutions



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AUSBIOTECH 2010 NATIONAL CONFERENCE SPEAKERS' PROFILE

Professor Sean Grimmond
Director
Queensland Centre for Medical Genomics
Institute for Molecular Bioscience
The University of Queensland

Professor Grimmond completed his PhD in Cancer Genetics in 1994. His postdoctoral research at QIMR (1994-1996) contributed to the positional cloning of the MEN1 tumour suppressor gene, and the cloning, molecular characterization and commercialization VEGFB endothelial Growth factor with AMRAD (subsequentially license d for \$20mil). In 1996, Sean was awarded a CJMartin fellowship and pioneered expression analyses of gonadal organogenesis using shotgun cDNA sequencing and microarray profiling at the UK's MRC MGU & Mouse Genome Sequencing Centre. He returned in 2000 to IMB-UQ and established the Expression Genomics laboratory.

The central focus of his research over the last decade has been to capture and interrogate transcriptome, genome and epigenome data from model systems and patient samples and define the underlying genetic network controlling key developmental processes and pathological states. Central to this has been a continued effort to pioneer genomic technologies to study cancer and development (robotic ISH screening and exhaustive shotgun sequence-based transcriptome analysis (now called RNA-seq).

In 2009, Sean established the Queensland Centre for Medical Genomics. Since mid-2009, SG has directed Australia's International Cancer Genome Consortium program that plans to sequence the genomes, 500 pancreatic and ovarian cancer patients in the next 4 years. This program has already lead to new research efforts into systems-based analysis of cancer, cancer surveillance using personalized biomarkers and theranostics.

