

Creating Global Solutions



19 to 22 October 2010
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
www.ausbiotech2010.com.au



AUSBIOTECH 2010 NATIONAL CONFERENCE SPEAKERS' PROFILE

Dr Wayne Best
Managing Director
Epichem Pty Ltd

Wayne has a strong scientific background in the field of synthetic and medicinal chemistry and their application to drug discovery. He obtained his BSc and PhD from The University of Western Australia before moving to Imperial College (London) in 1983 for a two year postdoctoral research position followed by a further year at the Australian National University in Canberra.



In 1987 Wayne left academia and moved into industry when he joined ICI Australia's Research Group in Melbourne, where he led a team of chemists designing and synthesising novel herbicides. His work at ICI Australia also included a secondment to ICI Agrochemicals in the UK, where he worked on the rational design of novel herbicides. He then returned to Western Australia and in 1993 joined the State Government's Chemistry Centre where he established the Medicinal & Biological Chemistry Laboratory. The Laboratory undertook contract and collaborative drug discovery projects with both industry, academia and other government institutions.

In 2003 Wayne left his secure government position and, with the help of some venture capital, formed Epichem Pty Ltd. The Perth based company, which also has a small presence in Melbourne, has grown to a staff of 15, eleven of which have a PhD. Epichem's core business is the supply of services in synthetic, medicinal and natural product chemistry to the drug discovery, pharmaceutical, and agrochemical industries. The company has established customers in 15 countries and on every continent (except Antarctica). In addition to its fee for service contract work, Epichem undertakes in-house and collaborative drug discovery programs, the main focus of which is antiparasitic drugs and neglected diseases.

Wayne is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Chemistry at the University of Western Australia and an Adjunct Associate Professor of Biological Chemistry at Murdoch University. He is a member of the American Chemical Society and a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute. He has 30 publications to his name, including several patents.

In addition to his technical background Wayne has experience as a Director of both public and private companies in the biotechnology sector. He was a Director and the CSO of PharmAust Ltd and its subsidiaries

for almost three years. He also spent four months as the interim Managing Director of Melbourne based Mimotopes and assisted in its restructuring following its acquisition by PharmAust in 2005. Wayne's current role is the Managing Director of Epichem, a position he has held since the company was formed.