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Media Release

Women in Business reward research

A Western Suburbs scientist was last night recognised at the 2007 Queensland Women in Business Awards for her outstanding 35-year contribution to research.

Professor Julie Campbell AO, Director of The Wesley Research Institute, won the Public and Not-for-Profit category of the Awards for her outstanding contribution to cardiovascular research, her success in obtaining competitive grants for the Institute, and her passion, drive and determination for learning and teaching the wonders of science.

Professor Campbell said she was extremely honoured to receive the award, which she owes in part to her very supportive family and colleagues.

"It is often said that behind every successful man is a woman, but I believe the reverse is also the case and that behind many successful women there is a supportive man. This is certainly true for me," she said.

"But equally true is the fact that behind many successful women are other women. This is also true in my case, particularly at The Wesley Research Institute where we are all dedicated to improving patient care."

Professor Campbell has been instrumental in enabling the Institute to fund its recent expansion activities through successful grant applications to Government and private research initiatives.

These successes include a new Clinical Trials Centre, Tissue Bank and Health and Medical Research Centre which will greatly expand the Institute's ability to fulfill its mission of carrying out research that leads to earlier diagnoses of disease, better treatments, fewer side effects and higher quality of life for patients.

In addition to her role as Director of The Wesley Research Institute, Julie is also Director of the Centre for Research in Vascular Biology at the University of Queensland, Senior Principal Research Fellow of the National Health and Medical Research Council, and currently the only Queensland female elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science.

On behalf of the Australian Academy of Science, Professor Campbell is responsible for developing a new inquiry based science education programme for primary schools nationally.

"I believe that all children from an early age should be engaged by the wonders of the world and how it works," she said.

"Enthusing young minds and firing their curiosity about living organisms, the planets, energy, the weather and technology will lead to a better informed, more inquiring Australian community."

Since the 1990s, Professor Campbell and her husband Professor Gordon Campbell, have been involved in ground-breaking research on the growth of 'designer arteries', which can act as vascular grafts.

There were ten categories of Women in Business Awards for 2007 with merchant banker, Ms Jenny Hutson, winning the overall 2007 Queensland Business Woman of the Year Award.

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