

19 October 2005

Professor Vicki Sara appointed as Director and Chairman designate of the Australian Stem Cell Centre

The Australian Stem Cell Centre today welcomed the appointment of Professor Vicki Sara to its Board of Directors. Current Chairman Mr Robert Moses has announced his intention of stepping down from the Board effective at the Annual General Meeting on the 22 November 2005. Professor Sara will take over the Chair position on that date.

Professor Sara is the Chancellor of the University of Technology, Sydney, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Science and Engineering. She is a former Head of the Australian Research Council, a premier research funding body of the Australian Government.

“The Australian Stem Cell Centre Management and Board are delighted with Vicki’s appointment,” said Dr Hugh Niall, Chief Executive Officer. “The Centre’s focus this year and next is firmly on maturing the scientific portfolio and driving results.

“Vicki’s scientific expertise and international reputation will be a significant advantage to the Centre. She is a highly accomplished Australian scientist with a breadth of talent and experience that is of great value to the Australian Stem Cell Centre,” said Dr Niall.

The retiring Chair, Mr Robert Moses, was the inaugural Chairman of the Centre Board and held the position for three years, steering the organisation through the establishment phase and securing long term funding for the Centre through until 2011.

“I would like to express my personal thanks and that of the Board and Management to Bob for his wise counsel and unfailing support of the Centre over the last three years,” said Dr Niall. “His deep understanding of the biotechnology industry and his management experience have been of enormous benefit to the Centre’s strategic planning and operations.”

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Biography

Professor Vicki Sara was appointed as Chairman of the Australian Stem Cell Centre's major national research facility Access Committee in February 2005. She will relinquish this role to take up the position of Chairman of the Board.

Professor Vicki Sara was elected Chancellor of the University of Technology Sydney in 2004. She was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Research Council in July 2001. From September 1997 to June 2001 she was the Chair of the Council and a member of the Prime Minister's Science Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC), and the CSIRO Board. She is Chair of the Bureau of Meteorology Advisory Board, a director of the Rio Tinto Foundation for a Sustainable Minerals Industry and the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics. She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. Professor Sara was appointed Vice-Chair of the OECD's Global Science Forum in 1999, and member of the Advisory Board of the APEC R&D Leaders' Forum in 2002.

Professor Sara returned to Australia in 1993 following a research career at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.

After receiving a UNESCO postdoctoral fellowship to Sweden, Professor Sara held various research positions at the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, heading the Endocrine Pathology Research Laboratory. Whilst at the Institute she isolated a growth factor responsible for regulating foetal brain development.

She was awarded the Rolf Luft medal for excellence in endocrine research in 1993 and the Sir John Eccles Award in 1994. She was appointed as foreign Professor of Karolinska Institute in 1995. She was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2003, and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science by the University of Southern Queensland in 2004 and by Victoria University in 2005.