

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



New Dean of Science, Engineering and Technology

Microbiologist and industrial biotechnologist, Professor Margaret Britz, has been appointed as the University of Tasmania's Dean of Science, Engineering and Technology.

An internationally recognised microbiologist, Professor Britz plans to keep her hand in solving real-life problems in microbiology and food science at UTAS's Food Safety Centre and rekindle her earlier research in biofuels and microbial products from renewable resources.

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said he was delighted to announce that Prof. Britz had accepted the appointment as the new Dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology and will take up the position in November.

"Prof. Britz is a distinguished scientist with strong academic credentials and demonstrated record of academic leadership, research, scholarship and service excellence," Prof. Le Grew said.

"She is a person of energy, commitment and vision and I am confident that she possesses both the leadership qualities and the strategic vision to effectively lead the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology."

Prof. Britz replaces Distinguished Professor Jim Reid who will resume his world-leading research into how plant hormones regulate plant development in the UTAS School of Plant Science.

Prof Britz said she is excited about taking up her new appointment.

"The UTAS Faculty of Science Engineering and Technology has an outstanding national and international reputation in research and scholarship," Prof. Britz said.

"I hope to see the Faculty grow this reputation to become a beacon of research excellence and scholarship that attracts the best and the brightest minds internationally, to deliver research outcomes relevant to Tasmania and contribute to solving major global problems.

"I am passionate about providing educational pathways to students so they can achieve their full potential and create choices about their future, and will work with UTAS staff to broaden local opportunities to this end."

Prof Britz comes to UTAS from BioIndustry Partners Pty Ltd where she has been a Director since 2008. She has also been an Honorary Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Melbourne since 2006.

Since completing her undergraduate and doctorate degrees in science at the University of Melbourne, Professor Britz has held a variety of significant senior university, public sector and research appointments including Dean of Science at the Queensland University of Technology; Assistant Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of Melbourne; Foundation Chair of Food Science at the University of Melbourne and Head of the Gilbert Chandler Campus; Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science at the Western Institute (now part of the Victoria University); principal research scientist in the Division of Biomolecular Engineering at CSIRO; and Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellow at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the USA.

She was also the first principal advisor for Science and Engineering Policy for the Victorian Government, implementing the state's innovation policy.

To organise interviews with Professor Margaret Britz please call 6226 8519.

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