

**Media release**

**Thursday, 4 December 2003**

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**Commercialisation boost for Queensland research**

Research into repairing damaged kidney's has been boosted in the latest round of Innovation Start Up Scheme (ISUS) grants announced by the Minister for Innovation and Information Economy Mr Paul Lucas today (Thursday, December 4).

IMBcom, the commercialisation company for the Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB) at UQ, was instrumental in the successful applications for Nephrogenix Pty Ltd with the application in the state-wide competitive selection process.

Chief Scientific Advisor to Nephrogenix, (IMB's) Associate Professor Melissa Little said the company was established as a joint initiative of IMBcom and Monash Commercial (the commercial arm of Monash University) to commercialise the research outcomes of the Renal Regeneration Consortium (RRC).

"The RRC is a research team of 12 national experts in the fields of developmental biology, molecular genetics, bioinformatics and stem cell biology, aiming to develop new technologies to repair kidneys damaged by chronic kidney disease," Professor Little said.

Chronic renal failure (CRF) is a devastating disease and is expensive to treat. It is estimated that 60,000 Australians between 12 and 74 years have CRF, costing the health system approximately \$1 billion. Each year approximately 4000 Australian adults will be diagnosed with CRF.

CEO of IMBcom Dr Peter Isdale said he was delighted with the success of this grant and that IMBcom's translation of research into high value applied and commercial outcomes was reaping rewards for Queensland's burgeoning biotechnology industries.

"The Smart State's ISUS scheme provides much needed funding for start up companies to redeploy management and prepare business plans," he said.