

Science and Engineering

News

QUT Women in research honoured finalists for the 2016 Women in Technology Awards

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No fewer than four women researchers from QUT Science and Engineering Faculty and the Institute for Future Environments are finalists in the Women in Technology (WIT) 2016 Awards. Succeeding in Life Sciences and Infotech, the nominees are among 29 individual finalists for the prestigious national awards. Our finalists are:

Richi Nayak, Associate Professor, nominated for **Infotech Outstanding Achievement Award**;

Mia Woodruff, Associate Professor, nominated for **Life Sciences/ ICT Research Award**;

Indira Prasadam, Research Fellow, Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, nominated for **Life Sciences/ ICT Rising Star Award**; and

Laura Bray, Research Fellow, Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, also nominated for **Life Sciences/ ICT Rising Star Award**.

Dr Richi Nayak is Associate Professor of Computer Science in the Queensland University of Technology. She is an internationally recognised expert in Data Mining and Web Intelligence. She has combined knowledge in these areas very successfully with diverse disciplines such as Social Science, Science and Engineering, in order to technology transfer to real world problems to enhance or change their practices and methodologies. She has been successful in attaining over \$1.5 million in competitive external research funding over the past five years in the area of data mining. Her research and scholarship has resulted in about 120 refereed publications. She is steering committee member of the Australasian Data Mining committee. She holds several editorial appointments, including the International Journal of Knowledge and Web Intelligence, the International Journal of Knowledge-Based & Intelligent Engineering Systems, the International Journal of Data Mining, Modelling and Management. She is regular reviewer of several International Conferences and Journals in the field of data mining and web intelligence. She has supervised twelve HDR students to completion in the area of data mining. She is founder and leader of the Applied Data Mining Research Group at QUT. Members of this group have a strong interaction with real world industries and work on the multidisciplinary projects. She has received a number of awards and nominations for teaching, research and service activities.

Associate Professor Mia Woodruff leads the Biofabrication and Tissue Morphology Group at QUT. She graduated with first class honours in Biomedical Materials Science followed by a PhD at the University of Nottingham, UK, (1998-2006) before joining the National University of Singapore for 2 years as a postdoctoral research fellow. Mia joined QUT in 2008 as a Vice Chancellor's Research fellow; following this she was awarded an ARC APDI fellowship. Since joining QUT she has independently established the nationally leading histology division and national resin histology centre at QUT (for large bone and metallic implant assessment) and has built a biofabrication laboratory supporting 20 researchers. She works closely with researchers in regenerative medicine, biofabrication and pre-clinical testing of novel implant materials developed to treat large tissue loss. A major focus of her work is utilising advanced and customised 3D printing technologies in medical applications. Most recently she is featured in the advanced Queensland campaign 2015/2016 for her pioneering work in biofabrication and her vision is to have 3d printers in every hospital in the world, creating patient specific solutions for tissue loss and 3d models to assist clinicians in surgery and training.

Dr Indira Prasadam wears several hats herself. She is an early career scientist, business owner, mother, and accredited research student mentor. She leads cartilage development and osteoarthritis group at the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, QUT. Her research program from past 11 years is directed and dedicated towards understanding the complex pathophysiology of osteoarthritis and identifying new therapeutic strategies to counteract the destruction of the articular cartilage during osteoarthritis. She has published over 30 peer-reviewed articles in top tier journals, serves on a number of prestigious professional boards and ad-hoc reviewer for more than 8 top-ranking journals in the fields of rheumatology and for granting bodies including the NHMR&C and ARC. She has two-patents at the PCT stage. She has been awarded over \$2 million in Category 1 funding, including one-ARC grants and one-co-investigator NHMRC in last 5 years, in addition to several other philanthropic grants. She received multiple prestigious awards including a 2016 finalist in the prestigious ASMR Queensland Health and Medical Research Awards, ATSE young scientist ambassador award, Fresh-Science state finalist award, Dean Commendation for PhD thesis, CASS Travel Award, Ian potter travel grant, QUT ECR Award, Arthritis Australia Grant-in-aid, ATSE Australia-China Young Scientist-Exchange travel award. A part from a successful research career she also manages a family owned retail business.

Dr Laura Bray grew up on the Sunshine Coast in QLD, Australia. In 2006, Laura graduated from the University of the Sunshine Coast in Buderim with a Bachelor of Science. Following this, in 2007, she worked as a research assistant in the group of Associate Professor Alison Rice at the Mater Medical Research Institute in South Brisbane. In 2008, Laura completed a Bachelor of Applied Science (Honours) degree (Queensland University of Technology) in the same lab. From 2009-2012, Laura undertook her PhD in the group of Associate Professor Damien Harkin, Professor Dietmar Huttmacher and Professor Traian Chirila at the Queensland University of Technology. Dr Bray completed her PhD by publication in 2012. At the end of 2012, Dr Bray was awarded the inaugural Prime Minister's Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Postdoctoral Award which she accepted and joined the group of Professor Carsten Werner at the Leibniz Institute for Polymer Research in Dresden, Germany. After 3 years working in Dresden, from 2013-2016, Dr Bray received a National Breast Cancer Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship and a Cure Cancer Australia project grant and moved her research to the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation at the Queensland University of Technology in Australia in March 2016.

The winners will be announced at the WIT Awards Gala Dinner on 2 September. For more information about Women in Technology, go to www.wit.org.au.

For more information about QUT's commitment to increasing the participation of women in STEM teaching and research, Tracy Straughan QUT Women in STEM Project Officer can be contacted on Ext 81584

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Associate Professor Mia Woodruff, among four finalists from QUT for the 2016 Women in Technology Awards

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