

**MEDIA RELEASE
THURSDAY 22 MARCH 2018**

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF AUSTRALIA

Director of Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery, Professor Jennifer Martin AC and Head of Government Relations & Industry Affairs for Woolworths Group, Christian Bennett will join the Council of The Royal Institution of Australia at a Council meeting held today.

The Chairman of The Royal Institution of Australia, Mr Peter Yates AM welcomed Professor Martin and Mr Bennett saying, 'I am delighted to welcome Professor Jenny Martin and Christian Bennett to the Council. Both are highly respected and experienced within their fields and will make a significant contribution to the future of The Royal Institution of Australia'.

'Professor Martin is a great advocate of science and science communication and is passionate about encouraging gender equity in STEM. She is an excellent role model for women in STEM and we were honoured to induct her as an Honorary Bragg Member of the Institution in 2017', said Mr Yates.

'Christian Bennett's extensive experience in government relations will be invaluable as we continue to encourage more informed policy-making by facilitating the interaction between policy-makers and scientists to share sound scientific knowledge', said Mr Yates.

Professor Jennifer Martin AC and Mr Christian Bennett will join other prominent Council Members including Dr Gregory Clark, Sir Rod Eddington AO, Mr David Knox, Professor Lyn Beazley AO, Mr Tony Clark, Professor John Yovich AM and Mr Will Berryman. They will replace retiring Council Members Baroness Professor Susan Greenfield CBE and Professor Peter Andrews AO.

Biographies



Professor Jennifer Martin AC is the Director of Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD) at Griffith University in Australia. Her research focuses on protein structure and function in health and disease and the application of structure-based approaches to the design and development of new drugs. Professor Martin has been awarded the inaugural ARC Australian Laureate Fellowship, the ASBMB Roche Medal, the Queensland Smart Women Smart State Research Scientist Award, and the Women in Biotech Outstanding Achievement Award. She is the President of the Asian Crystallography Association, a former President of the Society of Crystallographers in Australia and New Zealand, and a former chair of the National Committee for Crystallography of the Australian Academy of Science. Professor Martin was a Foundation Member of the Australian

Academy of Science "Science in Australia Gender Equity" (SAGE) Committee charged with addressing gender equity in STEM.



AUSTRALIA'S SCIENCE CHANNEL



Christian Bennett is responsible for providing strategic advice regarding Woolworth's engagement with government and policy stakeholders, as well broader corporate reputational issues. Previously, he was a Vice President of Government Affairs for General Electric, Vice President of Government Relations and Public Policy at BHP Billiton and led Santos's media, government, indigenous affairs, community and corporate communications effort. Prior to joining the private sector, Christian served in the Australian foreign service for 14 years. His diplomatic assignments included serving as Australia's High Commissioner (Ambassador) to Brunei, First Secretary (Political) in Washington DC and Third Secretary (Political / Trade) in Harare. Christian also served as Adviser (North Asia and Economic) on the personal staff of the Australian

Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, and as an Adviser (Asia) in the Prime Minister's Department. In May 2017, he was appointed to the Board of the Australian American Fulbright Commission by the Federal Education Minister and has previously served on the Board of the Federal Government's Australia-Malaysia Institute and Council for Australia and Latin American Relations, both by appointment of the Foreign Minister.

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