



Mr Mark Smith,
Research Development Manager
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To Whom it May Concern

I have known Mark since 2010 when I started working with him in the Research and Education Network (REN) in Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD). Mark had been the facility manager for the Westmead Millennium Institute which became independent of the health service around that time. At that point Mark took up the position of Research Development Manager with REN and remained in the position until September 2021.

In his capacity as Research Development Manager Mark had a wide range of responsibilities including:

- **Grant programs** - establishment and management of the REN research grant program and review and administration of external grants.
- **Research Development** - establishment and support of numerous research committees including the Research Committee of the WSLHD Board, facility research committees such as Blacktown Hospital, Auburn Hospital, Mental Health and discipline committees such as the Allied Health Research Committee. Mark also went between Westmead and Blacktown Hospitals supporting the growth of research. Mark also worked with researchers to develop a research education program.
- **REN Laboratory Research management** – managed the support staff of the lab facilities for REN, provided research and regulatory guidance to basic researchers, conducted audits of the lab facilities and worked with the facility manager to ensure availability of appropriate resources for researchers.
- **Institutional biosafety** – provided secretarial support to the Institutional Biosafety Committee and provided expert advice on matters relating to Office of the Gene Technology Regulator, conducted facility inspections and audits based on regulatory requirements, managed agreements for compliance, provided appropriate training and also represented institutional biosafety on the Animal Ethics Committee.
- **Communications** – managed communications to the research community, in particular developed, compiled and distributed the weekly 'research matters of interest' (a communique that included updates, announcements etc relevant to researchers).

As a senior hospital scientist Mark's experience and knowledge of science and research was extensive and invaluable in managing the growth of research in WSLHD. Mark worked closely with the Director of REN and me to grow research capacity and manage his portfolio. Mark was always very committed to research and to the researchers within WSLHD. He is highly conscientious, with a good eye for detail, works well to deadlines and has an intricate knowledge of research within the health environment and the regulatory requirements that frame it. Due to Mark's depth of engagement within the organisation and the research community his departure has left a void for many.

Mark's skill set and experience, as well as his positive engagement with the people he works with, will ensure that he will work well in any research environment.

If you wish to obtain further information, please contact Helene Abouyanni, Director Operations, Research and Education Network, Western Sydney Local Health District, Helene.abouyanni@health.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Helene Abouyanni

Director Operations, Research and Education Western Sydney Local Health District

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