

Mark T. Smith – a personal reference

I have worked with my friend and colleague Mark Smith since 1997, during which time Mark has been a pivotal member of the medical research scene at Westmead and its associated hospitals. Since 2020 I was his direct manager as Executive Director of Research for Western Sydney Local Health District. Mark's role as Research Development Manager at WSLHD spanned many diverse functions. Some of these utilized his extensive knowledge of laboratory science - such as his role in certification of laboratory facilities, and his long period of service on the Institutional Biosafety Committee. Other functions relied on Mark's extensive knowledge of the management and practice of medical research – such as his exemplary administration of research grant programs, and his management of our external reporting to regulatory authorities. Over a period of more than three decades of working in laboratories and hospitals, and through collaboration with a multitude of research colleagues, Mark Smith has amassed a unique and comprehensive set of skills, experience and knowledge. On his departure from our organization we are having to recruit multiple people to fill his place!

In addition to his diverse skills and experience, Mark Smith also brought to our organization his diligent attention to detail and process. This regularly saved the day when an important deadline loomed or a complex task required completion. Mark has been known by everybody in the research scene at Westmead to be absolutely trustworthy, impartial, and scrupulously reliable. Many senior researchers and academics have relied on his advice, and many junior scientists have benefited from his tutelage. Mark's contributions have undoubtedly made the difference between success and failure in multiple project designs or grant applications over the years.

Mark builds trusting and lasting relationships, and contributes thoughtfully to all aspects of the organization. His skills in communication and mentorship are very strong. His style is personable, and completely lacking pretention or hubris. Everyone, from Department heads and professors to research students and laboratory technicians, have seen Mark Smith as a colleague and collaborator. I am very pleased to recommend Mark to whomever he may plan to work with in the future. I wish him the very best for a productive and fruitful future.

Sincerely



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