

NSW Physical Sciences Fund - Expert Panel

The Expert Panel to oversee and assess the PSF applications is composed of distinguished experts who collectively have skills, experience and expertise in science and engineering, devices and systems commercialisation, venture capital, financial management and consumer advocacy. The Panel composition reflects a strong focus on end-user needs.

The following people were approved by the former Minister for Trade & Industry to be members of the PSF Expert Panel:



Professor Annabelle Duncan PSM, Chair, Chair of the Sydney School of Entrepreneurship's Board of Directors. Annabelle was formerly the Vice-Chancellor and CEO of the University of New England (UNE). Prior to joining UNE Annabelle spent 16 years at CSIRO, including six as Chief of the Division of Molecular Science. She has acted as an advisor to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on biological weapons control, representing Australia at international arms control meetings and acting as a biological weapons inspector with the United Nations in Iraq.



Dr Simon Poole AO, Director and VP Business Development at Cylite Pty Ltd. Simon is an engineer with over 30 years' experience in photonics in research, academia and industry. A leading technologist and entrepreneur in optical communications, he is highly experienced in startups and is renowned for both his contribution to the technology of photonics and the companies he founded (Indx, Engana, Cylite), which have generated over \$1.25 billion in revenues to date.



Mr Martin Duursma, partner Main Sequence Ventures (CSIRO Innovation Fund) – Martin has over 25 years' experience as a technologist, business founder, angel investor and mentor in Australia and the US. A senior executive at Citrix, where he built their research arm Citrix Labs, he started the Citrix Accelerator and led investment in over 30 new companies. As VP and head of the Global Technology Office, he led due diligence in over 60 transactions totalling \$2.5 billion.



Professor Rose Amal AC, UNSW Scientia Professor and ARC Laureate Fellow – Rose is a chemical engineer and the leader of the Particles and Catalysis Research Group. A pioneer in fine particle technology, photo-catalysis and functional nanomaterials, her current research is on solar and chemical energy conversion nanomaterials and engineering solutions for solar-induced processes. Rose has attracted over \$25 million to UNSW in ARC and industry funding. Rose was awarded the 2019 NSW Scientist of the Year at the NSW Premier's Prizes for Science and Engineering.



Professor Tony Weiss AM, Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biotechnology, The University of Sydney – Tony's research on tropoelastin and elastin, the biological ingredients that give human tissue its elasticity, led to his invention and commercialisation of biological treatments that decrease scarring and accelerate the repair of wounds. Elastagen, the Sydney spin-out company Tony founded to commercialise tropoelastin, was acquired in February at a value of USD\$260 million by Allergan, one of the world's 20 largest biopharmaceutical companies, with the products rapidly moving to market. Tony was one of the first recipients of a grant through the NSW Medical Devices Fund.