

THE ETHOS RESEARCH LEADERS FORUM

Testimonials from 2008, 2009 and 2010

Prof Tim Smith University of the Sunshine Coast

The Ethos Forum was an invaluable learning experience. The ability to meet with other research centre directors and discuss the various structures, processes, resourcing and performance measures has contributed significantly to my ability to plan strategically. Through this experience, I have become better equipped to navigate both the external and internal operating environments for the good of my centre and those within it. The camaraderie developed during the Ethos Forum sessions allowed us to openly discuss emerging challenges within a confidential setting and I believe all of us gained a huge amount from being able to discuss those issues among peers with first-hand experience of those challenges we all faced.

Many thanks for a very valuable learning experience

Prof Jiwa Moyez Curtin University of Technology

“ The leaders forum provided a unique opportunity to reflect on challenges we all face in establishing our credentials as leaders in our respective fields and institutions. The case study approach, with an emphasis on confidential and honest reflection gave every member of the group a personal forum to explore challenges we faced at that point in our careers. We benefited from the reflections of members with much greater experience but also from the great wisdom of more junior people. The combined effect of the group led to life changing experience for many of us. Added to this we had the opportunity to meet in person individuals with a stellar profile in the national and international scene. Some of these networking opportunities promoted collaboration long after the group disbanded. A fabulous forum to nurture academic careers and more importantly person growth for those who were lucky enough to be selected for the program. “

Associate Professor Michael Kimlin from the Queensland University of Technology's Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation

“I really appreciate the opportunity to get together with others from a variety of backgrounds, including deans of research, directors of research institutes and other senior researchers, to discuss key issues that seem to affect all of us – it's nice to know I'm not alone, The group has become a great resource for finding solutions to common problems and provides an opportunity to refocus and to really think strategically about what you are doing and how that fits in with the bigger picture

Testimonials from 2008, 2009 and 2010 (cont)

Assoc. Professor Alexandra McManus, PhD, MPH
Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute (CHIRI)

'A wonderful course, excellent keynotes, learned facilitator and a great group of attendees. I would recommend it to senior research leaders with a passion for excellence in research.'

The course content was relevant, easy to implement in a research environment and produced very good research. The networking and sharing of issues, problems, successes with those in similar positions in an environment of complete confidentiality was invaluable. The honest and constructive criticism offered, whilst not always easy to hear, was accompanied by possible solutions and the ensuing discussion and support provided the impetus for change. The professional relationships formed have also provided excellent opportunities for future collaborations.

Finally, the keynote addresses by leading researchers in Australia were an added bonus. Where else do you get the opportunity to spend quality time with those who have already reached the pinnacle of success and who are willing to sit down and chat about how you can grow as a research leader. Overall a very rewarding experience.'

Professor Cory Xian from the Bone Growth and Repair Research Unit at the University of South Australia

"It's been great having the chance to learn from some very successful and outstanding research leaders in Australia," he said.

"Through discussions with my peers I've been able to find solutions to some of the common problems I face as part of my work, including developing better team management skills and forming more collaborative external relationships. We've also agreed to keep in touch in the future which will be really useful."

Professor Craig T. Simmons
Director, National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training, Flinders University

Many thanks for the Ethos Forum. I have really enjoyed being a participant in the workshops and would certainly highly recommend them to others to attend.

I am sure we will cross paths again in the future.

Testimonials from 2008, 2009 and 2010 (cont)

A Professor from the University of Newcastle

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for conducting the Ethos Research Leaders' Forum. The Forum provided me with the opportunity to engage with other researchers from various universities and to benefit from the advice of leading researchers who attended as guest speakers. From my researcher peers, I gained insight into common predicaments faced, like competing demands, time management and productivity issues. It was so reassuring to hear peers facing very similar dilemmas and benefiting from hearing how they handled their own and receiving advice specific to my situation. This advice helped me to sharpen focus on research priorities and set an agenda for future research activities. The overall impact of the course built confidence in one's research strengths and also in how to handle challenges.

The guest speakers were simply inspirational. Their advice was practically relevant and their career trajectories and stories of drive and determination very motivating.

In summary, I found the insights I gained, the camaraderie experienced and the opportunity to identify and focus on individual research goals enormously encouraging and confidence building. I highly recommend the Ethos Research Forum to research active academics wanting to build their research leadership skills and potential.

Associate Professor Martin Johnston, Ph.D School of Chemical and Physical Sciences Flinders University

The ETHOS research leaders forum is an excellent program that brings together research leaders from within the university sector. I found the commonality of issues between various and states institutions allowed for highly relevant discussions to be had between the participants. Indeed this networking is a key aspect of the forum.

The examination of our personality profiles and the discussions of roles within teams was very interesting. This indicated to me that as leaders we need to be aware of ourselves, our strengths and weaknesses and how we fit into the overall team effort.

The insight and wisdom provided by senior external speakers from both industry and university settings was terrific. Think-Tank type discussions were supported by insightful comments by Mark who identified key issues and suggested strategies for success. I would certainly recommend this program for anyone with a leadership role in research.