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**Bio:**

Dr Larisa Haupt is a cell and molecular biologist with over 15 years' experience in Australia and internationally examining the role of the extracellular matrix in tissue remodeling and repair. Dr Haupt is a Senior Research Fellow and Laboratory Manager within the Genomics Research Centre, at the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, School of Biomedical Sciences, Queensland University of Technology. Her Neurogenesis and Stem Cell research team aims to understand the role of the cell microenvironment in human neurogenesis using human mesenchymal stem cells and human neural stem cells. Our ability to direct cells toward specific neural lineages will greatly enhance the use of these cells for multiple applications which in the long-term may influence how we manage the ageing process and neurodegenerative disorders including brain injury, Parkinson's disease and dementia. In an ageing population with increasing levels of chronic and neurodegenerative disorders, this could be vital information for a significant proportion of the population. The production of lineage-specific neural cultures would enable the more effective use and delivery of these cells of relevance to multiple research areas and impact on their successful use in a wide variety of applications and services of advanced health delivery.

As the GRC Laboratory Manager, Dr Haupt plays a significant role in the coordination of research projects for the group encompassing >30 researchers with its Director, Professor Lyn Griffiths. Dr Haupt has enormous expertise in the design and implementation of human molecular genetic studies utilising low (Q-PCR, SNP/HRM/RFLP genotyping) and high-throughput (next generation sequencing, arrays, MassARRAY genotyping, miRNA/mRNASeq) methodologies across several platforms (Rotorgne, Illumina, Life Technologies, Agena Biosciences, Roche).