

**QUEENSLAND SCIENTIST WINS MAJOR AWARD FOR HIS WORK IN
COMPUTATIONAL GENOMICS**

Investigating how differences in genes can affect disease susceptibility

[Dr Joseph Powell](#) from The University of Queensland's Institute for Molecular Bioscience has been awarded the Commonwealth Health Minister's Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research.

Computational genomics involves deciphering biology using genome sequence data and computational analysis techniques

The ability to perform high-resolution deep sequencing of all of the DNA from each of our cells (genome) has the unmeasurable capacity to change human health. However, our capacity to reveal the significance of this data still requires enormous and sophisticated research.

Dr Powell said, "*The last decade has seen a dramatic increase in our understanding of the role of genetic variation in common diseases*". However, worldwide there is a shortage of the expertise necessary for uncovering the potential of the human genome. Trans-disciplinary research, the bringing together of the disciplines of computer science, statistics and genetics, is required to produce medically relevant knowledge from the large and complex datasets produced by genomic studies.

Dr Powell's trans-disciplinary research is driven by a strong desire to make results and methods publically available in a clear and accessible manner and to train and mentor top students and post doctorates in the cutting-edge science of computational biology and biostatistics.

He said, "***We are looking forward to the development of computational tools and apps to integrate methods and data to aid in the clinical diagnosis of disease using genomic information***".

Who: Dr Joseph Powell, Institute for Molecular Bioscience, The University of Queensland

What: Commonwealth Health Minister's Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research

Where: Intercontinental Melbourne, The Rialto, 495 Collins Street, Melbourne

When: 7pm, Thursday 9th June 2016

Interview and photo opportunities

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