



October 30, 2008

Mr Nicholas Dowie  
Manager, Pharmaceuticals Industry Strategy Group Secretariat  
Innovation Division, Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research  
Level 10, Industry House  
10 Binara Street  
Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, 2601

Email: [Nicholas.Dowie@innovation.gov.au](mailto:Nicholas.Dowie@innovation.gov.au)

Dear Mr Dowie,

On behalf of the Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) I would like to thank you and the Pharmaceuticals Industry Strategy Group for the opportunity to comment on the Group's Direction Paper. As the peak professional society representing health and medical researchers in Australia, the ASMR has a keen interest in the future of the Pharmaceuticals Industry in this country. Our sector aims to deliver outcomes that enable all Australians to lead healthier lives, and in many instances this is only achievable through considerable collaboration with the Pharmaceutical Industry.

Of particular note from our reading of the Direction Paper, the ASMR endorses the Group's recommendation to increase Australia's attractiveness as a location for clinical trial activity. This would not only facilitate exciting research findings from Australian scientists to be fully developed and translated within our country as opposed to being exported overseas, but would also enable Australia to have significant input into programs organised at an international level.

The ASMR also strongly supports the recommendation to strengthen the links between Universities and Research Institutes with the biopharmaceutical industry. We recognise that the traditional career path for research scientists is one of academia but that this is not necessarily desirable, nor sustainable, for all trained researchers. As a society we are committed to fostering the awareness of the less traditional career paths and believe that Australia would surely benefit if the skills of the already highly trained and qualified scientists and clinicians were broadened to encompass those more applicable to the biopharmaceutical industry. We recognise the significant benefits that could arise from a strong interplay between academia and the biopharmaceutical industry and the training of individuals in both disciplines would underpin this potential. Therefore as indicated in the Direction Paper, recognition by Universities, funding bodies and government of the appropriate skills required and the assistance of a more fluid movement for researchers between the two would be highly desirable.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if ASMR could be of any assistance in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Hulett PhD  
President, ASMR

Kristen Nowak PhD  
Director