

# Dr Ann Thompson

## Career Summary

### 2009 – Present

#### Researcher-Research Manager **4CMR, Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge**

Contribute to a large research project to investigate the effects of climate change mitigation policies and use of low carbon energy technologies on economic growth and GHG emissions

#### Responsibilities

- Research relevant bioenergy and biofuels policy areas being introduced to reduce carbon emissions
- Assist in the development and writing of research proposals, providing advice and guidance
- Contribute to business development of industry focussed projects and research initiatives
- Provided project management and administration for a 3 year charitably funded research project, liaising with SME subcontractor as well as manage other administration and budgets within the research centre
- Acted as contact point for University staff involved in contract development and budget management including research contract services and the University commercialisation company Cambridge Enterprise
- Had key responsibility for managing the refit for the centre's new office space, liaising closely with the buildings project management team and contract construction firm

### 2006 – 2008

#### Science and Innovation Manager **A2 Corporation Ltd, NZ**

Supported strong sales growth of a biotechnology based milk product by facilitating business development, driving the research programme and promoting scientific findings of a New Zealand owned dairy company

#### Achievements

- Pivotal support roles in business negotiations and subsequent product launch in South Korea
- Strong contributor to the regeneration of our Australian business significantly increasing product market share as well as initiated links with UK T&I ultimately leading to product launch in the UK
- Developed collaborations with health and nutrition researchers in Australia, New Zealand and Asia
- Secured \$300,000 in grant funding, organising and managing grant administration and reporting activities
- Located and worked with QAQC service provider to decrease cost of key procedure by 150%

#### Responsibilities

- Managed the multidisciplinary research programme contracted to academics and SMEs, responsible for research funding strategies, developed IP and patent applications and arranged relevant contracts
- Led the project to rebrand the company's core product to fit predicted global needs, developing global market entry strategies and investigating appropriate business partners for key target territories
- Managed specialist product QAQC across countries, arranging contracts, developing new procedures and training staff to ensure compliance and good understanding of technical product details
- Produced sales material and consumer information for US, Australian and Asian markets explaining the science to a wide audience. Produced new product information websites including two Korean language websites and promoted core product at expos, meetings and conferences
- Key liaison point for Australian and New Zealand government and funding bodies

### 2003 – 2006

#### Project Manager **TMO Renewables Ltd, Guildford, UK**

Project managed R&D programme of outsourced multidisciplinary research projects by teams of academic and SME scientific and engineering researchers to develop sustainable methods of converting waste into biofuels

#### Achievements

- Key contributor to the company's intellectual property portfolio and patent applications
- Significant contribution to successful DTI and EU Framework funding proposals and research projects

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## Responsibilities

- Project management of R&D programme, day to day management of external research contractors and plan and develop projects with research collaborators, including SMEs and leading academics
- Developed and wrote patent applications in conjunction with the company's patent agents
- Contributed to company documents and material including business plans, contracts, website and grant applications with responsibility for compiling and submitting key project reports to the DTI and EU
- Maintained database on competitor IP and relevant academic research into biofuels and biotechnology and provide the board and senior staff with brief monthly update reports

May 2005-Feb 2006 employed as a consultant to further projects and contacts in Australia and New Zealand

## 2002 – 2003

### Research Scientist

**Agrol Biotechnologies Ltd, Guildford, UK**

- Continued to work on the research project arising from my PhD working closely with the R&D team of scientists and engineers on the environmentally sound, renewable production of fuel alcohol from waste
- Furthered the progress made increasing ethanol production on a project pursuing new developments
- Required expertise in molecular genetics and cellular physiology. Techniques included DNA manipulation, microbiology, genetic transformations, fermentation culture, chemical analysis, assay development
- Trained and monitored work of research assistants and students working on projects

## Education

### 1998 – 2002

#### PhD in Biotechnology

**Imperial College, London, UK**

Project: Metabolic Engineering of Thermophilic Bacilli for Ethanol Production

Industrially sponsored studentship in the Dept of Biological Sciences, Supervisor: Dr D.J. Leak with Agrol Ltd Rerouted the metabolism of a lactic acid producing thermophile by gene knock out and the introduction of an ethanologenic enzyme then studied growth conditions to convert sugars released from lignocellulosic crops and waste plant matter into industrially useful yields of fuel ethanol

- Gained valuable industrial experience and learnt new techniques in molecular biology and fermentation
- Part of the Imperial College team in the national biotechnology YES business competition
- Key role in planning and running department social events including welcome events for new students
- Attended graduate school to develop team building and business skills
- Attended workshops and courses including those on scientific communication and scientific journalism

### 1994 – 1997

#### Biochemistry BSc Hons. 2.1

**University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, UK**

Studied cell biology, genetics, chemistry, enzymes and metabolism, physiology and experimental biochemistry

- Specialised in microbiology, molecular biology, molecular genetics and DNA manipulation
- Final year research project: Investigation of protein-DNA binding. Supervisor: Professor S. Busby
- Demonstrated the binding properties of an *E. coli* transcription activator to its promoter sites in the MelR operon using oligonucleotides carrying promoters with modified nucleotide sequences

## Publications

- Patent: Modified microorganisms with inactivated lactate dehydrogenase gene  
Publication number: WO 2006131734 (A1)
- Patent: Thermophilic microorganisms with inactivated lactate dehydrogenase gene for ethanol production  
Publication number: WO 2006117536 (A1)
- Heterologous expression of pyruvate decarboxylase in *Geobacillus thermoglucosidasius*.  
Thompson AH, Studholme DJ, Green EM, Leak DJ. *Biotechnol Lett.* 2008 Aug;30(8):1359-65