

Professor Melissa Little is an NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow and heads the Kidney Research Laboratory at the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland. Her research focuses on the molecular basis of kidney development, renal disease and repair. She is internationally recognised both for her work on the systems biology of kidney development and also for her pioneering studies into potential regenerative therapies in the kidney. This work has encompassed the characterisation of adult stem cells in the kidney as well as analyses of the embryonic progenitor population. Her work on the developing kidney has driven studies into the recreation of nephron stem cell populations via transcriptional reprogramming and directed differentiation of pluripotent stem cells. Throughout her career, Professor Little's achievements have been recognised by awards including the GlaxoSmithKline Award for Research Excellence (2005), the Australian Academy of Sciences Gottschalk Medal in Medical Sciences (2004) and an Eisenhower Fellowship (2006). She was the Chief Scientific Officer at the Australian Stem Cell Centre from 2007-8.