



ARC Training Centre for  
Portable Analytical Separation Technologies

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 23 March 2015

### Trajan and University of Tasmania Secure Top Postdoctoral Fellows for ASTech

Trajan Scientific and Medical (Trajan) and University of Tasmania (UTAS) are delighted to secure three top scientists to oversee innovative research programs at ASTech, the ARC Training Centre for Portable Analytical Separation Technologies, supported by the Australian Research Council (ARC).

ASTech is a collaboration between Trajan and UTAS combining industry knowledge and research to innovate in product design, development and manufacturing techniques.

Professor Emily Hilder, ASTech Training Centre Director said that she is looking forward to working closely with the three new Postdoctoral Fellows who were selected from a pool of applicants from around the world.

Dr Greg Barbante has a PhD in Electroanalytical/Synthetic Chemistry and an Honours in the development of sensors based on immobilised microcrystals, and has recent experience in the food industry, including HPLC and GC method development, and project management.

Dr Masoomeh Tehrani Rokh completed her PhD in Engineering in the field of Bio-MicroElectroMechanical Systems (BioMEMS) and microfluidics, a Master of Science in Microengineering and Nanoelectronics, and has extensive experience in microfabrication processes and facilities.

*“Dr Barbante and Dr Tehrani Rokh have started at the School of Physical Sciences facilities where I am based at University of Tasmania’s Sandy Bay Campus in Hobart,”* said Professor Hilder.

ASTech offers a fantastic career opportunity for researchers which includes unique industry experience. All Postdoctoral Fellows and PhD students will spend one of their three years within industry at Trajan and/or Trajan's partner organisations around the world.

Stephen Tomisich, Trajan’s Chief Executive Officer said, *“We are thrilled to have recruited these high calibre researchers for ASTech. Each has unique expertise that will complement R&D at Trajan, and this month we have welcomed Dr Lapierre at Trajan’s global headquarters in Melbourne to commence his industry placement.”*

Dr Florian Lapierre has a PhD in Micro and Nanotechnology in the field of sophisticated microfluidic device design, also a Master of Science and Technology in microfluidic systems and a Master of Engineering in scientific measurement and applied business. Florian has worked as an engineer consultant in biomaterial development and designing digital microsystems for pathogen detection.

Mr Tomisich said the development of new micro-materials could play a critical role in next generation portable analytical devices.

ASTech  
ARC Training Centre for  
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*“As Trajan make up half of the ASTech Steering Committee, we are pleased to provide an industry perspective, and additional support to ensure we could appoint the best candidates for these senior positions,”* said Mr Tomisich.

Professor Hilder encourages scientists to seize the opportunity while ASTech PhD scholarships are still available.

*“Applications will be accepted until all HDR positions have been filled, so budding scientists should visit the ASTech website and apply to join us in developing innovative separation technologies,”* said Professor Hilder.

#### **More Information**

ASTech [www.atech.org.au](http://www.atech.org.au)

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## **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

### **ASTech**

#### **ARC Training Centre for Portable Analytical Separation Technologies**

ASTech (Analytical Separation Technologies) is the ARC Training Centre for Portable Analytical Separation Technologies. Like the Aztec Empire which began as an alliance of three Nahua city-states, Tenochtitlan, Texcoco, and Tlacopan, ASTech is a triple alliance of academia, industry and government.

ASTech aims to develop new capabilities and technologies that have the potential to progress the deployment of portable separation science systems into society, as well as training the next generation of industry-ready researchers. This will lead to the development of technologies that will drive the development of new, portable and affordable analytical separation systems, through transformation of analytical innovations into real-world applications, such as point-of-care diagnostics and environmental monitoring.

ASTech is a partnership between University of Tasmania and Trajan Scientific and Medical, combining research and industry knowledge to innovate in product design, development and manufacturing techniques, contributing to a sustainable, globally competitive manufacturing industry in Australia.

ASTech [www.atech.org.au](http://www.atech.org.au)



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### **University of Tasmania**

The University of Tasmania is ranked in the top ten research universities in Australia and in the top two per cent of universities in the world. For 125 years, the University has provided a creative and stimulating environment, providing opportunities for our students to engage in an international learning experience. In addition to the more than 30,000 students, the University's community is strengthened by a network of more than 90,000 alumni spanning more than 120 countries, and is underpinned by collaborative partnerships with organisations that share its strategic outlook. While maintaining a distinctive Tasmanian identity, University programs and research are international in scope, vision and standards.

University of Tasmania [www.utas.edu.au](http://www.utas.edu.au)

### **Trajan Scientific and Medical**

Trajan aspires to bring together a range of global businesses in the fields of scientific and medical analysis that have a common bond; to focus on developing and commercializing technologies that enable analytical systems to be more selective, sensitive and specific for biological, environmental or food related measurements, especially those that can lead to portability, miniaturization and affordability.

Trajan Scientific and Medical [www.trajanscimed.com](http://www.trajanscimed.com)

### **Australian Research Council**

#### **National Competitive Grants Program - Industrial Transformation Training Centres**

The Industrial Transformation Training Centres is a scheme that will foster close partnerships between university-based researchers and other research end-users to provide innovative Higher Degree by Research (HDR) and postdoctoral training for the end-user focused research industries vital to Australia's future. The Program will continue to address research areas that are vital for, and assist with, Australia's future food storage, food processing, food manufacturing capabilities and product opportunities. In addition, the Program will target product design and development, manufacturing techniques, defence manufacturing and firm organisation and management.

ARC Industrial Transformation Training Centres [www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/itrp/centres\\_default.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/itrp/centres_default.htm)