

## IBM appoints Professor Iven Mareels as new Lab Director of IBM Research-Australia

**Melbourne - 20 Dec 2017:** IBM (NYSE: IBM) today announced the appointment of Professor Iven Mareels as Lab Director of IBM Research-Australia.

In the role, Professor Mareels will lead IBM's Melbourne-based research laboratory which focuses on accelerating research and discovery in areas including healthcare informatics, artificial intelligence, blockchain and quantum computing. He replaces Dr. Joanna Batstone, who is returning to the USA as Vice President, IBM Watson Cloud Platform, responsible for strategic accounts, assets and global delivery, after a successful 3-year tenure leading IBM Research Labs.

Professor Mareels joins IBM following a 20 year career at the University of Melbourne where he spent the past 10 years as the Dean of the Melbourne School of Engineering. He is a Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor at the University of Melbourne, holding the Chair of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, in recognition of his pre-eminence in research, teaching and leadership at the University.

"Iven is an eminent leader in the Australian research community," said Michael Karasick, Vice President of Global Labs, IBM Research. "He is also a strong advocate for the IBM Research and University of Melbourne partnership, particularly in the areas of artificial intelligence and health and life sciences research. His long heritage collaborating with IBM Research ensures he will be in a strong position to continue the lab's robust collaboration ecosystem."

"IBM's global network of twelve 12 research labs has long been an innovation engine that is admired by clients and partner research institutions across the world," said Professor Mareels. "The Melbourne-based IBM Research lab offers an incredibly unique opportunity to bridge academia and industry, while focusing on driving innovation that is relevant to local clients - and the broader Australian community. I have worked closely with the lab since its inception in 2011, and look forward to leading it into a new phase of innovation and research leadership."

Originally from Belgium, Professor Mareels is a published researcher in modeling, analysis and design of large scale systems such as electricity grid and water distribution networks. He has received numerous accolades for his contributions to engineering research and education, including being awarded a Centenary Medal in Australia (2003), and a Commander of the Order of the Crown in Belgium (2011).

### **About IBM Research - Australia**

The IBM Research Lab - Australia is based in Melbourne and was officially launched in 2011. Researchers have published work in the application of image analytics to detect [melanoma](#) and [eye disease](#), deep learning for the [prediction of epilepsy seizures](#) and [blockchain in banking and finance](#). IBM recently announced the [University of Melbourne as an IBM Q Network Hub](#), where the University will work with IBM Research to accelerate the use of quantum computing in Australia.

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