



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

MEDIA RELEASE

3 September 2019

2019 CEW Scholars: Raji Ambikairajah and Priscilla Rogers on their way to MIT

Chief Executive Women (CEW) announce the winners of two scholarships to study innovation at one of the world's top business schools, MIT Sloan in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Raji Ambikairajah, CEO of Folo and Priscilla Rogers, COO of Wintermute Biomedical will attend the *Driving Strategic Innovation* program at MIT|IMD in September this year.

Announcing the winner, CEW Scholarships Committee Chair, Colleen Harris, says: "Innovation is a key driver of productivity growth and therefore vital to Australia's long-term prosperity.

"This scholarship will help Raji and Priscilla take their strategic innovation skills to a whole new level. They will study with world-leading experts and further develop their ability to drive innovation within their respective companies.

"Acquiring the right skills at the right time can make all the difference in the careers of talented executive women. CEW's scholarship program supports the development of women leaders by helping them take that next step."

The winners

Dr Raji Ambikairajah is the Chief Executive Officer of Folo, a digital social enterprise that enables people to generate donations for causes they care about by shopping online. She leads the deployment of the company's technology platform, Folo is one of 6 social enterprises in the Pure Collective. Before Folo, Raji was the Chief Operating Officer of Women in Banking and Finance.

Raji holds a PhD in Electrical Engineering and has spent most of her career in the technology start-up and venture capital sectors. Raji is also an Ambassador for Room to Read, a global non-profit organisation that provides children in low-income countries with access to education.

Raji says: "I want the products and businesses I create, and the work that I do to make a positive contribution to society. I'm driven to build technology that addresses social issues and can democratise philanthropy.

"At MIT, I want to understand how to create a more cohesive innovation culture across all levels of the group. I also want to explore ways in which what we are building at Folo and across the group can be scaled efficiently to maximise global impact."

Professor Priscilla Rogers is the Chief Operating Officer of Wintermute Biomedical, an international biotechnology company focused on developing next-generation medicines to

treat life threatening diseases. In her role she is responsible for ensuring the operations of the company and its subsidiaries support biotech innovation and bringing new medicines to market. This includes driving company performance and growth and contributing to the innovation strategy of the company.

Priscilla is a highly motivated engineer, and experienced leader of industry-based technology innovation. She specialises in the research, development and commercialisation of next-generation solutions for real-world problems in the health sector.

Priscilla says: "I am really passionate about translating new innovations to market as quickly as possible, in order to provide real solutions for patients. The program at MIT will provide the latest insights and tools for developing cross-cutting organisational strategies for company growth and product marketing.

"Having the right innovation culture and frameworks is fundamental to the success and longevity of any organisation. The MIT program will provide strategies to help achieve that."

The scholarships

The scholarships allow Raji and Priscilla to attend the *Driving Strategic Innovation* program at MIT|IMD in September this year.

Driving Strategic Innovation is a joint program between MIT Sloan and IMD that brings together the latest technology research from MIT Sloan and the latest leadership knowledge from IMD. The program provides participants with the opportunity to learn how to manage innovation within their organisations. It knits together innovation, marketing and product development, business model opportunities, value-chain design, project execution and talent management in an end-to-end roadmap for achieving breakthrough performance.

The scholarships are part of the 2019 CEW Scholars program, which is helping 20 talented Australian women take their careers to the next level by providing opportunities to study at internationally acclaimed business schools.

ENDS

About Chief Executive Women (www.cew.org.au)

Chief Executive Women is the pre-eminent organisation representing more than 550 of Australia's most senior women from the corporate, public, academic and not-for-profit sectors. Its mission is "women leaders enabling women leaders". Through advocacy, targeted programs and scholarships, CEW works to remove the barriers to women's progression and ensure equal opportunity for prosperity.

About CEW Scholars (www.cew.org.au/scholarships)

The CEW Scholars program enables women leaders by supporting them at critical junctures in their careers, from their first management roles to top executive positions. More than 170 women have been awarded scholarships to business schools in Australia and internationally since CEW commenced its executive program for women leaders in 1992. In 2019, 20 scholarships will be offered for talented women to attend leadership courses at international business schools.

CEW Scholars program is funded through the CEW Annual Dinner and the generosity of sponsors including: PLATINUM SPONSOR: KING & WOOD MALLESONS. OFFICIAL AIRLINE SPONSOR: QANTAS. PREMISES PARTNER: CBRE. GOLD SPONSORS: ANZ, BHP, KPMG, NAB, QBE, TELSTRA. SILVER SPONSORS: ALLENS LINKLATERS, AMP, ASHURST, BCG, BROADSPECTRUM, COMMONWEALTH BANK, CELLARMASTERS, EGON ZEHNDER, EY, DELOITTE, GILBERT + TOBIN, GPT, HARVEY NORMAN, HEIDRICK & STRUGGLES, IAG, LENDLEASE, MACQUARIE, MICROSOFT, MIRVAC, SPENCER

STUART, SYDNEY AIRPORT, SUNCORP, WESFARMERS, WESTPAC GROUP and NINE ENTERTAINMENT

For further information, please contact: Lisa Jervis 0491 217 564, lisa@cew.org.au