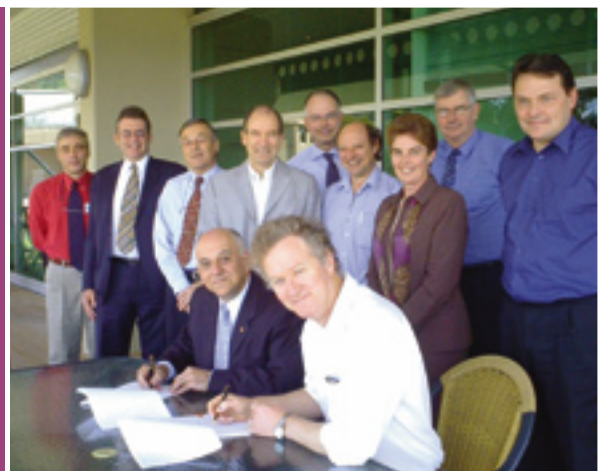


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ACPFPG signs international research deal for SA

The Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics Pty Ltd (ACPFPG) has signed a major research agreement with Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc, a Du Pont company, based in Iowa, USA.



Back: Dr Andreas Betzner (GRDC), Prof Neville Marsh (University of Adelaide), Prof Erich Weigold (ARC), Prof Geoff Fincher (ACPFPG), Dr Martin Miller (Bio Innovation SA), Prof Tony Bacic (University of Melbourne), Prof Kaye Basford (University of Queensland), Dr Alan Harrison (Agriculture Victoria Services), Prof German Spangenberg (Victorian Dept. of Primary Industries). **Front:** Mr Nicholas Begakis (ACPFPG), Prof Peter Langridge (ACPFPG)

The agreement brings a significant amount of research funding to South Australia, offering scientists working on cereal crops in both countries access to the best science available.

"This deal is the first major agreement with a large US commercial company for the ACPFG," said Professor Peter Langridge, Chief Executive Officer of the ACPFG.

"We have been operating for less than three years and this deal is an important achievement." Pioneer Hi-Bred International is one of the world's largest plant breeding companies.

The ACPFG was founded in late 2002, primarily with funds from the Australian Research Council, Grains Research Development Corporation and the South Australian Government.

Its prime objectives are research, training, education and communication, ultimately focussing on delivering commercial benefits to grain producers.

The SA State Government has a 22% shareholding in the ACPFG. Bio Innovation SA provided \$2 million support to the Centre and is the administering organisation for the Government's shareholding.

Other shareholders include the Grains Research and Development Corporation, the Universities of Adelaide, Melbourne and Queensland and the Victorian Department of Primary Industries.

Establishing research plans and developing linkages with national and international organisations have always been important aims of the organisation.

"We are now on the radar screen of big, international companies," said Michael Gilbert, General Manager of the ACPFG. "That has been made possible by the vision of our shareholders."

At least a dozen new scientists are expected to join the 100 already working at the ACPFG as a result of the deal, reinforcing the company's position as an internationally recognised crop genomics research facility.

Improving the ability of plants to cope with abiotic (environmental) stresses, such as drought, is a major target of the new collaboration. Three projects have been identified so far.

The first will research nitrogen use efficiency. The aim is to develop crop varieties that are more efficient in their use of nitrogen fertilizers – benefiting the environment and reducing costs for farmers.

The second project will investigate how plants manufacture cellulose – the major component of their cell walls. This will further understanding of how crops resist storm damage and how cellulose can be used, as a residue in straw, as an animal feed or a biofuel.

continued page 2...

The third project will focus on drought. Since different plants react to drought in different ways, the aim is to identify effective coping mechanisms within plants. By understanding how crops respond, drought tolerance can be improved.

The terms of the agreement give the ACPFG commercial rights to the collaboration's research outcomes in wheat and barley, while Pioneer will have rights to research outcomes in maize and soybean.

"This is an excellent opportunity for scientists in both organisations to develop outcomes relevant to the Australian wheat and barley industries and the US maize and soybean industries," said Professor Langridge.

"There is considerable scientific synergy between Pioneer and the ACPFG and we expect that this will be an important collaboration that will grow into new areas over time."

As a research agreement, the deal sets up a framework that means scientists from both organisations will meet regularly to review existing projects and develop new ones.

It also offers students from the ACPFG the opportunity to go to Iowa to work with Pioneer and bring knowledge and experience back to South Australia.

"The deal adds a whole new dimension to our research – giving it a global perspective," said Professor Langridge.

"It is also going to make a huge difference for us when we look for funding from other sources, both in Australia and overseas, because we already have a commercial partner lined up. It is attractive for investors."

"The State Government has provided us with \$12 million in research funding and support for our building," said Michael Gilbert. "This deal demonstrates that we can use that money to leverage funding from other sources."

For more information on the ACPFG visit www.acpfg.com.au.

South Australia's quiet success story

Professor Mathew Vadas is best known for his outstanding research credentials. He is lesser known for his accomplishments as a physician and entrepreneur.



Professor Mathew Vadas, Director of Human Immunology, IMVS

Hungarian born, Professor Vadas completed his degree in Medicine at the University of Sydney before undertaking a PhD at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (WEHI) in Melbourne.

His clinical interests in mechanisms of disease drove him towards the area of immunology. His PhD hooked him on research, and he has been carrying on a dual career ever since.

He held a Research Fellowship and Associate Professorship at Harvard University before returning to Australia.

In 1985, he made his move to South Australia. For the past twenty years Professor Vadas has been Director of the Division of Human Immunology at the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Sciences (IMVS). His contribution has been significant, adding to research knowledge and building a vibrant research environment.

By 1989, Professor Vadas and his colleagues established a pattern of sustained success with gaining grants – an indication of his research quality and reputation.

Lacking space to accommodate his research team, and sensing a need for an Institutional approach to research, his response was to source more funding and establish a research institute: the Hanson Centre for Cancer Research.

"It made sense for us to focus on cancer due to the combinations of skills on the campus, the intellectual and clinical challenges cancer provides, and the increasing awareness and public interest in this devastating disease," said Prof Vadas.

"Fortunately we were able to combine support from the IMVS and Royal Adelaide Hospital, the State Government and the Anti-Cancer Foundation of SA. In addition the Australian Cancer Research Foundation, also played a pivotal role in the establishment and growth of the Hanson Centre."

The Centre was stunningly successful under Prof Vadas' Directorship, growing annually in terms of staff, grants and publications, and most importantly international reputation.

In 2000, Professor Vadas concluded his activities as Director, but continued as Head of Immunology. He also gave more time to his entrepreneurial adventures.

Professor Vadas has been involved in the development of more than twenty patents. In 1999, he founded Bionomics Ltd with Professor Grant Sutherland and co-chaired the company's Scientific Advisory Board.

He stepped down in 2003 to take up the Chair of another company he founded, Cryptome Pharmaceuticals. Both companies remain successful today – a significant achievement for any biotech.

His successes are the result of high quality research. In 2001, his work was officially recognised by the Thomson Institute of Scientific Information (ISI). Professor Vadas was awarded the Inaugural ISI Award Citation Laureate: recognising Australia's most cited scientists. He was one of only six Australian scientists who received awards in his area of research.

Professor Vadas has been cited for his 240 publications more than 15,000 times. On one publication alone he received 1120 citations – reflecting the impact his work has had on the world of research.

Professor Vadas remains at the helm of his Division (now on their fourth round of NHMRC Program Funding) and has taken a leading role in advancing Cancer Research nationally and internationally.

As a practicing physician he appreciates the co-location of the hospital and research institute in Adelaide, he is also proud of his research team and, of course, he enjoys the city's renown quality of life.

Science Amongst the Vines

International researchers were drawn to the Barossa Valley to enjoy the picturesque setting, world-renowned wines and most importantly, exceptional science.

The biennial "Science Amongst the Vines" conferences are designed to bring together leading thinkers to exchange ideas and expertise in a stimulating environment.

The November conference focused on "Signalling Networks" – delving into cellular pathways, which play a key role in human diseases such as cancer.

"Signalling networks involve a complex array of interactions," explained Prof Mathew Vadas, Co-Chair of the organising committee and Director of the Division of Human Immunology at the Institute for Medical and Veterinary Science (IMVS).

"The intent of the conference was to focus on recent research findings in the area, such as the interruption and initiation of signalling."



Attendees at 'Science Amongst the Vines'.

The conference was well attended by more than 100 researchers. The event attracted high profile international guests such as Professor Axel Ullrich (Max-Planck-Institute of Biochemistry, Munich), Professor Mike Waterfield (Ludwig Institute of Cancer Research, London) and Professor Anthony Wynshaw-Boris (University of California, San Diego). More than half of the attendees were from interstate or overseas.

The three day conference also offered an opportunity for South Australian researchers to showcase their research. Held at the Novotel Barossa Resort in the heart of the wine region, the event also gave interstate and international researchers a taste of fine South Australian wines.

Bio Innovation SA hosted an exclusive Leaders' Forum in the run up to the conference, allowing South Australians from academia and industry to network with international guests.

The "Designer Bioscience Networks" forum featured presentations from Prof Peter Klinken, Director of the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research and Prof Peter Shepherd, from the University of Auckland, who explained the importance of networks for research.

Australians recognise international research



Prof. Axel Ullrich, Prof. Mathew Vadas, Mr. Kevin Kelly. The Clifford Prize for Cancer Research superbly crafted by local glassblower Nick Mount.

The inaugural Clifford Prize for Cancer Research – honouring one of South Australia's supporters of medical research – has been awarded to Professor Axel Ullrich, of the Max-Planck Institute of Biochemistry.

"This prize is an opportunity for South Australians to recognise the best international researchers through a special award that is uniquely Australian," said Professor Mathew Vadas, Chair of the selection committee and the Director of Human Immunology at the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Sciences (IMVS).

The prize was awarded to Professor Ullrich on November 16 at the 'Science Amongst the Vines' conference held in the Barossa.

The Clifford Prize is named in honour of the late Robert Clifford, a former director of the IMVS.

The prize has been introduced to reward outstanding international achievement in medical research and was judged by a selection committee including local and interstate researchers.

For over 25 years Professor Ullrich has been a leader in gene-technology, translating basic scientific discoveries into medical applications.

In the 1980s his groundbreaking work led to the discovery of Herceptin - the first target-directed, gene-based cancer therapy for the treatment of metastatic breast carcinoma.

Prof Ullrich is the Director of the Department of Molecular Biology at the Max-Planck-Institute of Biochemistry and a visiting scientist at the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Singapore.

He has founded three Biotech companies - SUGEN Inc. (USA), Axxima Pharmaceuticals AG (Germany) and U3 Pharma AG (Germany).

In 2001, Time Magazine Europe named Prof Ullrich as one of the 25 "Tech leaders who are changing how we work, live and play".

For more information on the 'Science Amongst the Vines' conference and The Clifford Prize for Cancer Research, visit www.imvs.sa.gov.au/immunology/research/vines.

High Profile for SA at AusBiotech 2005

Crossing over from science to the corporate world was the focus of the prestigious Millis Oration, delivered by Dr Leanna Read, Chief Executive of TGR BioSciences Pty Ltd at AusBiotech 2005 in Perth.

Calling her keynote presentation "Crossing Over", Dr Read explained that she has personal and professional experience of the move from academia to industry.

"TGR BioSciences originated from a CRC – the Cooperative Research Centre for Tissue Growth and Repair," she said.

"It was considered one of the most commercially successful CRCs – it lived and breathed a commercial culture for 12 years. It imparted that expertise to TGR Biosciences when it was established in 2001."

In her presentation, Dr Read pointed out that six of the top 50 ASX listed companies have been run by scientists, now working in industries unrelated to their original field of expertise.

"Scientific excellence requires leadership and people management skills," she said, stressing however, that "crossing over" is not for everyone.

"You have to have a passion for applying research. If you don't have that passion then there's no point."

"If applying research does drive you, you can learn the rest by observing others. You can learn on the job."

The AusBiotech 2005 Conference attracted over 1200 delegates from Australia and overseas. More than forty representatives from South Australia showcased the state's research and commercial expertise in the bioscience sector. Bio Innovation SA coordinated a joint exhibit featuring seven organisations.

TGR BioSciences is a young, dynamic bioscience company poised for growth from its base in Adelaide's Thebarton Bioscience Precinct.



Dr Leanna Read giving the Millis Oration at AusBiotech 2005

As the company CEO, Dr Read's own career has made the transition from academia to a corporate environment. She is a physiologist by training with over 90 scientific papers to her name.

Her expertise in characterising bioactives in milk and other food derived products has proved invaluable at TGR BioSciences. One of the company's key products is a novel, milk-derived extract being tested for the prevention of oral mucositis: mouth ulcers induced by chemo- and radiotherapy.

"The AusBiotech Conference provides an excellent opportunity for companies to develop important linkages and learn from the experiences of others," explained Nicole Brackenridge, Public Relations Manager of Bio Innovation SA.

"And, the exhibition component of the conference allows companies to promote their technologies to the global community."

"It is a great opportunity for exposure and networking," Dr Read agreed saying "Conferences like this create opportunities that come to fruition later on."

Primed for Growth



Mr Mark McKenzie, General Manager of Primegro Ltd

Primegro Ltd has entered new market segments in Australia and the US, offering the company new opportunities for expansion.

The company's PrimeGRO™ IGF-I technology has been taken up by two key pig breeding companies in the US and is now being used by Hereford and Murray Grey cattle breeders in Australia for the first time.

"The technology is covered by international patents and is used by sophisticated livestock breeders," said Mark McKenzie, General Manager of Primegro Ltd. "It enables them to establish genetic breeding values for feed efficiency in their livestock."

Feed is the number one production cost for livestock producers. Primegro's technology means that breeders can give livestock a rating reflecting how efficient they are in terms of feed consumption and meat production. Animals with the greatest genetic potential for improved feed efficiency may then be selected in breeding programmes.

Primegro is based at Thebarton, in Adelaide's dedicated Bioscience Precinct.

Mr McKenzie sees the company's expansion into new market segments as an endorsement of its current strategic direction.

"Bio Innovation SA have supported us through grant applications and funding. They have also offered valuable strategic and planning advice over the past two years," he said.

"We are one of Australia's few profitable biotechnology companies. Moving into new segments means our business is expanding."

"We're looking for new people to work with us and new partners to support our growth. We expect to grow significantly over the next 18 months."

For more information on Primegro visit www.primegro.com.au.

Behind the Red Dot

The Mayne Pharma facility in Adelaide's North is challenging perceptions of the red dot brand.

'Mayne' is currently one of Australia's leading health care companies with interests in retail pharmacy, pathology and pharmaceutical manufacturing.

The recent demerger of the company in November has enabled the separation of the The Mayne Group into two distinct companies: Mayne Pharma, focussing on the development and manufacturing of pharmaceuticals; and Symbion Health encompassing pharmacies, diagnostic services and consumer products.

"The injectable business has been the most notable of Mayne Pharma's activities and certainly the largest part of our business," said Peter Schembri, Business Development Director at Mayne Pharma.



Mayne Pharma International: Vince Caretti (Site Operations Manager), Dr Angelo Morella (Innovations Manager), Peter Schembri (Business Development Director)

"The focus of our Salisbury site is development and manufacturing, focussed on oral pharmaceuticals and topical pharmaceutical products."

This is consistent with the site's historical manufacturing heritage – for over 150 years Faulding built a reputation as a successful, innovative South Australian company known for its products of similar focus.

One of Mayne Pharma's most profitable oral pharmaceuticals, Doryx (a tetracycline antibiotic), is produced at the site. They also produce other antibiotics, antifungals and respiratory products.

Mayne Pharma is one of the largest healthcare companies in Adelaide with more than 130 full time equivalents at the Salisbury site.

In addition to developing their own products, the site undertakes contract formulation and manufacturing. They deal with both small and large companies and their clients include international companies such as AstraZeneca.

"We have historically seen ourselves as a pharmaceutical company but I think, today, we would be seen as an extension of the biotechnology industry," said Mr Schembri.

"When biotechnology companies and researchers develop a novel compound they arrive at the stage where they need to make a pharmaceutical product. That's where we get involved."

'Getting involved' means more than simply providing contract manufacturing facilities. Dr Angelo Morella, Mayne Pharma's Innovation Manager at Salisbury regards the relationship as a collaborative one.

"Most biotechnology companies start off in academic institutions, where they have a discovery and all the initial work is done under non-GMP conditions," he said.

"But when you move into Phase I, II and III studies you need different quality standards. We give our biotechnology partners a questionnaire to tease out the information we need to assess whether we can take on the program, whether they need to do more work and how we can formulate and develop a product for them."

Mayne Pharma is one of the largest healthcare companies in Adelaide with more than 130 full time equivalents at the Salisbury site.

Dr Morella describes the partnerships as "hand in glove relationships", where both organisations learn from each other. The company's collaborative approach means it is already working with and talking to biotechnology companies based in South Australia and interstate.

Renewed support for the development of the Salisbury facility also means that Mr Schembri has his eye on international opportunities.

"Our site is becoming more aggressive in the marketplace internationally in terms of significant product development and manufacturing," said Mr Schembri.

"The facility is being recognised for its potential to accelerate the growth of the global Mayne Pharma business."

For more information on Mayne Pharma visit www.maynepharma.com.au.

SA bringing in research dollars

South Australian researchers have succeeded in gaining multi-million dollar research grants this year, putting the state on the map in terms of Federal funding.

This year's round of National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding saw South Australia receive over \$24 million – representing approximately 8.3% of the \$292 million awarded nationally.

Of the \$24 million awarded to South Australian recipients, approximately \$21 million was for Project Grants, representing more than 10% of all NHMRC grants in this category – the State's best performance since 2002.

The University of Adelaide fared best, with \$15.5 million, followed by Flinders University with \$6.5 million and the University of South Australia, with \$0.8 million.

The State's results for funding from the Australian Research Council (ARC) were as expected, with the share of 7.9%, on par with the State's population. In total, South Australia received \$28.8 million of the \$370 million awarded.

Particularly notable was an \$8.4 million linkage grant awarded to the University of South Australia. The grant, which is the largest linkage grant to ever be awarded, will enable the formation of the Australian Mineral Science Research Institute and will go alongside funding from the South Australian State Government and private industry.

Another of the linkage grants awarded to the University of South Australia was for a three-year project to develop novel vaccines using chicken virus vector technology.

Dr Hayball (UniSA's Samson Institute) and Dr Michael Brown (Royal Adelaide Hospital) are involved in improving vaccines for treatment of infections, autoimmune diseases and cancer. Their industry partner for the project is Melbourne-based Virax Holdings.

"It is this collaborative framework which has allowed us to test novel immunotherapeutic approaches to prostate cancer and other important diseases," Dr Hayball said.

In the recent round of ARC's Linkage Infrastructure Equipment & Facilities (LIEF) grants, South Australia was awarded a total of more than \$1.5 million. LIEF funding fosters collaboration and is for the establishment of national and international research facilities.

Flinders University received a substantial LIEF grant of \$800,000 for the enhancement of National Major Research facilities to support industry and research projects spanning nanotechnology and biological and material sciences.

The other three LIEF grants were awarded to the University of Adelaide and totalled \$785,000.

State funding has also been significant. Bio Innovation SA has awarded more than \$500,000 during 2005. Of this, \$50,000 was awarded to the University of South Australia to compliment an ARC-linkage grant.

Twelve companies and nine technologies from South Australian research organisations were recipients of Bio Innovation SA funding. The projects will assist the commercialisation of South Australian technologies.

For more information on Bio Innovation SA's granting schemes contact Bio Innovation SA on (08) 8217 6400 or visit www.bioinnovationsa.com.au.

Marketing, Money and Mayhem

September's Networking Forum broke traditional format to bring together four leading South Australian biotechnology companies for an informal panel discussion.

Bionomics Ltd, BresaGen Ltd, GroPep Ltd and Vet Biotechnology Ltd explained how they manage the elements they can control – marketing, management and money – and how they cope with the elements they can't – the 'mayhem' factor.

Chaired by Mr Chris Doudle, the Managing Director of Strategic PR, the panel acknowledged that their companies have had their fair share of mayhem in recent years with restructuring, acquisitions and integration.

Dr Deborah Rathjen, the CEO and Managing Director of Bionomics Ltd, explained that recent acquisitions have made marketing to investors a top priority. Over the past twelve months, Bionomics has had to dedicate more resources and time to marketing in order to position its new products and profile.

Mr Hugo Le Messurier, the General Manager of Vet Biotechnology Ltd, claimed their business development strategy had been influenced by their clients – sourcing existing technology to meet requests from customers.

The company, currently listed on the Newcastle Stock Exchange, is about to list on the ASX. As a result the company has adapted its marketing strategy to attract potential investors.

Dr Meera Verma, the Chief Operating Officer of BresaGen Ltd explained that the challenge has been to retain and build client confidence – BresaGen went through a period of voluntary administration earlier this year.

In speaking of finance, the priority for all three panellists was for investors to understand how biotechnology companies operate. Dr Verma was keen that the stock markets should regard biotechnology companies as a long, not a short-term investment.

They also agreed, however, that time was their greatest concern when they are implementing their marketing strategy, not money.

Looking ahead, the panel expected to see a period of consolidation in the Australian biotechnology sector. Bob Finder, the CEO and Managing Director of GroPep Ltd, expected to see the formation of 6 to 8 large, multi-national biotech companies in Australia within the next decade.

Adelaide Facilities

The Adelaide Proteomics Centre



Dr Peter Hoffmann, Director of The Adelaide Proteomics Centre

The Adelaide Proteomics Centre is a world-class, \$3 million state-of-the-art research facility based at the University of Adelaide.

Supported by funding from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation, the Australian Research Council and Bio Innovation SA, the Centre will be fully operational from February 2006.

“Our high quality facilities are important for South Australia,” said Dr Peter Hoffmann, the Director of the Centre. “They are essential in meeting the ongoing needs of high calibre cancer research and other medicinal research in the state.”

Proteomics is a powerful tool in the fight against cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, multiple sclerosis and other diseases, where research requires the observation of proteins at a molecular level.

It is the next step on from mapping the human genome: the large scale study of gene expression at protein level.

The Centre is equipped with the latest technology in mass spectrometry - including online and offline 2D chromatography – and 1D and 2D gel electrophoresis, with imaging and quantification capability.

It also has a MALDI TOF/TOF mass spectrometer: the best instrument of its kind currently operational in Australia.

The technology aims to detect expression differences at protein level. Diseased and non-diseased samples can then be identified and labelled and analysed.

The Centre also has free flow electrophoresis apparatus, to separate proteins. It is able to manage a dynamic range – detecting and analysing proteins even when they occur in low amounts.

Follow-on analysis, data management and evaluation are all carried out in-house using sophisticated software and high-performance computers.

The Centre uses ProteinScape for its database project management – a software programme recommended by the Human Proteome Organisation.

The facility has been developed to foster collaboration between scientists in the State and across Australia.

“Our Centre has outstanding Proteomics capability,” said Dr Hoffmann.

“We are interested in building partnerships with biotechnology companies and academia to support and advance our contribution in an important area.”

For more information about the Adelaide Proteomics Centre please email peter.hoffmann@adelaide.edu.au.

New Partnership for Clinical Development Services

Drug Development South Australia – launched at the AusBiotech National Conference in November - is a partnership between the State’s leading preclinical and clinical trial service providers, supported by Bio Innovation SA.

The aim is to present and promote the State’s capabilities locally, nationally and internationally, assisting biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies to access the world class facilities and services South Australian companies have to offer.

The partnership currently includes CMAX, Trident Clinical Research Pty Ltd, the Centre for Pharmaceutical Research (CPR) and vivoPharm Pty Ltd.

As an FDA-audited clinical research and bioanalytical facility, CMAX is recognised as Australia’s leader in conducting Phase I trials for a number of local and multi-national companies. It specialises in first in-human studies, and is also involved in numerous Phase II and III studies as an investigational site.

Trident is Australia’s leading independent clinical research organisation for the provision of Phase II-IV clinical services. It offers project management, monitoring (phase I-IV), data management, quality assurance services, medical writing, training and general consultative services.

CPR has international credentials and FDA experience. Its services include protocol development, statistical and pharmacokinetic analysis, interpretation of study results and professional report writing.

vivoPharm has earned a reputation for excellence as a preclinical service provider and is Australia’s first ‘one stop shop’ for efficacy, safety & toxicology, pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic studies. The company is known for its integrated approach and works successfully with major pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

Drug Development South Australia promotes South Australian service providers to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies worldwide. It also aims to strengthen the interface between basic studies, clinical research and manufacturing.

For more information on Drug Development SA visit www.drugdevelopmentsa.org.au.





Coming Events

31st Lorne Conference on Protein Structure & Function

Erskine on the Beach, Lorne
5-9 February, 2006
www.lorneproteins.org

Bio Asia 2006

9-11 February 2006
Hyderabad, India
www.bioasia2006.org

27th Lorne Genome Conference

Erskine on the Beach, Lorne
12-15 February, 2006
www.genome-conf.net.au

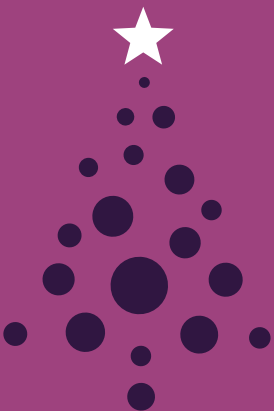
NZ Bio Conference - Biotech Without Borders

27-28 February 2006
Auckland, NZ
www.nzbio.org.nz

Australasian Plant Breeding Conference

Christchurch, NZ
18-21 April, 2006
www.apbc.org.nz

The Bio Innovation SA team wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year in 2006



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Make Plans for BIO 2006

Looking for a commercial partner, an investor or technology? Then BIO 2006 may just be the place to find it.

The world's largest annual biotechnology conference and exhibition, BIO 2006, is being held in Chicago from 9 - 12 April. With an expected attendance of 20,000 delegates, the event provides an excellent opportunity for South Australian companies and individuals to meet potential commercial partners and investors.

BIO 2006 will feature a Business Forum along with more than 150 conference symposia, exhibition and networking events. A special international program has been developed to promote biotech capabilities of a variety of countries and Australia features highly in this program.

Bio Innovation SA is coordinating a delegation from South Australia to attend this event and is currently seeking interest from the bioscience community. There are several options for participation and Bio Innovation SA can assist with determining the best option for you and your organisation. A number of special activities are currently being coordinated providing networking opportunities outside the BIO program.

For more information about participating at BIO 2006, contact Natasha Crichton, Industry Relations Manager, at natasha.crichton@bioinnovationsa.com.au.

Did You Know?

GroPep Ltd has completed the first stage in the \$3.5 million upgrade of its manufacturing facility - providing the company with sufficient capacity to meet demand for its Cell Culture products for at least the next five years. The upgrade included the addition of clean room space to increase flexibility to handle concurrent manufacturing campaigns. The capital works program, which was announced in April, is on target for completion in mid 2006.

BresaGen Ltd has signed a \$2.5 million contract with Psiron Ltd to undertake contract services in the mammalian cell-derived therapeutics area, over a two year period. This is a new area of business for BresaGen and will require a staged approach for the expansion of their services. A pilot plant will be constructed within the current premises enabling the production and purification of therapeutics from mammalian cells.

People on the Move

Adelaide Research and Innovation have appointed staff to three new Business Development positions. Dr Justin Rigden has taken up the position of Business Development Manager for the Agriculture and Wine technologies, Dr Elaine Stead will focus on Health Sciences in her position as Business Development Manager, and Dr Matthew Chong has become Business Development Associate of Health Sciences.

The University of Adelaide has appointed Professor Alan Johnson as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), who will assume the role in February 2006. Currently Executive Director, Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Australian Research Council (ARC), Professor Johnson succeeds Professor Neville Marsh who has served in this capacity since December 2003.