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## Boost for Biomanufacturing in South Australia

A new filling line at BresaGen Ltd's Thebarton facility will consolidate South Australia's position as a major Australian hub for manufacturing early stage products.



Dr Carol Senn, BresaGen's Production Manager

"Until now, it's been very difficult, inefficient and expensive for small batches of sterile product to be produced for pre-clinical and clinical trials, with companies sending them overseas for aseptic filling," said Dr Meera Verma, BresaGen's Chief Operating Officer.

"This new aseptic filling line enables us to provide a more flexible, cost-effective, full service to the Australian bioscience and drug development communities."

BresaGen will – from early 2006 – offer liquid fills with a full aseptic freeze drying capability to be considered in future, depending on commercial potential.

The purchase of the filling equipment has been possible through a co-contribution of \$200,000 through a Commercial Infrastructure Grant from Bio Innovation SA.

"We will be able to play to South Australia's strengths as a manufacturer of biotechnology products," said Dr Verma.

The State's strengths range from traditional pharmaceuticals - antibiotics, analgesics and dermatologicals produced by Mayne Pharma International and Hamilton Laboratories Pty Ltd - to peptides, antibodies and growth factors manufactured by GroPep Ltd and BresaGen.

BresaGen's new service creates a seamless transition between manufacturing and the strong pre-clinical and early phase clinical trials capabilities of South Australian companies like vivoPharm Pty Ltd, Centre for Pharmaceutical Research, CMAX and Trident Clinical Research Pty Ltd.

"This service has the potential to add 10 to 20 percent to our revenues, along with a number of high level scientific employment opportunities," said Dr Verma.

"It will also attract investment to South Australia, enhancing the state's national and international collaborations in the biomedical field."

**BresaGen Ltd is focussed on the development and production of recombinant protein and peptide based pharmaceuticals, and since re-listing on the ASX in December 2004 has continued to secure significant contracts with international customers. For further information, visit [www.bresagen.com.au](http://www.bresagen.com.au).**

## Message from the CEO

The end of the financial year has seen some significant developments in South Australia's biotechnology industry.

Bionomics Ltd has made an important announcement: its acquisition of Iliad Chemicals. The acquisition provides Bionomics with a more advanced series of potential drug candidates. It also builds on its recent acquisition of French company, Neurofit.

The company is now in a position to integrate its product development process and generate further high quality drug candidates. It is an exciting development and we'll cover it in more detail in our next edition of Bionews.

BresaGen's purchase of an aseptic filling line has huge potential for the company and the State in generating new business opportunities and this is covered further in this edition of the newsletter.

This year also saw two SA biotech companies – Micronix Pty Ltd and PharmaQest Pty Ltd – attract a combined \$4 million investment from pooled development fund Origin Capital to assist with commercialisation of their technologies. Micronix has since broken into the United States market with the launch of their CorTrak™ product.

In late 2004, we received the results from our second survey of the biotech industry in SA and found that revenue was up by 30% to \$165 million. Capital raising had doubled over the previous two years and the biomedical, devices and diagnostic sectors are, in particular, driving industry growth in the State.

Another of our core biotech companies, GroPep Ltd, has also gone from strength to strength, announcing several FDA approvals of biopharmaceuticals that use the company's cell culture products, and positive data for its infertility treatment. GroPep has also been one of the best performing companies on the ASX with an 84% increase in share price over the past 12 months. These results place the company in a very strong position for continued growth.

At the Thebarton Bioscience Precinct, the expanded site has been cleared and is now ready for development. Work will commence on Australia's first dedicated bioscience business incubator later this year. Its doors are set to open in 2006.

Bio Innovation SA was also delighted to host Baroness Prof Susan Greenfield – one of the Premier's Adelaide Thinkers in Residence last year. Her dynamism and vision injected our bioscience community with new ideas and inspiration and we look forward to welcoming her at our networking function in July.

In the environmental sciences space, South Australia continues to outperform. Dr Bo Jin from the Centre for Water Science and Systems at the University of South Australia, has now received five ARC Linkage Grants, four of these in biotech – an outstanding achievement.

As part of Bio Innovation SA's commitment to build a thriving, vibrant bioscience community in South Australia, we have awarded more than \$1.7 million in grants into the State's bioscience research organisations and companies in the last financial year.

We're pleased to announce the creation of our 32nd company – Tacnia Pty Ltd – in June 2005. Tacnia is an early stage biotechnology company developing a platform technology for the fabrication of highly ordered protein arrays.

We start the new financial year with the launch of BioCatalyst – our new streamlined grants program. The program is part of Bio Innovation SA's commitment to support the commercialisation of technology at every stage.

We are keen to hear from companies and researchers with ideas ripe for commercialisation, who may not have contacted us before, as well as those familiar with our work. Full guidelines are available on our website – recently updated ([www.bioinnovationsa.com.au](http://www.bioinnovationsa.com.au)).

In the next few months we also look forward to finalising the establishment of a biotech private equity fund, announced by State Premier Mike Rann at BIO 2005 in Philadelphia last month.

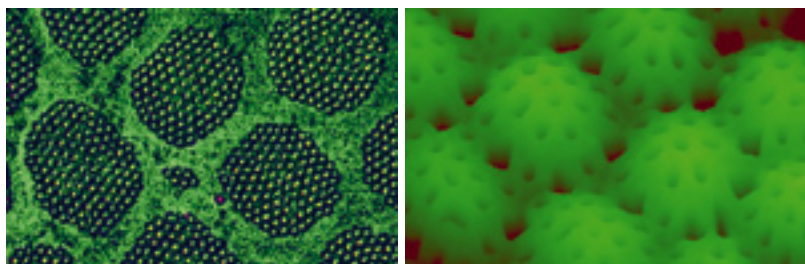
And our networking functions will continue to offer a forum for companies and researchers to meet, compare notes and make valuable contacts.

We hope to see you on July 21 at our next networking function: "Small Size, Big Impact – Nano Meets Bio".

I look forward to working with you over the coming financial year.

**Jurgen Michaelis**

## South Australia's Newest Biotech Start-up



Atomic force microscopy (AFM) image of diatom silica surface \*

South Australia's 32nd biotech start-up since June 2001 has now been created, with the assistance of Bio Innovation SA.

Tacnia Pty Ltd has developed a technique for capturing and immobilising modified protein molecules.

"The technique has a number of applications," said co-founder of the company, Assoc Prof Ray Rodgers, from the University of Adelaide.

"It is useful for fabricating microarrays, surface coatings and enabling the separation of one molecule from a biological mixture."

"There is a huge potential market for this among researchers in the biotechnology and nanotechnology sectors. There is the potential for Tacnia to expand to markets in Europe and North America."

Bio Innovation SA has supported the company by awarding a Business Development Initiative grant under the pilot version of BioCatalyst – its new grants program.

It also continues to offer commercialisation and business development advice.

"The support of Bio Innovation SA has been integral to the establishment of this company," said Assoc Prof Rodgers.

## Success in the US for South Australia

The world's largest biotechnology conference was held in Philadelphia, USA last month. For the South Australian contingent, BIO 2005 was a "resounding success".

"The Australian contingent stood out because they presented exceptionally well," said Bio Innovation SA's Marketing and Communications Manager, Natasha Crichton.

"Our companies made many useful contacts with international groups. Several of our academics presented posters at the Innovation Corridor and this has generated a number of follow-up opportunities."

"BIO 2005 was a huge success for South Australia," she said. "We showed that our biotechnology industry is thriving and is making its mark at an international level."

The Premier, Hon Mike Rann, accompanied thirty five delegates from South Australian universities, research bodies, companies and government departments.

With a prominent position on the Australian stand, South Australian delegates said they were well placed to make the contacts they were looking for. The Australian Pavilion received a very high level of traffic and almost "stopped" the exhibition during its annual wine tasting event on Tuesday afternoon.

They included large, multi-national pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

"We had nine very positive meetings that have resulted in companies taking a firm interest in developing our technologies further," she said.

"We anticipate that one of the contacts we made at BIO 2005 will result in a licence shortly."

Dr Meera Verma, the Chief Operating Officer of BresaGen Ltd said: "We had very productive discussions with a number of groups that could lead to some important deals over the next 6-12 months."

Dr Verma's trip to the United States also gave BresaGen the opportunity to pursue contacts and opportunities from previous BIO conferences.

"We also signed a follow-on contract with a client who I first met at BIO 2003."

"BIO is an amazing market place where people buy and sell technology, capabilities and skills. You have an opportunity to make contacts that can be built upon afterwards."

Professor Alec Morley from the Department of Haematology and Genetic Pathology at Flinders University received a scholarship from Bio Innovation SA to attend the conference.

His research group is developing molecular diagnosis for diseases of the blood and bone marrow – including leukaemia.

Monoquant Pty Ltd is commercialising the intellectual property generated by the research.

"BIO 2005 was a huge success for South Australia," she said. "We showed that our biotechnology industry is thriving and is making its mark at an international level."



As an opener to the conference, Bio Innovation SA hosted a welcome function for SA delegates and their invited guests. The keynote speaker was Dr Bob Ruffolo, the President of Wyeth Research.

"Dr Ruffolo gave an insightful, at times provocative, yet well-balanced presentation on the global pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries," Ms Crichton said.

"One message was that the cost and time taken for conducting clinical trials, for example, has become unsustainable and that more money needs to go back into those industries to develop products which will save lives."

Dr Ruffolo was also a keynote speaker at the first BIO plenary session and was involved in several other conference sessions.

A number of South Australian companies and researchers came away from BIO 2005 with valuable contacts and new business opportunities.

Dr Elaine Stead, the Business Development Manager of Health Sciences, at Adelaide Research and Innovation Pty Ltd, said she had meetings with 30 companies during the conference.

"We have commenced negotiations with several US companies to licence the IP," said Prof Morley.

"I learnt a lot at BIO 2005 about commercialisation and how biotechnology companies interact with each other when they are looking for partnerships."

"As a result of the scholarship I was able to have face to face meetings with two potential US partners – one in San Diego and one in Los Angeles."

"I also met another US company that showed interest in our methodology. We've been exchanging data by email since I got back."

**BIO 2006 will be held in Chicago in April next year. Bio Innovation SA will be co-ordinating activities for the South Australian delegation. If you, your company or organisation is interested in taking part please contact Natasha Crichton for more information: [natasha.crichton@bioinnovationsa.com.au](mailto:natasha.crichton@bioinnovationsa.com.au).**

# A Catalyst for Innovation

The BioCatalyst grants, launched by Bio Innovation SA this month, will give South Australia's biotechnology industry a competitive edge.

"Our mandate is to help build a vibrant bioscience industry in South Australia," said Dr Stephen Thompson, Bio Innovation SA's Business Development Director.

"We need to capitalise on our research strengths in the medical, agricultural and environmental sciences."

"We've revamped and expanded our existing grants scheme to make it more flexible, more streamlined and – we hope – more approachable."

BioCatalyst covers three priority areas: projects, people and infrastructure.

It is designed to plug a gap early on in the commercialisation process, where innovation in the biotech sector shows potential but is not yet eligible for other funding opportunities such as the federal government's Commercial Ready program.

"Within research institutes, universities and some of the smaller companies, we see great ideas and programs that haven't quite got to that level of comfort and assurance," said Dr Thompson.

"When the ideas and programs are viable, a relatively small amount of time and money – \$50,000 can make a big difference – can help them gain confidence and develop a commercially viable programme so they can go out and raise further funding."

The BioCatalyst grants replace Bio Innovation SA's previous schemes with a streamlined, user-friendly format.

Consultation with Bio Innovation SA is built into the process, offering companies and researchers the best chance of turning their ideas into commercial opportunities.

The program has four key funding streams: the Commercial Development Initiative Grant; the Business Development Initiative Grant; the Research Infrastructure Grants (the AIB Labs Infrastructure Fund); and the Commercial Infrastructure Grant.

BioCatalyst also incorporates Bio Innovation SA's investment in people: Commercial Management Grants and a new Entrepreneur in Residence Program are designed to attract the best people to South Australia.

"To make successful businesses, you need good programs, good people and the right equipment," said Dr Thompson.

"We want them to realise their full potential, creating jobs and increasing revenue for South Australia."

**Guidelines and application details are available at [www.bioinnovationsa.com.au](http://www.bioinnovationsa.com.au).**

## Commercial Development Initiative

Assists South Australian researchers, in the public sector, with proof-of-concept studies to get projects closer to commercialisation.

### Who can apply?

South Australian public research organisations, such as hospitals, universities and research institutes. Where these organisations have research commercialisation entities, applications should be made through these bodies.

### How much is available?

Grants of up to \$50,000 are available for early commercialisation work such as proof-of-concept research, intellectual property advice and market research.

## Business Development Initiative

Assists South Australian bioscience companies to develop their business.

### Who can apply?

South Australian biotechnology companies or individuals/organisations in the process of forming a South Australian biotechnology company.

### How much is available?

Grants of up to \$50,000 are available for company start-up work such as proof of commercial concept experiments; the generation of data to support patent applications; professional advice (legal, patent, marketing, financial, accounting).

## Research Infrastructure Fund

Provides grants for staff positions to support laboratory service facilities (AIB Labs) in South Australian research organisations.

### Who can apply?

Publicly funded research organisations in South Australia that meet the merit criteria. Commercially operated organisations and privately funded research organisations will be considered on a case by case basis. Preference may be given to applicants who have a strong biotechnology focus.

### How much is available?

Each grant is capped at one full-time equivalent salary, per application.

## Commercial Infrastructure Grant

Assists South Australian bioscience companies to buy equipment that has the potential to generate higher revenue, attract investment and create jobs.

### Who can apply?

South Australian biotechnology companies.

### How much is available?

The maximum amount that any one company may receive from the grant is \$250,000. Amounts above \$50,000 require matching funding on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

# BioCatalyst In Action

Over half a million dollars has been awarded to South Australian companies and researchers under a pilot version of Bio Innovation SA's BioCatalyst program.

The scheme has been run in pilot mode for the past four months and incorporated the Commercial and Business Development Initiative Grants as well as the Commercial Infrastructure Grant.

The Commercial Infrastructure Grant aims to put South Australia in the spotlight to increase collaboration with companies nationally and internationally.

The grant is designed for the purchase of new equipment enabling companies to expand their services and be more competitive in their field, while its aim is to help existing bioscience companies grow and diversify their business and increase employment and revenue for the state.



Dr Steven Polyak, University of Adelaide



Mr Mark McKenzie, Primegro Ltd



Dr Ralf Brandt, vivoPharm Pty Ltd

**Award** Commercial Infrastructure Grant

**Recipients** BresaGen Ltd and vivoPharm Pty Ltd

**Amounts** \$200,000 and \$90,350 respectively

Bresagen Ltd is committed to the commercial development of protein and peptide therapeutics. Its work includes the manufacture of bulk pharmaceuticals for the treatment of dwarfism, hepatitis, viral infections and some cancers.

"The \$200,000 Commercial Infrastructure Grant will expand our capabilities by contributing to the installation of an aseptic filling line designed for dispensing small to medium size batches of sterile products for clinical trials," said Dr Meera Verma, the Chief Operating Officer of BresaGen Ltd.

"This equipment is important because it meets a need in Australia's bioscience and drug development community."

vivoPharm has experienced rapid growth since its doors opened for business nearly two years ago.

The company takes compounds, singled out for their potential to combat cancer, and tests them on tumour cells in vitro (in a petri dish) and in vivo (in tumour models in rodents).

Today, its clients include biotech and, significantly, large multi-national pharmaceutical companies.

"We started with one service department, testing compounds in animal models," said Dr Ralf Brandt, vivoPharm's managing director and CEO.

"We also offered the extended testing of compounds using our in vitro systems. We never believed at the beginning of the company that those systems would become a key department and a key source of revenue for vivoPharm."

The Commercial Infrastructure Grant is funding equipment to expand vivoPharm's in vitro services and enable the company to test 1100 compounds for an international customer.

**Award** Commercial Development Initiative Grant

**Recipient** Adelaide Research and Innovation Pty Ltd

**Amount** \$45,957

Dr Steven Polyak and Professor John Wallace of the Department of Biochemistry received their grant through the University of Adelaide's commercialisation company, Adelaide Research and Innovation Pty Ltd. They were one of three groups at the university to be successfully awarded under the pilot scheme.

"As a researcher it can be difficult to obtain funding to do research which allows us to take the next step from the bench to commercialisation," said Dr Polyak.

"What this grant allows us to do is to concentrate on that essential research work and also to pursue commercial opportunities."

"For a company to be convinced that the project has merit, you need to show more than just a small amount of data," he said.

"We have a good idea, we have some data to show it works, but we need to do further research to actually prove the concept and this grant will allow us to achieve this."

**Award** Business Development Initiative Grant

**Recipient** Primegro Ltd

**Amount** \$20,300

Primegro Ltd is one of five South Australian companies to be awarded a grant under the pilot version of the BDI.

Primegro Ltd will use its grant to help build new customer relationships and facilitate the validation of its technology in North America.

"We have a technology that assists sophisticated livestock breeders to establish the genetic potential - the feed efficiency - of their seed stock," said Mark McKenzie, the general manager of Primegro Ltd.

"Feed is the number one cost for livestock producers and there are limited alternatives to improve feed efficiency genetically."

"The US is the key market for us because it has the largest and most sophisticated livestock breeding industry."

"This grant has allowed us to speed up our commercialisation plans in the US by 6-12 months."

# Bred for Success

Until last year, Dr David Tivey didn't think of himself as a 'horsy' researcher. His research, since he graduated from the University of St Andrews in Scotland, had focussed on the stomachs of pigs and poultry, not horses.



"I have begun to care passionately about horses," said Dr David Tivey. "And we've tried it in chickens and rats. Every animal where we've tried it so far, it works."

"It" is a breath test that has the potential to revolutionise the horse-racing industry. The test detects Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome – or EGUS – which is known to affect nearly ninety percent of racehorses.

In some horses the syndrome can be debilitating, causing colic, weight loss, poor appetite and – crucially, in the racing industry – impaired performance.

"If you have a stomach ache, you wouldn't like to run down the road," said Dr Tivey.

"There is a lot of debate as to whether or not gastric ulcers affect performance, but I think if you're talking about elite athletes you're pushing them to the limit. Anything which is not quite right can detract from their performance."

Racehorses have a higher risk of developing EGUS because of their lifestyle. Since horses are 'designed' to graze all day, their stomachs produce acid to aid digestion. If food is withheld – during training and competition, for example – that acid can turn on the stomach lining, causing ulceration.

Some estimates put the cost of EGUS to the horse racing industry at \$200-\$300 million dollars per year. The problem, until now, has been accurate diagnosis.

"At the moment the majority of people detect it by clinical signs that the animal doesn't appear quite right. It is off its food, it may have a bit of diarrhoea."

"Then they try treating it with an ulcer drug and if it gets better, then it's assumed the horse had an ulcer," said Dr Tivey.

A more reliable method has been endoscopy, where a 3.5 metre scope is passed down a horse's throat.

"At the last count there were only four or maybe five 3.5 metre endoscopes in Australia. Given the number of racehorses registered to train – around 35,000 in the thoroughbred arena – then endoscopy is not really an option."

The breath test is accessible and simple. It comes with a mask, tubes and a dose of sugar. Here lies its ingenuity.

"The technology was developed with the Women's and Children's Hospital – the Department of Gastroenterology," said Dr Tivey.

"They were doing studies in rats as part of their investigations into gastrointestinal disorders in babies and young children."

"Dr Ross Butler from the Women's and Children's contacted me and showed me his results."

The meeting led to a collaboration which paved the way for the equine breath test. Research is continuing at the Women's and Children's to investigate human applications for the test – monitoring the intestinal health of children undergoing chemotherapy, for example.

The equine version works by checking how much <sup>13</sup>C – a non-radioactive carbon isotope present in sugar – is exhaled in a horse's breath. The higher the levels of <sup>13</sup>C, the healthier the horse's gut. Low levels of <sup>13</sup>C are an indicator of EGUS.

"The test saves time and money," said Dr Tivey. "The big thing for trainers when it comes to gastric ulcers is the loss of training days. Getting horses to race fitness is actually quite expensive and it could take an extra week to get them ready. It all costs money."

"The test is also simple to administer, you don't have to sedate the animal as you do with endoscopy. It is certainly safer and it is something that could be done on a weekly basis."

Dr Tivey set up Veterinary Research Synergies, at the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy campus in May 2004, to develop the test for commercialisation.

VRS is working with another South Australian company, Veterinary Biotechnology Ltd, to commercialise the breath test for the horse industry.

"The pre-clinical trial has just started and we expect to get a research grade product out of that probably within six months, which will tell us whether or not we have gut damage in a horse," said Dr Tivey.

The main market for the test, initially, is expected to be pharmaceutical companies and nutrition suppliers – keen to use the technology to prove that their product is effective in tackling the syndrome.

**For further information about VRS, contact Dr David Tivey at [david.tivey@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:david.tivey@adelaide.edu.au).**

## Did you know?

- Prof Max Brennan has been appointed as South Australia's Chief Scientist. Prof Brennan, a distinguished physicist and a past Chairman of the Australian Research Council, will co-ordinate scientific research and development in the State and will also Chair the Premier's Science & Research Council.
- With over 4 million hits per year, the Bio Innovation SA website has had a facelift to keep pace with demand and put the State's bioscience sector in the spotlight. The new site went live on 17 June and features a bioscience directory, job noticeboard, events calendar, RSVP facility and major equipment and capabilities directory. Visit [www.bioinnovationsa.com.au](http://www.bioinnovationsa.com.au).
- Mr Peter Schembri has recently moved to Mayne Pharma International to the position of Business Development Manager. Prior to this, Peter was a Business Development Manager at Adelaide Research and Innovation.

## South Australia's New Fast Track

TechFast plans to live up to its name. Its mission: to connect business with technology, speeding up commercialisation. Expectations are high that biotechnology companies and researchers will be among the first to benefit in South Australia.

Simon Edwards has barely stopped since TechFast, a new national pilot program funded by the federal government's Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, was rolled out across South Australia in April.

As project manager, his job is to find SME's who are hungry for new technology, and identify researchers who have the know-how. His aim is to put 7-8 South Australian companies through the program by June 2006.

Mr Edwards said that he has spoken to between 55 and 60 companies already.

TechFast is an initiative of the Australian Institute for Commercialisation (AIC): a national, not-for-profit company set up to improve Australia's ability to commercialise its research and development.

The idea is straightforward. SMEs need technology to expand their businesses and remain competitive. Researchers have the know-how. TechFast brings them together.

The program works by finding SME's with a track record in product and business development, which are ready to embrace new technology. Once their needs are identified, a match is sought from a national database of researchers, compiled by the AIC.

The SME pays \$3000 to enter the program, matching \$3000 contributed by TechFast.

Once a technology match is made, the SME contributes 20 percent of costs, with TechFast covering the remaining 80 percent, up to \$100,000. These costs cover the transfer of the technology and the creation of a commercialisation plan.

"Medical instrumentation is probably a really good example, of where there could be very strong TechFast linkages in South Australia."

Of the 7-8 South Australian companies that the AIC expects to put through TechFast over the next twelve months, Mr Edwards expects 2-3 of them to be in the biotechnology sector.

### To become a TechFast candidate a company must

- be an SME based in Australia
- be financially stable and able to fund their portion of the program
- have a track record of product and business development
- know their market
- have experience and be willing to embrace technology
- be ready to partner with a research organisation
- have growth and export potential

### To register with TechFast, researchers must

- be based in Australia
- be part of the public research sector
- have intellectual property, technology or know-how that can be commercialised
- be ready to explore partnership with SMEs

**For more information contact Simon Edwards at [simon.edwards@ausicom.com](mailto:simon.edwards@ausicom.com) or visit [www.ausicom.com](http://www.ausicom.com) or [www.techfast.com.au](http://www.techfast.com.au)**

## Opportunity Knocks

Over 160 students, academics and businesspeople came to the 2005 AusBiotech Careers Spectacular, held in May.

"South Australia is the home of one of Australia's first biotechnology companies and the home of one of the fastest growing biotech sectors in Australia" said Peter Bradley, Chair of the AusBiotech branch in South Australia.

"This event provided students an opportunity to see the biotech industry in South Australia as a broader career prospect than they might have previously thought."

Organised by AusBiotech, Bio Innovation SA was one of the principal sponsors, along with Kelly Scientific Resources.

The message was clear: working overseas offers valuable experience, but to have a successful career, you don't have to stay there.

"It's a global market," said George Varkanis, the Commercial Director of Bio Innovation SA, "there are opportunities outside Australia, but there are opportunities in South Australia too."

In his presentation, George Varkanis explained that the industry employs 200,000 people worldwide, with 6,000 jobs in Australia. There are opportunities in intellectual property, legal affairs, communications,

finance, human resources and IT as well as areas synonymous with the biotech sector: R&D, manufacturing and business development.

Denise Furness, one of the panellists at the event, said she's become a "convert" to South Australia, since she moved here from Melbourne to study for a PhD at CSIRO.

"I applied for PhDs in Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne and Tasmania. I chose South Australia because I wanted to work with the best people," she said.

Kok-Jhoon Wong, manager of Neubody Pty Ltd, an antibodies manufacturer and supplier based at the Adelaide University Research Park in Thebarton, said the event is an ideal opportunity for students to make contacts that could lead to successful careers.

"Students need to get themselves noticed and advertise their skills," he said. "This is an opportunity for them to talk to people they are interested in. It allows them to take the initiative and meet potential employers."

**For further information about future AusBiotech events, visit [www.ausbiotech.org](http://www.ausbiotech.org).**



AusBiotech organisers Dr Helena Ward and Mr Peter Bradley



## Coming Events

Small Size, Big Impact – Nano Meets Bio™

21 July  
Grainger Studio,  
91 Hindley Street, Adelaide  
[www.bioinnovationsa.com.au](http://www.bioinnovationsa.com.au)

Australian Biotech Summit  
26 – 27 July  
Convention & Exhibition  
Centre, Sydney  
[www.acevents.com.au/bio2005](http://www.acevents.com.au/bio2005)

AgBio Carnival 2005  
15 - 16 August  
Plant Research Centre  
The Waite, Adelaide  
[www.ausbiotech.org](http://www.ausbiotech.org)

Ausbiotech 2005  
20 - 23 November  
Perth  
[www.ausbiotech2005.com](http://www.ausbiotech2005.com)

Communications Consultant  
Sharon Mascall, Making Sense  
Communications

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## Networking Success



Dr Melissa Brasted, Dr Hilton Kobus, Dr David Caldicott, Mr Chris Pearman, Dr Stewart Walker

The "CSI Adelaide – Forensics in South Australia" Networking Forum, attracted an audience of almost 300 people, who listened to four high-profile South Australian forensics speakers.

Dr Hilton Kobus, the Director of the SA Forensic Science Centre, chaired the scientific presentations and was the first to make the link between forensics and biotechnology.

"The biotechnology industry should be aware of forensic science as a possible application for its research," he said.

Mr Chris Pearman, Manager of Molecular Biology at the Forensic Science Centre who explained how DNA technology is transforming the way that law enforcers fight crime.

Dr David Caldicott, a research fellow in the Emergency and Trauma Department at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, explained why pill-testing technology is crucial in combating the ill-effects of recreational drug use among South Australians.

Finally, Dr Stewart Walker, Head of Forensic and Analytical Chemistry at Flinders University, looked to the future and explained how the development of bio sensors could transform the way that

police identify suspects and even check suspect substances.

Prof Dudley Pinnock, Director of Microbial Products Pty Ltd, and a "regular" at the Forums, said that the events are very useful in recruiting casual laboratory staff.

"If I'm in Adelaide and there's one on – I always go. I like to chat to people and find out what they're doing in terms of R&D and they're helpful for meeting potential staff."

The next Networking Forum will be held on July 21 at the Grainger Studio, 91 Hindley Street, Adelaide.

Called "Small Size, Big Impact – Nano Meets Bio", the focus will be on nanotechnology. The speakers will include Baroness Susan Greenfield, chair of the UK's nanotechnology initiative, Professor John Ralston, Director of the Ian Wark Research Institute at University of South Australia and Gavin Rezos, Managing Director of pSivida, Australia's largest nanotechnology company.

**To find out more about the Networking Forums visit [www.bioinnovationsa.com.au](http://www.bioinnovationsa.com.au).**

## Prof Ralston Elected to Academy of Science



Professor John Ralston, a presenter at Bio Innovation SA's Networking Forum on July 21, has recently been named as one of 16 of Australia's leading scientists to be elected to the Australian Academy of Science.

Prof Ralston is a Professor of Physical Chemistry and Minerals Processing at the University of South Australia and Director of the Ian Wark Research Institute, a National Centre for Nano and Biomaterials.

The Centre's core areas of expertise include bio and polymer interfaces; colloids and nanostructures; minerals processing; and material and environmental surface science.

Prof Ralston's election to the academy recognises his significant contributions to science including specialty areas of physical chemistry, colloid and surface chemistry, and the static and dynamic wetting behaviour of solid surfaces.