ADELAIDE
bio news

In this issue

DECEMBER 2006

US breakthrough for RianCorp The South Australian company launches its laser medical device – now FDA approved - in Nashville.

RianCorp "stole the show" at the National Lymphoedema Network Meeting in Nashville last month with a low level laser device that transforms the lives of women recovering from breast cancer.

Executive Director of RianCorp Ann Angel, with Prof Neil Piller of Flinders University (centre) and Richard Walmsley, RianCorp Director.

Now approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, the technology offers RianCorp access to the lucrative US market, where 3 million people suffer from lymphoedema.

Up to 30 percent of women recovering from breast cancer develop the debilitating condition, which continues to be a mystery for the medical profession. It is not known why the arms and legs of sufferers swell, as fluid fails to drain from the lymphatic system.

"South Australia is a world leader of research in this area," said Ann Angel, Executive Director of RianCorp.

"Lymphoedema research at the University of Adelaide goes back almost two decades and has continued more recently at Flinders University. But it's only been recognised in the US since the late 1990s."

RianCorp developed its low level laser treatment device in 1986. Supported by a $100,000 grant from Bio Innovation SA and an AusIndustry Biotechnology Innovation Fund grant, the company completed clinical trials in 2002 and began work on gaining approval to export the technology.

But despite the evidence – swelling and water retention decreased dramatically in 30 percent of patients using the device in clinical trails – it took five years, five rejections and three appeals to gain FDA approval.

"The FDA likes to review early clinical data before you start clinical trials," said Ms Angel. "In our case that became a barrier, because we approached the FDA once the trials were complete."

RianCorp also learnt that success can depend on finding the right FDA consultant, to act as a guide through the Administration's complex appeals procedures.

Another barrier was RianCorp's uncertainty as to the precise mechanism of action of the device. It emits infra red laser light at very low levels and appears to energise cells and speed up metabolic processes, without creating heat in body tissue.

"When we presented our data to upper management at the FDA earlier this year they said, 'the statistical analysis demonstrates that the laser is effective,'" said Ms Angel.

With FDA approval awarded in October, RianCorp's aim is to execute plans to meet the demand for the device in the US and to invest further in mechanism of action studies. "Nashville was the perfect launch pad for us. We know the market is there. There are millions of patients suffering from lymphoedema worldwide and our technology is being recognised as an important treatment."

For more information on RianCorp, visit www.riancorp.com.

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South Australia – Strengthening vaccine research & development

Biopharmaceutical company Vaxine Pty Ltd moves its operations - including R&D - from Canberra to Adelaide.

Vaxine's research team, based at the Flinders Medical Centre (FMC), develops vaccines to treat and prevent a range of infectious diseases in addition to cancer and autoimmunity.

The team is led by Professor Nikolai Petrovsky, Director of Endocrinology at FMC, who has a background in medicine, clinical trials and biomedical research.

"The move to South Australia has given us the opportunity to access researchers and scientists, who are first class in their area of expertise," said Ted Stapinski, CEO. "We now consider ourselves to be an Adelaide company."

Vaxine's current major focus is on vaccines for influenza and Hepatitis B, with other areas of interest including malaria, Japanese encephalitis, diarrhoeal illnesses and Q fever. Its most advanced vaccine product prevents the onset of Hepatitis B infection and is currently undergoing Phase I/II clinical trials.

"The vaccine performed beyond our expectations in Phase I human trials, led by Professor David Gordon, Head of Microbiology and Infectious Disease Department at Flinders Medical Centre," said Professor Petrovsky.

"Even without optimisation, it gave similar rates of protection as existing vaccines, without any of the typical side effects, and with excellent T cell stimulation." T cells are the major white blood cells that act as the brains and memory of the immune system. They are able to remember and attack infections, which the body has been exposed to before.

Many existing vaccines are unable to stimulate the T cells, leaving the immune system more vulnerable to infection. Vaxine's platform technology - a family of compounds, called adjuvants – stimulate the T cells and boost the immune response to bacterial or viral proteins.

"The preclinical and clinical trial data – generated by our research teams in Adelaide – show that Vaxine's products have the potential to revolutionise the way diseases are prevented and treated," said Professor Petrovsky. Vaxine's adjuvants are derived from the roots of the colourful dahlia flower.

There is growing international interest in the technology: Vaxine already has strong collaborations with the US National Institute of Health plus leading vaccine companies and institutes in Japan, India, Mexico and Brazil, amongst others.

Vaxine expects to start Phase I/II clinical trials of its adjuvanted influenza vaccine in Adelaide, early next year. Professor Petrovsky is now working to establish a National Vaccine Centre, within the Flinders precinct. The Centre has the potential to become a focus for vaccine development in Australia.

The company is also working with BresaGen – based at the Thebarton Bioscience Precinct – to manufacture vaccines and adjuvants to GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) standards.

For more information on Vaxine Pty Ltd, visit www.vaxine.com.au.

International Pharma scopes AusBiotech 2006

Eight of the world's top ten pharma companies by revenue were represented at the National AusBiotech Conference at Darling Harbour last month.

The 350-strong international delegation included representatives from Boehringer Ingelheim, Servier, Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, Roche, Merck, Wyeth and Eli Lilly.

The world's largest biotech companies, Amgen and Genentech were also represented at the Conference, which attracted a total of 1300 delegates.

AusBiotech Business Development Manager Glenn Cross said the strong international presence indicated an increase in interest about the Australian sector.

"We've experienced our largest international attendance yet, with large delegations from the US, Canada, United Kingdom and New Zealand," he said.

Members of the South Australian delegation with AusBiotech CEO Dr Anna Lavelle (5th from right), in front of the winning Exhibition Booth.

The South Australian Exhibit, which included displays from Mayne Pharma Ltd, the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics Pty Ltd, *vivo*Pharm Pty Ltd, BresaGen Ltd, IMVS/Hanson Institute was awarded 'Best Exhibit' at the closing reception by Dr Anna Lavelle, Chief Executive of AusBiotech.

AusBiotech 2007 will be held in Brisbane from 21 - 24 October, 2007. For more information visit www.ausbiotech.org

$65 million investment agreement for wine research

South Australia's leadership in wine research has been boosted by a seven-year investment agreement between the Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation (GWRDC) and the Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI).

The agreement will see about $65 million of industry R&D levies and Australian Government matching funds directed towards outcomes that will benefit Australian grapegrowers and winemakers across Australia.

Executive Director of the GWRDC, Dr Jim Fortune said that an improved understanding of the market and long term investment in innovation would build on the wine industry's strengths.

"It is great to see the industry engagement with the opportunities presented by strong R&D and extension activities at a time when commercial pressures are pretty tough. It is a sign of the maturity and strength of grapegrowers and winemakers that they see continued innovation as key to their future success in domestic and global markets," Dr Fortune said.

Under the agreement, the AWRI will investigate factors that contribute to styles of wine preferred by different market segments; the capacity to eliminate faults; and new technologies to enhance Australia's competitiveness and reputation as a reliable supplier of high quality wine.

AWRI's Managing Director, Professor Sakkie Pretorius, said the organisation, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, now employed more than 80 people and enjoyed an international reputation in wine science.

"In taking a long term outlook, the AWRI has developed a Business Plan, and complemented this with a Seven-Year Research, Development and Extension Plan. This provided the GWRDC and the AWRI with a strong basis for the research agreement, and guidance to other parties who might co-invest or collaborate with the AWRI," he said.

"Research agreements such as this give major providers of R&D confidence to plan their activities and commit to projects that are demanding on resources and might be of a long term nature. We have set ambitious targets to benefit the Australian wine industry, and we look forward to working with the GWRDC to deliver these outcomes."

For more information, email Rae Blair of the Australian Wine Research Institute at rae.blair@awri.com.au.

Intelligent Hospitals

A clinical information management system designed by South Australia's Alcidion Corporation is improving hospital care, saving lives.

There are 12,000 preventable deaths in Australian hospitals every year - according to a national health care study. The causes can include medication errors and key information not being available when treatment decisions are made.

There is also pressure on the emergency departments (EDs) of public hospitals. Demand in Adelaide is growing by 15-20 percent a year, with emergency doctors across Australia reporting similar workload strain.

"Doctors are under stress, there are already clinical staff shortages and the future supply of medical staff is unlikely to ease the burden," said Ray Blight, Chief Executive of Alcidion Corporation.

"Our system alerts doctors to the clinical risk associated with specific patients and then provides guidance on treatment options as they make urgent, complex decisions."

Mr Blight recognised the need for an intelligent, computer based information system for hospitals when he was the Chairman and Chief Executive of the South Australian Health Commission in the 1990s.

He teamed up with Dr Malcolm Pradhan, a University of Adelaide graduate in medicine, who also holds a PhD in decision theory from Stanford University in the US. Together, they have designed a system that shows the progress of patient care in a user-friendly, touch screen format.

Urgent results are colour coded, to draw the attention of medical staff and doctors are offered access to protocols, reminding them of standard checks and procedures when dealing with common conditions.

"We work with clinical experts to embed their expert knowledge in our system. It is then available to all clinical staff in real time, at the point of care, in a way that everyone in the emergency department can understand," said Mr Blight.

Fully integrated with hospitals' pathology and radiology facilities, the system can guarantee that no test is ever forgotten or ignored: studies have shown that 40 percent of tests ordered in emergency departments are never read. The Royal Adelaide and Royal Melbourne Hospitals are already using the system and two further hospitals in Victoria are about to install it.

The company's staff is growing as a result of its success: Alcidion now has 10 full-time employees, including senior system developers and a biostatistician. Its turnover doubled last year and it is working on the export of its system to Europe and North America.

"Doctors and nurses are busy professionals who need technology to support them in making difficult decisions under pressure," said Mr Blight. "Alcidion technology delivers decision support information to doctors so that they can make the right decisions, at the right time, with the right support."

For more information on Alcidion Corporation, visit www.alcidion.com.au.

Telstra Business Award for Bioscience industry leader

Dr Meera Verma, the Chief Operating Officer of BresaGen Ltd, is a 2006 Telstra Business Woman of the Year.

Dr Verma has won the Awards' Private and Corporate Sector category in South Australia, which recognises women who are outstanding in their industry. "I am delighted to be recognised for my efforts and those of my team," said Dr Verma.

"In an ideal world there would be no need to make an award on the basis of gender. However, there is still significant disparity in the representation of men and women at senior management level, so an award publicising women's achievements in industry is important."

Since 2003, Dr Verma has overseen the restructure and transformation of BresaGen Ltd. Today, the company has a reputation for excellence in the development and manufacture of recombinant protein and peptide pharmaceuticals. In August, the US pharmaceutical and medication delivery company Hospira Inc. made a $20.7 million bid for BresaGen, offering shareholders a premium of 47 percent on their holdings.

Dr Verma began her career with BresaGen in 1987. With a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Adelaide, her move from academia to industry was motivated by a desire to have children and balance her life as a working mother.

"At that time there was more flexibility in industry than there was in academia. My first job with the company was part-time, running workshops for botanists and medical professionals on recombinant gene technology. It was early days in molecular biology at the time."

Dr Verma designed the workshops herself, from writing the content to designing publicity flyers. Two decades on, she believes that her wide range of skills as a scientist and businesswoman have contributed to her success.

"I have worked on graphic design and advertising in addition to product support and development. I have moved into product registration and regulatory work. My career at BresaGen has also taken me into general management and corporate finance."

Dr Verma says that regular yoga and judo practice helped her to manage the difficult times during the voluntary administration period in 2004. She also believes her persistence and focus have played a key role in her success.

"Professionally, it is gratifying to see the value – that we knew was there – recognised by a major international company," she said.

"Personally, I look out over the company car park from my office and I feel I've done something substantial. Today, it's full of cars. We're attracting people – and interest - not only from Australia but also from overseas."

For more information on the Telstra Business Women's Awards, visit www.businesswomensawards.telstra.com.

Mother of Invention

Dr Nicole Hussey and her team at Reproductive Health Sciences Pty Ltd want to change the way women are tested for foetal abnormalities during pregnancy.

The company – a spin-off from the University of Adelaide – is developing a diagnostic chip or microarray, where foetal DNA can be compared to reach a quick and accurate diagnosis of genetic defects and chromosomal abnormalities.

"I'm a mother of three children as well as a scientist with an interest in reproductive medicine," said Dr Hussey, Chief Scientist at RHS.

"I'm concerned that the current tests are invasive. Many women do not have the tests, leaving chromosomal abnormalities and other conditions undetected."

Under current testing procedures, an expectant mother has two choices if she wants her baby to be tested for genetic or chromosomal conditions: Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS) or amniocentesis.

Both are invasive and put mother and baby at risk of miscarriage: CVS takes tissue from the outside of the sac surrounding the foetus; amniocentesis removes 25ml of fluid from inside the womb.

In comparison, the microarray test is safer and easier to perform. Amniocentesis and CVS use karyotyping – a labour intensive approach, where cells are cultured and checked for abnormalities under a microscope by trained technicians.

…continued p5

Sanford Gleddie

CEO, Philom Bios Australia Pty Ltd

A Canadian Agribusiness Manager, drawn to South Australia as a hub of agricultural research and biotechnology.

Sanford Gleddie moved to Adelaide with his family earlier this year. When asked about his background and whether he is scientist or a farmer, he answers without hesitation.

"I am a farmer first. I was born and raised on a farm and it's in my blood. Agriculture is what I have always wanted to do."

The Gleddie family still have a farm in Canada, near Edmonton in the province of Alberta, where they breed sheep and cattle. Now that he has seen the size of some farms here, Mr Gleddie calls his property, modestly, a "hobby farm".

Early on, his passion for farming took him away from the paddock to study agriculture and soil science at university in Canada. His research formed the foundation of his career at Philom Bios Inc. (PBI), a world leading inoculant company based in Canada.

Inoculants are micro-organisms that are added to seeds or soil to improve plants' uptake of nutrients, controlling soil-borne disease or generally helping them to grow.

Mr Gleddie has over 18 years of research, sales, marketing and technology experience with the company and was Vice President, Research and Business Development before his move to Australia.

Now, he is the CEO of Philom Bios Australia Pty Ltd: a sales, marketing and technology development company that is jointly owned by PBI and Australia's Grains Research & Development Corporation.

The aim of the company is to meet the needs of Australian farmers by developing and marketing inoculants, commercialising new technologies supported by the GRDC and its research partners.

"The net effect of our business is better yields and more dollars in the farmer's pocket," said Mr Gleddie. "In simple terms, my job is to support the agricultural sector and make farmers more money."

His motivation, in building the company, is also to see science applied in a practical, meaningful way. "I am not a scientist in the pure sense of the word. I love applying science and agriculture is an applied science," he said.

As CEO of Philom Bios Australia, Mr Gleddie sees an opportunity to apply his company's research expertise to benefit farmers battling a harsh environment and soil that is difficult to cultivate.

Based at the Waite Campus, the company is located in the heart of South Australia's agricultural science precinct – recognised nationally and internationally for its expertise.

The company has a history of working closely with researchers from the academic sector – licensing and commercialising the technology developed.

"Australia is an innovative country. It leads the way in adopting new agronomic practices," said Mr Gleddie.

"We chose South Australia as the base for our company in Australia since it is a centre of agricultural research, it has excellent infrastructure links to cropping regions and there is excellent support for the biotechnology business."

For more information on Philom Bios Inc, visit www.philombios.com.

Much smaller amounts of fluid are required for the microarray – around 1 percent of the amount needed for amniocentesis - and the test is less time consuming.

It also works with DNA extracted from foetal cells sampled during pap smears – a discovery that could transform the way that prenatal tests are carried out worldwide.

"This new way of sampling foetal cells and analysing the DNA is very exciting," said Dr Elaine Stead, General Manager of RHS.

"Our test works with less than 10 foetal cells and is the only test that can give an accurate diagnosis of abnormalities covering all chromosomes using such a small sample."

The test is able to detect a number of genetic and chromosomal conditions including Down Syndrome, Turner Syndrome, Klinefelters Syndrome and Patau Syndrome – which all carry the risk of physical and/or mental disability.Currently, only 10 percent of pregnancies are tested for such abnormalities. That figure could rise to 80 percent worldwide if the test were simpler and less invasive carrying little or no risk.

"Our technology, once on the market, can accommodate high throughput and can be combined with other diagnostic tools to detect fertility problems and other pregnancy disorders in future," said Dr Stead.

For more information on Reproductive Health Sciences, email Dr Elaine Stead at elaine.stead@adelaide.edu.au.

Flinders Advanced Analytical Laboratory

With over one million dollars worth of state-of-the-art analytical biotechnology equipment, the Flinders Advanced Analytical Laboratory (FAAL) works with bioscience companies and researchers in South Australia and interstate.

Based at Flinders University the facility is supported by the Faculty of Science and Engineering, the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Australian Research Council and Bio Innovation SA.

"Our facility offers a diverse range of analytical instrumentation, mostly based around mass spectrometry which is such a powerful detection technique," said Dr Daniel Jardine, the Facility Manager.

"We can provide services for an extensive range of applications from protein analysis in medical research to quantification of herbicide impurities in the agrichemical field."

The Laboratory's MALDI-ToF is a versatile and effective instrument for the analysis of biomolecules and the surface analysis of biomaterials.

It offers accurate measurement of protein and peptide mass, performs peptide mass fingerprinting, and offers access to protein databases.

The facility also has a triple quadrupole instrument coupled to a liquid chromatograph - capable of MS/MS analysis that can provide structural information. It is an industry standard instrument for the dedicated quantitative analysis of compounds such as drugs and herbicides.

The FAAL's Stable Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometer measures isotopic ratios for Carbon, Nitrogen, Hydrogen and Oxygen from solid samples, and can provide information on the origin of material. It can also provide isotope ratio analysis of water samples that can deliver information about environmental influences.

The FAAL's Stable Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometer

A Biacore 2000 Surface Plasmon Resonance offers biomedical researchers vital information on biomolecular interactions. Its optical biosensor is exceptionally sensitive and automated: the instrument is capable of high throughput analysis.

"We currently work with a range of agrichemical companies to assist them in the registration of herbicides for use in Australia," said Dr Jardine.

"We are also building relationships with biotechnology companies," said Dr Jardine. "Our qualitative and quantitative analysis capability is helping the bioscience community to grow in South Australia."

To find out more about the Flinders Advanced Analytical Laboratory contact Dr Daniel Jardine at daniel.jardine@flinders.edu.au or visit www.scieng.flinders.edu.au/research/faal.

Grant success for Hanson Institute

One of Australia's largest and most prestigious health and medical research organisations has had record success in the recently announced National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) Grant round.

Members of the Hanson Institute were awarded approximately $14 million for 29 project grants in the 2007 round. In addition, two fellowships for approximately $1 million, one enabling grant for $1 million and a Clinical Centre of Research Excellence for $2 million were also awarded, bringing the total of grants awarded to $17.6 million.

"This is an outstanding result, given the highly competitive nature of research grants in Australia," said Professor Brendan Kearney, Director of the IMVS.

"It reflects the IMVS commitment to support the Hanson Institute and medical research in South Australia."

The successful projects include:

- Professor Michael Horowitz - Clinical Centre for Research Excellence for his team's work in endocrine and metabolic disease;
- A project team lead by Professor Sharad Kumar studying cell death in disease;
- Dr Mark Guthridge studying molecular signals in leukaemia;
- Dr Andrew Zanettino and Dr Stan Gronthos for their work in mesenchymal stem cells particularly with respect to cardiac cell, bone cell transplantation;
- Dr Allison Gilbert for her work in Hepatitis B;
- Professor Timothy Hughes for studies in chronic myeloid leukaemia;
- Professor Howard Morris' studies in Vitamin D and bone strength;
- Professor Donald Howie for studies in orthopaedic joint replacement;
- Professor Wayne Tilley for studies in prostate and androgen mechanisms.

"These projects demonstrate the breadth of research interest within the Hanson Institute," Professor Kearney said. "They are a selection of the expanding and flourishing health and medical research occurring at the Hanson."

The Hanson Institute is the research arm of the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science (IMVS) and accommodates more than 400 researchers and staff of the IMVS, Royal Adelaide Hospital and the University of Adelaide on the Frome Road Campus.

For more information on the Hanson Institute, visit www.hansoninstitute.sa.gov.au.

AusIndustry & Bio Innovation SA

Joint funded companies five years on

This financial year saw the last of the successful applicants to the AusIndustry Biotechnology Innovation Fund (BIF) and Bio Innovation SA Pre-seed grant recipients finalise their funded projects. Since 2001, Bio Innovation SA Pre-seed grant funding provided part-matching funding of $1.72 million for 16 companies (companies received more than double this amount through BIF)

In most cases, the companies who received these grant funds raised significant additional private equity investment and government grant funding. Based on responses to Bio Innovation SA's 2006 Bioscience Industry Survey, these 16 companies have secured over $19 million in private equity and licensing revenues and have been awarded over $5.7 million in additional grant funding over the past 2 years. The companies now employ a total of 81 FTEs and occupy over 4,500m2 of facilities. They plan to expand their facilities to occupy a further 1,500m2 over the next 12 months. As can be seen in the article regarding Riancorp (see page one) and the recent news from Bionomics, Micronix, TGR Biosciences and Signostics, the initial impetus provided by these grant programs have been a major contribution to the success of the companies.

AusIndustry BIF & Bio Innovation SA Pre-seed Recipients

- **Australian Orthopaedic Innovations Pty Ltd** – Adaptive Orthopaedic Handpiece Project
- **Bionomics Ltd** – Development of next generation antibody therapeutics targeting the blood vasculature in cancer and other diseases
- **Flinders Bioremediation Pty Ltd** – Application of microbial co-cultures for soil remediation
- **Flinders MediTech Pty Ltd** – Medical Manikins, Aids and Training Devices
- **Medimolecular Pty Ltd** – A new method for the identification of drug targets, which may then be used to conduct rational drug design on existing, drugs to improve efficacy and eliminate serious side effects
- **Medvet Science Pty Ltd** – Application of a synthetic peptide based serological test to aid the diagnosis of "rattles" in foals
- **Micronix Pty Ltd** – The VAC Cathlocator - A revolutionary medical device for the correct placement of Venous Access Catheters
- **Nidor Pty Ltd** – Commercialisation of a novel non-invasive breath test to assess gut function
- **NyPa Pty Ltd** – NyPa 'Wild Wheat' product proving trials
- **Pristine Forage Technology** – New Pasture Plant Varieties
- **Raustech Pty Ltd** – Development and commercialisation of consumables for the manufacture of DNA chips
- **Reproductive Health Sciences Pty Ltd** – Comparative Genomic Hybridisation
- **RianCorp Pty Ltd** – Laser Treatment for Lymph Activation
- **Signostics Pty Ltd** – Multi-function point-of-care medical device
- **TGR Biosciences Pty Ltd** – Treatment of gastric ulcers with patented milk-derived bioactives, and Novel technologies for high throughput drug screening
- **Viswa Biotechnology Pty Ltd** – A new, safe and effective treatment for corneal angiogenesis

Further results from the 2006 Bioscience Industry Survey are available on the Bio Innovation SA website at www.bioinnovationsa.com.au

QEH Registrars win two prestigious awards

Two young Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Registrars from The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) in Adelaide have recently won two prestigious awards for their research into biofilms.

Dr Alkis Psaltis, currently in second year of Advanced Surgical Training for Otorhinolaryngology and Head & Neck Surgery, and Dr Kien Ha, currently undertaking a Masters of Surgery at the University of Adelaide who also works at the QEH in the same department, have won both the Maurice H Cottle Honour Award from the American Rhinologic Society meeting and the Sir Edward Hughes Memorial Clinical Research Award in surgery from Monash University.

The pair are undertaking research into the possible role of bacterial biofilm infections in Chronic Rhinosinusitis (CRS). CRS is a common debilitating condition affecting up to 14 % of the population in the western world. US annual healthcare expenditure is estimated at $5 billion USD. To date the cause of this condition remains largely unknown.

Until now, majority of bacteriology research in medicine has involved the study of free floating or planktonic bacteria and this has lead to the development of many of the current antibiotics we use. In recent times however, bacteria have been shown to exist in a much more common form, known as a biofilm. They adopt this form in times of stress and nutrient deprivation as it confers protection against the host defence system and antibiotics.

Supervised by Prof Peter-John Wormald, a world leading rhinologist who heads the ENT Department's research team at the QEH, Dr Psaltis and Dr Ha have successfully demonstrated biofilms in CRS patients. This research will now enable new treatments targeted towards removing such structures to be developed.

For further information, contact Dr Alkis Psaltis from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at alkispsaltis@hotmail.com.

BIO 2007

Science converges, business emerges

The Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) will host the largest international biotechnology convention and exhibition in Boston from 6-9 May 2007. BIO 2007 is expected to attract more than 20,000 attendees and in excess of 1,700 exhibiting companies, organisations and institutions - all involved in and focused on biotechnology and the life sciences.

AusBiotech's BIO 2007 Project Manager Shevaun Duncan said the Australian Pavilion at the Conference Exhibition has been redesigned for 2007. "The Pavilion now offers exciting features in support of Australian companies attending BIO - the new 'One Australia' branding, shared services including four meeting rooms, two informal networking spaces and collaborative State Government reception counters," she said.

For more information or assistance contact Nicole Brackenridge, Bio Innovation SA's Public Relations Manager at nicole.brackenridge@bioinnovationsa.com.au or visit the AusBiotech BIO2007 website at www.bio2007.com.au.

Awards for local industry leaders

- Local biotech vivoPharm Pty Ltd has been awarded 2nd place in the In Business Magazine's Fast Movers SA Company Index from a pool of 1000 nominations.
- Dr Leanna Read, Managing Director of TGR BioSciences Pty Ltd has been presented with the SA Great Science and Technology Award for "being instrumental in bridging the gap between delivering the benefits of science and technology through commercialisation"

People on the move

- Labtech Systems Ltd has appointed Duane Rivett as Operations Manager. For almost two years, Duane was Project Manager with Vet Biotechnology.
- Andrew Dinan, former QA/GLP Manager for the AIB Labs initiative, has joined the Centre for Pharmaceutical Research based at the Sansom Institute at the University of South Australia as Business Development Manager - Analytical.
- Dr Rachel Lucas, former Director of the Science, Technology and Innovation Directorate of the Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology, has been appointed Principal at Sydney-based executive search company Heidrick & Struggles.
- Claire Peddie is The Advertiser Newspaper's new science writer. Claire is the former Communications Officer at CSIRO's Land and Water Division.

Coming events

Plant & Animal Genome XV Conference 2007
13-17 January 2007
San Diego, USA
www.intl-pag.org

The Pharmaceutical and Biotech Leaders' Summit
16-18 January 2007
Delray Beach, Florida USA
www.healthtech.com/2007/PLS

BIO-Asia 2007
29-30 January 2007
Tokyo, Japan
www.bioasia.bio.org

Plant Transformation Technologies
4-7 February, 2007
Vienna, Austria
www.univie.ac.at/planttranstech

BIO CEO & Investor Conference 2007
12-14 February 2007
New York, USA
www.ceo.bio.org

Business Development Forum
(Hosted by AusBiotech and Bio Innovation SA)
21-23 February 2007
Glenelg, South Australia
(Information will be posted on www.ausbiotech.org in the coming weeks)

Bio Innovation SA Networking Forum
21 February 2007
Glenelg, South Australia
(Information will be posted on www.bioinnovationsa.com.au in the coming weeks)

Excellence in Biotechnology and Investment Conference
20-21 March 2007
Sydney, Australia
www.resourcefulevents.com/bio

2007 World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioprocessing
March 21–24, 2007
Orlando, Florida USA
www.bio.org/worldcongress

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