

Media Coverage

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Competition for trials at conference

Competition over clinical trial business will be addressed at this week's AusBiotech 2009 conference in Melbourne by speakers from industry and regulators

In Friday's final session on Human Health, speakers from Novotech, NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre, the Pharmaceutical Industries Council R&D Taskforce and Nucleus Network will "look at some of Australia's unique capabilities, discuss the future of the clinical trials industry, and report on the benchmarking survey of industry sponsored clinical research in Australia". The session is one of two at the conference bearing on the clinical trials environment in Australia and South East Asia.

The other, on the previous afternoon, has a regulatory focus with speakers from the Therapeutic Goods Administration, ERA Consulting and Corelli Consulting addressing "how the regulatory agencies in Japan, Korea and Australia have responded to the biopharmaceutical industry's interest to expand the number of clinical trials in the Asia-Pacific region and how these changes are viewed by other agencies".

Other parts of the conference have a firm focus on investment, beginning with a Life Science Investment Summit and addressing issues in business analysis, intellectual property and capital controls.

The summit, which starts tomorrow, is a first for the annual biotechnology event with more than 90 local and international investors expected to attend. It will present 20 late-stage public companies plus 20 of the most promising early-stage private companies.

It will showcase investment opportunities in biotechnology in Australasia, which AusBiotech is promoting as a region of opportunities.

"This event will surpass anything and everything that came before it, there's been nothing like it in the region," AusBiotech's Lorraine Chiroiu said.

The conference is in its seventh year with more than 1400 delegates plus 181 exhibitors expected to attend. A delegation of 19 companies academics and government organisations is coming from the UK.

The Victorian Government will be there in force with Innovation Minister Gavin Jennings opening the event and Governor Professor David de Krester, Agriculture Minister Joe Helper and Dr Deborah Rathjen, Chair of AusBiotech Ltd leading the welcome reception.

The Bioinformatics Australia 2009 annual meeting, is running in parallel over the last two days of the main conference.

Registrations for the events are still being accepted through the AusBiotech website.

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