

Event Alert



27 October 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nobel Prize winning research features at AusBiotech investment summit

The 2009 Nobel Prize winning research of Australian scientist Elizabeth Blackburn will be on show today at the inaugural Australasian Life Science Investment Summit in Melbourne, Australia.

Melbourne-based company Sienna Cancer Diagnostics which is commercialising a cancer diagnostic test based on Blackburn's research into discoveries of telomerase, will be one of forty biotechnology companies showcasing their R&D to representatives of the local and international investment community today.

Sienna's CEO Dr Kerry Hegarty said they were delighted to hear of Blackburn's Nobel Prize award shared with her co-researchers Carol Greider and Jack Szostak for their discovery of how chromosomes are protected by telomerase.

Sienna has an exclusive global license with US biotech firm Geron for use of its telomerase intellectual property based on Blackburn's research for diagnostic applications, and is applying it to the development of its non-invasive assay to detect telomerase activity for the detection of most types of cancers, including testing of urine for the diagnosis of bladder cancer.

"We are extremely proud to be associated with this Nobel Prize winning research, which is a testament to the innovative and world-leading R&D that is taking place in Australia," said Dr Hegarty.

Dr Hegarty will be one of almost forty Australian biotechnology companies that will showcase their development pipelines and investment potential to investors at the Australasian Life Science Investment Summit today.

Further information and interviews:
Lorraine Chiroiu, Media and Communications Manager
P: +61 3 9828 1414
M: +61 429 801 118
E: [lchiroiu@ausbiotech.org](mailto:Ichiroiu@ausbiotech.org)

Ellie Papathanasiou, Buchan Consulting
P: +61 3 9866 4722
M: +61 405 342 490
E: epapathanasiou@bcg.com.au

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AusBiotech's inaugural 'Australasian Life Science Investment Summit' has taken its place as the largest event of its kind in this part of the world with 110 investors attending, representing 90 different companies – 32 of which will be international investors.

The Hon Gavin Jennings, Minister for Innovation and The Hon Anthony Byrne MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Trade and Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister of Australia, will officially open the summit – a one-day, invitation-only event designed to support and stimulate investment in Australia's biotechnology research and development.

The Summit has attracted national and international investors including angel investors, venture capitalists, fund managers, investment bankers and representatives of superannuation funds. Venture capital arms of the major pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies from Australia, the Asia Pacific region, North America and Europe will also be attending.

Presenting companies will be a mix of listed companies in late-stage development, private companies with identified product/opportunities and early-stage commercialisation companies from research institutes and universities and include: CSL; Cochlear; ChemGenex; Starpharma; Biota Holdings; ResMed and Pharmaxis.

International investors confirmed include: RBS Morgans, Blueprint, CM Capital Investments, Baillieu Stockbroking, GBS Venture Partners, GlaxoSmithKline, Eli Lilly; 5AM Ventures; BioTech Healthcare Partners; SMH Capital; Amgen and Bailard.

EVENT DETAILS

When: Tuesday 27 October 2009
Where: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

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About AusBiotech

AusBiotech is Australia's voice on biotechnology, and represents more than 3,000 members, encompassing medicines, medical diagnostics and devices, agriculture, alternative fuels and climate change.

Further information and interviews:

Lorraine Chiroiu, Media and Communications Manager

P: +61 3 9828 1414

M: +61 429 801 118

E: lchiroiu@ausbiotech.org

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