

Media Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Up and coming life science students recognised at AusBiotech 2009

Australia's brightest life science students were recognised for their research work at the AusBiotech – GSK Student Excellence Awards presented this morning at the official opening of AusBiotech 2009.

Tony Carlisle from Flinders University in South Australia was the recipient of the inaugural AusBiotech Student Association (ABSA)-GSK National Award for his research into a nasogastric tube insertion simulator.

Student life-scientists and bio-entrepreneurs were invited to present their research and apply for the 2009 annual awards. The award program aims to encourage promising researchers who are working on innovations to extend and enhance our lives, including medicines, diagnostics and medical devices as well as solutions to address food shortages and climate change.

Dr Anna Lavelle, CEO of AusBiotech and Dr Ashley Bates, Head of R&D Alliances Australia and New Zealand, GSK presented the awards to the students.

“Student research is a critical factor in the life cycle that takes discoveries through the commercialisation process to reach and benefit the community,” said Dr Anna Lavelle, CEO AusBiotech.

“With the support of GlaxoSmithKline the student awards recognise Australia's up and coming researchers and bio-innovators allowing us to support the innovation work that will be the basis of Australia's biotechnology industry in the future,” Dr Lavelle continued.

The AusBiotech-GSK Student Excellence Award recipients in the state and territory section were:

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NSW – Lidia Matestic (University of Wollongong) – for research into ‘targeted delivery of chemotherapeutic agents using novel isatin-based compounds.’

Queensland – Matthew Cook (University of Queensland) for research into ‘haematopoietic stem cell expansion in a co-culture bioreactor.’

Tasmania – Colin William Bignell (University of Tasmania) for research into the ‘development of SNP markers for enhancing the long chain Omega-3 oils pathways and improves animal production in 5 common Australian crossbred meat sheep breeds.’

Victoria – Mohidus Samad Khan (Monash University) for research into ‘bioactive papers.’

Northern Territory – Wajahat Mahmood (Charles Darwin University) for research into ‘characterization of aspartic protease from scabies mite.’

Western Australia – Elizabeth Thomas (University of WA) for research into ‘synthetic bioscaffolds: how to grow breasts and other handy hits.’

South Australia - Tony Carlisle (Flinders University) for research into ‘a nasogastric tube insertion simulator.’

AusBiotech is the national body for the biotechnology and life sciences industry, hosting AusBiotech 2009 – the premier Australasian biotechnology conference from 27 – 30 October in Melbourne.

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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.

For additional event information visit the conference website at: <http://www.ausbiotech2009.com.au/>

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