

*Media Alert:*

## **Big Pharma Comes Shopping at Australian Biotechnology Conference**

*A record number of international delegates, including senior representatives of major pharmaceutical companies such GSK, Merck & Co Inc, Servier, F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Wyeth, Pfizer International, Boehringer Ingelheim, Novartis, Bayer and Johnson & Johnson will be attending this years AusBiotech 2006 conference in Sydney (November 19-23).*

*The conference, which will also be featuring presentations by the US Food and Drug Agency and the major US venture capital company, The Trout Group, will look at topics such as: “What’s Hot in Biotech?”, Environmental Biotechnology and Stem Cells,*

*A major presentation will be given by 2006 Australian of the Year, Professor Ian Frazer and Dr Andrew Cuthbertson, from CSL. They will discuss the international impact of developing the world’s first vaccine against cervical cancer, Gardasil, which went on sale this year.*

More than 1,200 delegates will attend this years AusBiotech Conference which focuses on Business Partnering and Investment. Over 300 international delegates will be present including large delegations from the US states of Indiana and Pennsylvania.

The CEO of AusBiotech said the international interest augurs well for the Australian biotechnology space. “There has been enormous interest from very senior members of Big Pharma. This includes a delegation from the Swiss pharmaceutical company, Roche, which has never done a biotech deal in Australia. The fact that Roche are here and presenting suggests there is interest in what Australia has to offer,” she said.

Andrew Jefferson, the Global Head of Surveillance, Analysis and Valuation for Pharma Partnering for Roche will be presenting on Wednesday morning.

In addition Peter Corr, Pfizer’s Senior Vice President of Science and Technology will be speaking. He oversees US\$7.1 billion in annual research and development spending, the biggest private R&D budget in the world.

Other key speakers include:

- Sir Gregory Winter, the Head of the MRC Molecular Biology Laboratory in the UK. He will speak on developing blockbuster therapeutics from lab inventions
- Dr Jean-Bernard Borfiga, Servier Laboratories, France
- Dr Mervyn Turner, Head of Worldwide Licensing and External Research for Merck
- Mr Mike G McCully, Recombinant Capital Inc, USA
- Dr Ge Li, WuXi Pharma Tech, Shanghai, China
- Stephen Meller, Proctor and Gamble, US
- Mr Steven Kates, co Commissioner, Australian Government Productivity Commission
- Dr Otavio Berwanger, from the Moinhos De Vento Hospital in Brazil. She will discuss the opportunities for conducting clinical trials outside of Europe and North America
- Dr Douglas Throckmorton, Deputy Director of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research with the US FDA
- Dr Fiona Wood, Australian of the Year
- Dr Cathy Prescott, Avlar Bioventures, UK (stem cell commercialization)
- Curtis Remple, Richardson Centre for Functional Food and Nutraceuticals, Canada
- Steve Maharey, New Zealand Minister for Research, Science and Technology
- Dr Sandra Peinhopf, Beohringer-Ingelheim, Austria

*For further information, pre conference interviews and media registration enquiries, please contact Tania Ewing on 0408378422*