



Media Release
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AusBiotech 2006-Bridging Innovation and Investment
19-22 November 2006

Australia puts on a world class biotech event.

The fifth annual AusBiotech national biotechnology conference and Business Partnering & Investment Forum was an outstanding success.

The three day conference opened on Sunday evening with a Welcome Reception sponsored by Norac Pharma. With over 1,200 delegates including 300 plus international visitors, the conference was the biggest meeting of the biotechnology industry in Australia. International visitors were drawn from 21 countries including Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom, and the USA. This year the number of delegates from the USA and the UK rivalled the New Zealand contingent with China, Korea and Canada sending sizable delegations.

The Bio Industry Exhibition was the largest ever with 90 exhibitors taking up 140 booths. The speaker program was action packed with 108 invited speakers including 38 internationals addressing four concurrent sessions running three times daily, following the early morning keynote address.

Representative from five of the world's largest biotech companies including Genentech and Amgen came to listen and talk to Australian companies. Also in attendance were representatives from national and international venture capital and investment companies. The big pharma's were in attendance with 8 of the top 10 big pharma's either presenting or sponsoring conference activities. Mr Andrew Jefferson from Hoffman- La Roche who gave the keynote address on Wednesday morning talked about "Beyond the Deal" from the Roche partnering perspective. He noted that Roche had partnered with many biotech

companies world wide, including Genentech and was looking to partner with Australian companies.

Running in parallel to the concurrent session was the very dynamic Business Partnering & Investment Forum. Each session was fully booked with four and sometimes five companies presenting their company profile with an eye to partnering or obtaining investment. The profiles of the 25 participating companies were logged on the conference website prior to the conference and included participants from Australia, USA, NZ, UK and Austria.

The new Business Matching Program using the bio-partnering software was a huge success with over 100 companies registering for participation prior to the conference and over 100 scheduled meetings taking place over the three day event. Many more informal meetings were organised between interested parties responding to “messages of interest” posted on the Business Matching message board.

The 6 finalist of the AusBiotech Student Excellence awards were warmly applauded by the 600 guests who gathered for the Tuesday night Conference Dinner and watched them receive their awards. The dinner was sponsored by AusBiotech in partnership with BIO and Sarah Jane Demy, Vice President of BIO Business Development & Investor Relations talked about the importance of the Australian biotech industry to BIO and the growing relationship between the two countries.

There were many other highlights at the conference but perhaps a special mention goes to the premier screening of the film “The Winners Guide to the Nobel Prize.” Those fortunate enough to attend the screening were able to relive the story of how two unassuming Australian scientists, Dr Barry Marshall and Dr Robin Warren, went against conventional thinking and became Nobel Laureates, in pursuit of their goal to identifying the causative agent for stomach ulcers and thereby radically alter the way the medical profession dealt with the disease. Dr Robin Warren attended the evening and charmed guest as he greeted them after the screening.

For more information
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