

# Media Release



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## AusBiotech CEO to visit Israel on prestigious NAB Yachad scholarship

AusBiotech CEO, Dr Anna Lavelle, has been awarded a 2010 National Australia Bank Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce Yachad Scholarship, and will travel to Israel in May to study its world-leading biotechnology industry.

As the recipient of the scholarship, Dr Lavelle joins an alumni of 31 Australians who have visited Israel as Yachad Scholars, including the Federal Treasurer, the Hon Wayne Swan.

The NAB Yachad Scholarship Fund was established in 2002 to afford talented Australian candidates the opportunity to pursue a given area of study in Israel. Yachad means 'together' in Hebrew, and is the primary emphasis of the initiative, which was founded on the recognition that there are many shared strengths, values and common concerns between Australia and Israel.

Importantly Dr Lavelle will study alternative methods for accessing capital and incentivising the growth of innovative companies.

Dr Lavelle said: *"This is a strategic opportunity for Australia to learn from the Israeli innovation success story. This study tour will foster learning and future relationships that will have benefit for both countries and their respective biotechnology industries."*

Dr Lavelle will also study:

- Israeli government biotechnology policy, including industry policy, capability building and innovation programs.
- Medical technology, including medical devices, accessing export markets, links to relevant institutions and manufacturing clusters.
- The biopharmaceutical industry in Israel (manufacturers, SMEs and research and development).
- Investment strategies for local biotechnology companies: angel and venture capital investors, plus foreign direct investment.
- Environment/cleantech bio solutions, energy-related programs and companies.

**ENDS**

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