

# Media Release



29 October 2008

## **AusBiotech 2008 Announces New Board Office Bearers**

***At the conclusion today of the successful AusBiotech 2008 Conference in Melbourne, the Board of AusBiotech Ltd has announced the appointment of a new Chairman and Directors.***

***At the Post-AGM Board Meeting, Dr Deborah Rathjen was elected Chairman and Dr Simon Carroll was re-elected Vice-Chairman. New Directors on the AusBiotech Board include Ms Geraldine Farrell, Senior Counsel with Minter Ellison and Dr Stewart Washer, Executive Director of XCEED Capital.***

AusBiotech is the national body for the biotechnology and life sciences industry in Australia. Its members include biotech companies and organisations, entrepreneurs, manufacturers, investors, research institutes and governments. AusBiotech provides a vibrant and energetic framework that brings together all of the relevant participants in the Australian biotechnology community. The organisation has just finished its annual conference in Melbourne with more than 1300 delegates attend.

AusBiotech's new Chairman, Dr Deborah Rathjen is a highly regarded and experienced member of Australia's biotechnology sector. Dr Rathjen is the CEO and Managing Director of Adelaide-based Bionomics Ltd. She joined the company in June 2000 from Peptech Limited, where she was General Manager of Business Development and Licensing. Dr Rathjen was a co-inventor of Peptech's TNF technology and leader of the company's successful defense of its key TNF patents against a legal challenge by BASF, providing Peptech with a strong commercial basis for licensing negotiations with BASF, Centocor and other companies with anti-TNF products. Dr Rathjen has significant experience in research, business development and licensing and is an expert in the field of cell biology with specific expertise in inflammation and cancer.

Dr Anna Lavelle, CEO of AusBiotech, welcomed the appointment of Dr Rathjen as the new AusBiotech Chair. "Deborah brings an enormous wealth of commercial, scientific and management expertise to the position of Chair of AusBiotech. Her long history working both at the research and the commercialisation sides of biotechnology will help AusBiotech grow into an even stronger advocate for the sector."

Dr Stewart Washer has over 17 years of senior executive and Board experience in commercial technology companies in the medical, food, agricultural and industrial sectors. He is currently a Venture Partner with the Swiss Inventages Fund, a €1.5 billion life science fund. Dr Washer was most recently the founding CEO of Phylogica Ltd (ASX:PYC). Prior to

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this, he was CEO of Celentis Ltd commercialising IP from AgResearch in New Zealand with 650 Scientists and \$130m revenues. He is an Executive Director of Xceed Capital Ltd (ASX:XCD) who own PolyNovo P/L, a novel biodegradable polymer company and Boron Molecular P/L a profitable chemistry company. Stewart is also a Director of Genesis (ASX:GEN) who are developing siRNA drugs against cancer. He is also the Chairman of Hatchtech Pty Ltd who are in Phase II clinical trials with a headlice treatment and a Director of Healthlinx (ASX:HTX) with the first successful diagnostic for Ovarian Cancer. He also sits on the Senate at Murdoch University and the Federal Government Advisory Panel for Industrial Biotechnology.

Dr Geraldine Farrell is a senior commercial, intellectual property and technology lawyer with a broad range of experience in both litigious and non-litigious matters. Dr Farrell has advised clients on many corporate aspects of technology commercialisation including management of IP portfolios, technology commercialisation, IP aspects of acquisitions and disposals, brand protection and anti-counterfeit strategies, trade mark registrations, IP due diligences and audits, IP dispute resolution (including patent litigation, trade mark litigation and domain name disputes), licensing, distribution and manufacturing agreements, R & D and collaborative research agreements and the Cooperative Research Centre (**CRC**) program. She has particular experience and expertise in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, including advising on GCP aspects of clinical trials, the Australian *Therapeutic Goods Act* and regulations, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

The new AusBiotech Board members are Dr Deborah Rathjen (Chair), Dr Simon Carroll (Vice Chair), Dr Anna Lavelle (CEO), Dr David Crump, Dr Greg Roger, Dr Michael Gilbert, Dr Stewart Washer and Ms Geraldine Farrell. Dr Rathjen replaces Dr Susan Pond, Chairman of Johnson & Johnson Pty Ltd who is also resigning as a Board member. In addition, Ms Sue MacLeman, CEO of Benitec and Dr David Irving, Manager of the Research and Business Development Portfolio of the Australian Red Cross Blood Service have resigned from the Board.

***For further information contact Tania Ewing on 0408378422***