

AusBiotech Media Release
31st May 2006



SA's Spectacular Biotechnologists – Preventing Brain Drain

Leaders from South Australia's biotechnology sector will tonight showcase the states \$165 million BioScience capabilities at the 2006 AusBiotech Careers Spectacular.

The event will showcase South Australia's biotechnology success stories and demonstrate how both government and industry are nurturing the biotechnology sector in South Australia and reversing the 'brain drain' trend.

A major boost to the state has been the recruitment of prominent Research Fellow Professor Mark Tester from Cambridge University in the UK.

"I moved to Adelaide to take advantage of the fantastic research environment, access to new technologies and freedom to operate" said Professor Tester.

"I am now working for a research centre, the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics, that employs over 100 research scientists and staff and it is continuing to expand".

While at the Careers Spectacular, Professor Tester will discuss some of the latest techniques used in plant biotechnology and give an insight into what attributes he thinks are important for perspective employees in the biotechnology sector.

The Careers Spectacular will also expose graduating students to a snap shot of South Australia's seventy medical and plant bioscience organisations.

"South Australia's biotechnology industry is booming; over 1000 people are employed in the bioscience field and that number continues to grow as the SA sector continues to recruit new employees" commented Dr Anna Lavelle, CEO of AusBiotech.

Students will also have the opportunity to grill a panel of scientists about skills sets and strategies for employment in the biotech sector. This panel of prominent scientists, from a variety of biotech sectors, will discuss their personal career paths and give tips on how to succeed in the industry.

There is an opportunity for students and postgraduates to meet a diverse range of industry representatives and gain an understanding of their recruitment programs and preview upcoming employment opportunities. Companies represented will include AusBiotech, BioInnovation SA, South Australian Research and Development Institute, The Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics, Tanner Menzies and Uni SA.

The AusBiotech Careers Spectacular will be held on May 31st at The Observatory. For more details visit http://www.ausbiotech.org/events_national_may06.asp#sa .

Media contact:
Alison Bowman

SA Development Officer
AusBiotech
0412 092 048