



February 2010

This publication is produced by the [Biotechnology Team](#) in the Victorian Government Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development to update readers about biotechnology news and activities in Victoria, Australia. To subscribe [click here](#), or to read a back issue [click here](#).

THE E-BULLETIN IS GOING TO CHINA

The Victorian Government has committed the State to becoming a significant participant at World Expo 2010, Shanghai. The Expo will showcase Victoria's industrial and economic strengths to encourage investment attraction and export promotion in China. The Expo runs from 1 May 2010 - 31 October 2010.

On display will be Victoria's world leading strengths in areas fitting well with the Expo's theme "Better City, Better Life," such as biotechnology and nanotechnology.

As part of the business program for bio/nanotechnology, the Victorian Government planned activities include:

- Three trade missions to China in June 2010, November 2010 and early 2011.
- Executive workshops to prepare Victorian professionals for doing business in China.
- Translating the Victorian biotechnology e-bulletin into Mandarin, for distribution in China.
- Conducting targeted market research on the biotechnology market in China.
- Inviting key stakeholders in China to visit Victoria to learn more about our industry capabilities.

If you want to be involved in any of the above activities or you would like a copy of the e-bulletin in Chinese to be sent to your Chinese contacts, please contact Candice Basham at candice.basham@diird.vic.gov.au

ARE YOU GOING OVERSEAS?

Are you a Victorian biotech company with less than 200 employees? You may be eligible for a Biotechnology International Partnering Program (BIPP) grant to help with costs of attending an overseas biotechnology conference or exhibition, such as [NZBIO 2010](#) in Auckland on 22-24 March 2010 or [BIO 2010](#) in Chicago on 3-6 May.

BIPP is a pilot program and the Victoria Government is keen for it to be successful in helping local industry. If you want to know more see the [BIPP website](#) or email bipp@diird.vic.gov.au

COMPANY NEWS

On 15 February 2010, [Avexa Limited](#) (ASX: AVX) announced positive data from a Phase IIb extension study for apricitabine (ATC). Of the 36 patients who successfully completed the full study, 94 percent maintained undetectable viral loads up to week 144. Importantly, in these patients, no resistance to ATC was detected and no ATC-related serious adverse events were observed. In addition, patients were able to maintain, on average, their CD4+ cells above 500 cells per microlitre, the level where many current guidelines indicate antiretroviral treatment need not be initiated.

On 11 February 2010, Premier John Brumby announced a partnership with the University of Melbourne and [IBM Australia](#) to build the world's most powerful supercomputer dedicated to life sciences research. The computer, to be based at Melbourne University in Parkville, will enable researchers to process genes to



identify the risks of cancer and treatment, model brain functions to treat brain disorders and disease, and model and predict the threats of infectious disease.

On 11 February 2010, [HealthLinx Limited](#) (ASX: HTX) announced it has been notified that United Kingdom (UK) ethics committee approval (NRES) has been granted for its OvPlex™ ovarian cancer diagnostic study. This second and larger study will establish the performance of the company's second generation OvPlex™ test. Initial results suggest that the diagnostic accuracy of this new test will be greater than 97 per cent for early stage ovarian cancer.

The second stage trial of OvPlex™ is being supported by a \$750,000 grant from the Victorian Government's [Victoria's Science Agenda](#) (VSA) Investment Fund.

Earlier this month, HealthLinx Ltd was awarded the BioSpectrum Asia Product of the Year award 2010 for the OvPlex™ diagnostic.

On 10 February 2010, [Clinuvel Pharmaceuticals Limited](#) (ASX: CUV) announced it had received positive scientific advice from the European Medicines Agency – as part of its continuing dialogue with regulatory agencies – in relation to its application for Marketing Authorisation for Erythropoietic protoporphyria (EPP) this year. Following this advice, Clinuvel will focus resources on the final development of afamelanotide for EPP, actinic keratosis (precursor to skin cancer) and polymorphic light eruption.

On 5 February 2010, [Cellestis Limited](#) (ASX: CST) announced that its QuantiFERON®-TB Gold (QFT®) In-Tube tuberculosis (TB) test has been approved for use in Taiwan. Regulatory approval by the Taiwanese Department of Health will now enable the sale of QFT in Taiwan, which joins a rapidly growing list of countries in Asia that have approved QFT.

On 5 February 2010, [Biota Holdings Limited](#) (ASX: BTA) announced that it had received written notification from GlaxoSmithKline that Relenza sales were \$462 million and indicative royalties were \$32.6 million, for the three months ended 31 December 2009.

On 3 February 2010, [Antisense Therapeutics Limited](#) (ASX: ANP) announced two recent value-adding outcomes relevant to the company's anticancer drug ATL1101. Firstly, a publication describing ATL1101 pharmacology in prostate cancer cells and tumours will be published in this month's edition of the highly regarded international scientific journal 'The Prostate'. Secondly, an Australian Patent has been granted on the use of ATL1101 as a therapeutic agent to treat prostate cancer.

On 3 February, [Phosphagenics Limited](#) (ASX: POH) announced it has signed an agreement appointing Pulse Pharmacies as its exclusive Australia-wide distributor of Phosphagenics' new Elixia™ skincare product range. The Elixia™ range of six products, including an Anti-oxidant Serum and a Multi V Moisturiser, uses the Phosphagenics patented TPM™ (Targeted Penetration Matrix) delivery technology to deliver more active ingredients into the skin.

Two days earlier, Phosphagenics announced positive results from a Phase 1b clinical study using the Company's patented TPM™ (Targeted Penetration Matrix) for the transdermal delivery of oxycodone. This successful trial showed that daily application of a TPM™-oxycodone patch delivered therapeutic bloodstream levels of oxycodone in a reproducible, consistent and sustained manner.

On 1 February 2010, [Starpharma Holdings Limited](#) (ASX: SPL) announced the signing of a new agreement with Eli Lilly and Company (NYSE: LLY) under which Starpharma's dendrimer drug delivery technology will be applied to enhance compounds in Lilly's human pharmaceutical portfolio.

On 28 January 2010, [Patrys Limited](#) (ASX: PAB) announced that it had entered into an agreement with [CSL Limited](#) (ASX: CSL) that is focused on several Patrys antibody therapeutic candidates.

Under the agreement, Patrys has granted CSL an exclusive right to research and develop products based on two early stage antibodies from Patrys' pipeline. CSL will pay Patrys an undisclosed upfront amount and



undertake the research and development of antibodies at its own cost.

On 28 January 2010, [Universal Biosensors Inc](#) (ASX: UBI) announced that it has been informed by its partner LifeScan, Inc that LifeScan's new product incorporating technology developed by UBI has been made available for sale in The Netherlands under the One Touch "Verio" brand. CE marking for the product was approved in November 2009.

On 27 January 2010, [Acrux Limited](#) (ASX: ACR) announced that it had submitted a New Drug Application to the US Food and Drug Administration, seeking marketing authorisation for AXIRON™, which is indicated for the treatment of testosterone deficiency (hypogonadism) in men. If approved by the FDA, AXIRON is expected to be made available to patients in the US market in the first half of 2011.

On 27 January 2010, [CogState Limited](#) (ASX: CGS) reported a 24 per cent increase in revenue to \$5.1 million for the half year to December 31, 2009, up from \$3.9 million the previous comparable period and exceeding earlier guidance. The jump in revenue was largely credited to a twofold increase in sales contracts signed over the six months to January, equal to a combined value of \$6.35 million.

On 28 January 2010, [Compumedics Limited](#) (ASX: CMP) announced that the internationally renowned University Medical Center in Mannheim, Germany has chosen to utilise Compumedics' recently released, and world first high-definition PSG amplifier, the GRAEL HD-PSG sleep-diagnostic system, and Compumedics' American Association for Sleep Medicine compliant Somte PSG V2. This sale represents approximately \$750,000 for delivery in March 2010.

NHMRC AUSTRALIA FELLOWSHIPS

Nine Australia Fellowships, worth \$36 million in total, have been awarded by the [National Health and Medical Research Council](#) (NHMRC).

Four of the nine Australia Fellowships go to Victoria: Professor Francis Carbone and Professor Mark Smyth from the University of Melbourne; and Professor Shaun Jackson and Professor Charles Mackay from Monash University.

OTHER NEWS

On 16 February 2010, [CSIRO](#) launched a new collaborative research cluster focused on establishing a 'biobank' of blood samples to be used in advancing research into the prediction and early diagnosis of diseases such as Alzheimer's and cancer. The collaboration between CSIRO, Monash University, Melbourne University, the Australian National University and the Menzies Research Institute (Tasmania), the ASPREE Healthy Ageing Biobank Cluster will establish a biobank of blood samples collected from over 10,000 healthy elderly Australians.

On 4 February 2010, [Walter and Eliza Hall Institute](#) announced researchers have identified a key protein used by the malaria parasite to transform human red blood cells, ensuring the parasite's survival.

On 22 January 2010, the international journal "Science" published the discovery of cells that cause a common type of childhood leukaemia – T cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (T-ALL). The discovery was made by a team, led by Dr Matthew McCormack and Dr David Curtis of the [Rotary Bone Marrow Research Laboratories](#) and the [University of Melbourne's Department of Medicine](#) at The Royal Melbourne Hospital, whilst studying mice prone to developing this leukaemia.

PRIME MINISTER'S PRIZES FOR SCIENCE

The 2010 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science nomination round is now open.

All the details can be found at <https://grants.innovation.gov.au/SciencePrize/Pages/Home.aspx>



COMMERCIALISATION AUSTRALIA GRANTS

At the first BioMelbourne Network Breakfast for 2010 Tricia Berman, acting CEO of Commercialisation Australia (CA), urged stakeholders to submit applications for the four areas of funding support available under the \$196 million CA initiative:

- Up to \$50,000 to pay for specialist advice and services;
- Up to \$200,000 over two years to engage experienced executives;
- Proof of Concept grants up to \$250,000 to test the commercial viability of a new product, process or service; and
- Early Stage Commercialisation repayable grants up to \$2 million to develop a new product, process or service to the stage where it can be taken to market.

With the announcement of the CA Board this week, now is an opportune time to submit applications for consideration at the Board's coming meetings, which kick off in March. CA has indicated that there is even potential for well-developed proposals to receive funding this financial year.

Visit www.commercialisationaustralia.gov.au for information on eligibility criteria and to download a pre-application checklist.

EVENTS

- 2 March [BioMelbourne BioBreakfast](#), Going over the MAX line
- 3 March [AusBiotech Courses](#) - Licence Contract Valuation in Excel
- 3-5 March [AusBiotech Business Development Workshop and Forum](#), Glenelg, SA
- 8-10 March [BIO-Europe Spring 2010](#), Barcelona
- 17 March [Graeme Clark Oration 2010](#) with key note speaker Craig Venter, Melbourne
- 21 March [Melbourne City Romp](#), supported by the Burnet Institute
- 22-24 March [NZBIO 2010](#), Auckland (interested in attending? contact us at biotechnology@iird.vic.gov.au)
- 3-6 May [BIO 2010](#), Chicago (interested in attending? contact Trish Vardon at trish.vardon@diird.vic.gov.au)
- 5-7 May [Sir Mark Oliphant Conference - Cleantech Science and Solutions - mainstream and at the edge](#), Melbourne
- 1-2 June [AusMedtech 2010](#), Sydney
- 2-4 June [Bangalore India Bio 2010](#), India
- 23-24 June [ChinaBio Partnering Forum 2010](#), Shanghai (interested in attending? contact Candice Basham at candice.basham@diird.vic.gov.au)
- 19-22 Oct [AusBiotech 2010](#), Melbourne
- Nov 2010 [BioPartnering China 2010](#), Shanghai (interested in attending? contact Candice Basham at candice.basham@diird.vic.gov.au)

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