



Biotechnology Victoria e-bulletin

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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](#).

COMPANY NEWS

On 22 January 2010, [Genera Biosystems Ltd](#) (ASX: GBI) announced that the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved the entry of the company's PapType Human Papillomavirus test kit onto the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods. The company is now permitted to supply PapType to Australian customers, subject to the terms of the licence.

On 22 January 2010, [HealthLinx Ltd](#) (ASX: HTX) announced it has expanded its collaboration with the University of Liverpool to assess the utility of its proprietary biomarkers for other indications. The expanded collaboration will have the University of Liverpool provide HealthLinx with blood samples for specific diseases where HealthLinx will run its proprietary biomarkers across these samples to determine their potential for future pipelines.

Also on 12 January 2010, HealthLinx Ltd executed its Victorian Science Agenda (VSA) Investment Fund grant agreement, securing up to \$750,000 for the company over the next 24 months. The funding will assist HealthLinx and its local and international collaborators to conduct the second stage trial of OvPlex which, based on preliminary results to date, provide an increase in diagnostic efficiency to greater than 97 per cent. If these expected results are achieved, this will place OvPlex as the market leader in ovarian cancer diagnosis for symptomatic women.

[Invetech Pty Ltd](#) has picked up a role in a US government defence project that will see the company help develop a rapid and accurate genomic-based diagnostic test to determine if a person has been exposed to radiation from a nuclear attack or spill.

The contract, which will be primarily undertaken by Duke University in North Carolina, could be worth up to \$US43 million from the US Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) if all of its milestones are met. For more information see [Biotechnologynews.net](#)

On 18 January 2010, [GlaxoSmithKline Pty Ltd](#) (GSK) announced that its dermatology business Stiefel will be relocated from Sydney to Melbourne by mid June this year. GSK acquired Stiefel in July 2009 to create a specialist dermatology business.

Deborah Waterhouse, Vice President and General Manager GSK Australia said "The relocation of Stiefel operations from Sydney to GSK's head office in Melbourne provides greater synergies to grow our dermatology lines and better provide new and innovative skin care solutions to Australian consumers."

On 14 January 2010, [Probiotec Ltd](#) (ASX: PBP) announced that it has completed the acquisition of all shares in the Australian Dairy Proteins Pty Ltd (ADP) joint venture. Probiotec said the venture was established in May 2002 for the development and construction of a fractionation plant to extract high purity dairy proteins from whey, a byproduct of cheese manufacture.



On 6 January 2010, [Genetic Technologies Ltd](#) (ASX: GTG) announced that it has executed an Exclusive Test Distribution and Services Agreement with Response Genetics Inc., under which Genetic Technologies will become the exclusive distributor in Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand for Response Genetics' ResponseDX: Colon, ResponseDX: Lung and ResponseDX: Gastric genetic test panels, proprietary PCR-based molecular diagnostic tests for cancer.

On 4 January 2010, [Benitec Ltd](#) (ASX: BLT) announced that it had signed an agreement with Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

"We have successfully negotiated a win-win agreement whereby the Capital Growth Agreement and the Commercial Agreement will be terminated in exchange for providing CSIRO with a 10% equity stake in Benitec Limited" said Sue MacLeman, Chief Executive Officer, Benitec Limited.

On 24 December 2009, [BioDiem Ltd](#) (ASX: BDM) announced that it has commenced discussions regarding the manufacturing and marketing rights of its LAIV technology for the Japanese market. Japan is the second largest pharmaceutical market in the world.

On 23 December 2009, [CSL Ltd](#) (ASX: CSL) announced that it has signed an agreement with the National Blood Authority, acting on behalf of both State and Commonwealth Governments, to continue to provide the Australian community with safe, secure and affordable plasma therapeutic products.

On 21 December 2009, [Clinuvel Pharmaceuticals Ltd](#) (ASX: CUV) announced that it has obtained promising 4-months results in testing afamelanotide in a multicentre randomised double-blind placebo controlled Phase III study in EPP. In 2008, afamelanotide was awarded orphan drug designation in the treatment of EPP by the FDA and EMEA.

On 18 December 2010, [Prima BioMed Ltd](#) (ASX: PRR) said it has FDA and local ethics approval for a 60-patient phase IIb trial in the US and Australia to be run from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Centre in Seattle, Washington. The trial objective is "to further confirm the ability of CVac to reduce the instance of relapse in ovarian cancer patients, control the metastases of the cancer and increase the life expectancy of patients".

On 17 December 2010, [Phosphagenics Ltd](#) (ASX: POH; OTCQX: PPGNY) announced that its TPM/insulin project is on track to return to the clinic for human trials in the first half of 2010 following the adaptation of the successful TPM patch technology developed internally for the oxycodone program.

OTHER NEWS

[Walter and Eliza Hall Institute](#) (WEHI) researchers have uncovered a group of proteins that could form the basis of an effective vaccine against malaria. WEHI researchers Dr James Beeson, Dr Freya Fowkes and Dr Jack Richards, along with the University of Melbourne's Dr Julie Simpson have identified proteins produced by malaria parasites during the blood-stage that are effective at promoting immune responses that protect people from malaria illness.

The [Parkville Comprehensive Cancer Centre](#) project will move another step forward in early February when demolition of the former Royal Dental Hospital begins. Demolition of the existing buildings, on the corner of Flemington Road and Grattan Street at the busy Royal Parade ('Haymarket') Roundabout, will be completed by mid-2010. The site will then be prepared to begin construction of the new world-class integrated cancer research, education and treatment facility in 2011.



BIOTECHNOLOGY SKILLS REVIEW

The Victorian government is conducting a biotechnology skills review and we would like to hear from people working in the biotechnology sector who have graduated from a biotechnology-related course at university or TAFE in the past two years. Your experiences and perspectives would provide a valuable input to a study of the state's biotechnology workforce.

To express your interest in participating, please contact James Green at the Allen Consulting Group on 8650 6013 or by email at jgreen@allenconsult.com.au. For further information on the Victorian Government's biotechnology skills review, please contact Diana Crvenkovic by email diana.crvenkovic@diird.vic.gov.au.

BIO 2010 - EXHIBITOR APPLICATIONS CLOSE 3 FEBRUARY

Exhibitor places are still available for the Australian Pavilion at BIO 2010, but are selling fast and applications close in less than two weeks.

Australian companies and research organisations are invited to participate on the Australian Pavilion at the world's largest biotechnology event, joining 20,000 executives, investors, scientists, researchers, policymakers and journalists from around the world at BIO 2010, Chicago (May 3-6).

AusBiotech, on behalf of the Committee for Marketing Australian Biotechnology, is once again managing the 2010 Australian delegation. The short application period closes February 3.

For more information, please visit <http://www.ausbiotech.org/bio2010> or contact Shevaun Duncan, International Projects Manager at AusBiotech, on 0430 383 510, (03) 9828 1409 or sduncan@ausbiotech.org.

EVENTS

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| 9 February | BioMelbourne BioBreakfast - Commercialisation Australia - Opportunity for Biotech? |
| 9 February | ICT for Life Sciences Seminar - Turning thoughts into Action by Professor John Donoghue |
| February 2010 | AusBiotech - Fast start your biotechnology project management skill |
| 14-16 February | Lorne Genome Conference 2010 , Lorne |
| 18-19 February | SeerPharma Pty Ltd - Current GMPs – What's new? |
| 8-10 March | BIO-Europe Spring 2010 , Barcelona |
| 17 March | Graeme Clark Oration 2010 , Melbourne |
| 22-24 March | NZBIO 2010 , Auckland (interested in attending? contact Sally Morrison by email at sally.morrison@diird.vic.gov.au) |
| 3-6 May | BIO 2010 , Chicago (interested in attending? contact Trish Vardon by email at trish.vardon@diird.vic.gov.au) |
| 1-2 June | AusMedtech 2010 , Sydney |
| 23-24 June | ChinaBio Partnering Forum 2010 , Shanghai (interested in attending? contact Candice Basham by email 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 by email at candice.basham@diird.vic.gov.au) |

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