

Biotech West

Western Australian Biotechnology Update

Issue 9 November 2006



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Cell-based collaboration clears the way

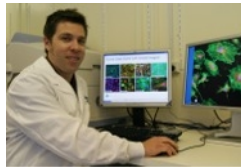
Western Australia Premier Alan Carpenter officially opened a new imaging facility at the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR) on 31 October.

As a result of a collaboration between Molecular Discovery Systems (a subsidiary of ASX-listed Perth biotech company BioPharmica), GE Healthcare and WAMIR, cell-based imaging equipment will be used to analyse tissue from more than 500 breast cancer patients whose samples form part of the WA Research Tissue Network.

New tests or treatments for diseases such as cancer and diabetes using gene identification, will be conducted in the GE's IN Cell Analyzer.

Molecular Discovery Systems CEO, Dr Sam Gallagher said: "Before this type of equipment became available we couldn't see what was happening around the gene – it was like a black box – so being able to actually watch what's going on in real time can help us better understand how the disease operates."

In his welcoming speech, WAIMR director Professor Klinken, pointed to the collaboration between Molecular Discovery Systems and its WAIMR-based researchers as a great opportunity to work with GE Healthcare teams in the US, UK, Australia and Singapore.



Premier Carpenter said this sort of partnership showcases WA's skills and services to the world market and will help us ensure science and innovation plays a key part in ensuring WA's economic growth, creating jobs and allowing economic diversification.

www.biopharmica.com.au

A life's work recognised

Congratulations to Professor Graeme Hankey who has been recognised for his outstanding work in stroke research, by taking out the highest honours at this year's Premier's Science Awards.

Professor Hankey is a consultant neurologist and head of the Stroke Unit at Royal Perth Hospital and clinical professor at the School of Medicine and Pharmacology at the University of Western Australia.



Prof Graeme Hankey

Premier Alan Carpenter said Professor Hankey has devoted his life to finding better ways to diagnose, prevent and treat strokes.

"His work is extremely significant given that stroke is the third biggest killer and leading cause of severe disability in the developed world, affecting 17 million people a year."

Congratulations to all of this year's winners. Click [HERE](#) for details on all category winners

Business briefing Health and medical opportunities in the Middle East and North Africa

Thursday, 16 November

Venue: Austrade Perth L 25, Exchange Plaza Building

Time: 4:00pm-5:00pm

Register today as places are limited!

To register, please email health@austrade.gov.au. Alternatively, contact Rika Sasaki on tel:02 9390 2369.

Whats On

15-18 Nov

Medica, Dusseldorf

www.medica.de

19-22 November

AusBiotech 2006, Sydney

www.ausbiotech.org/ausbio2006.asp

6-9 May 2007

BIO2007, Boston

www.bio2007.org

For more information on these events contact

biotech@doir.wa.gov.au

Contributions

If you have a story idea for the BiotechWest please contact editor Howard Shawcross at Howard.Shawcross@doir.wa.gov.au

Deadline for the next issue is **Wednesday 30 November**

How to subscribe

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US Commercialisation Roadmap Visit

Waste management and sheep skins were hot topics for Diana Cameron, biotechnology manager with the Department of Industry and Resources, when she accompanied two Western Australian biotechnology companies on a recent US visit.

Spartel and Collagen were participants in DoIR's pilot US Commercialisation Roadmap. The visit was intended to guide the companies in the implementation of their US Commercialisation Strategy, which was developed as part of the project.

Spartel are industry leaders in waste management technologies and CollTech have developed technology enabling the world's first commercial extraction of collagen from ovine (sheep) skins.

Facilitated by Melbourne-based consultants JdrLegal, the roadmap was a three month long program designed to assist the WA companies by providing a commercialisation assessment and IP due diligence report. This then led to the development and implementation of a commercialisation strategy for the US market.

In addition to providing assistance with the Commercialisation Roadmap, Diana and Dave Doepel, the Regional Director of the WA Trade Office in the US, met with a number of key biotechnology companies on the east and west coasts. Diana and Dave will work to further develop these strategic alliances to bring benefit to the local biotechnology industry. Stay tuned for initiatives that will flow from this visit.

To further assist WA companies, Dave is currently working to develop the Friends of WA Network. This network is intended to help Western Australian companies link in with supportive contacts when entering the US market.

<http://www.spartel.com.au/> <http://www.colltech.com.au/>



AusBiotech Christmas function

DIARY REMINDER:

The AusBiotech Christmas Party will be held on

Monday 11 December

(further details coming soon). For information contact Helen

Cheeseman, AusBiotech WA Branch Executive
Office on 08 9470 1212 or hcheeseman@ausbiotech.com.au



Western Australia scores high profile opportunities for BIO 2007

Despite fierce competition, Western Australians Steve Halls and Lyle Palmer have both had their submission for panels for BIO 2007 accepted. These will be the first panels chaired by Western Australians at a BIO conference. BIO 2007 will be held in Boston on 6-9 May 2007.

Steve Halls, Professor of Environmental Biotechnology at Murdoch University will be chairing a session called "Biodiesel - a Fuel for the Future: Facts and Fiction". Lyle Palmer, Foundation Chair in Genetic Epidemiology at the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research and University of Western Australia, will be chairing a session called "Biobanks: Building Capacity, Building Understanding, Building Business".

Organisations interested in participating in the BIO 2007 conference should contact Janelle Barnes at janelle.barnes@doir.wa.gov.au. To find out more about what will be on offer to Australians go to www.bio2007.com.au.

Applications for BIO exhibition booths close on 20 December 2006

Don't miss out!!!



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