

BIOPHARMICA LIMITED

Bridging Biotechnology Borders

Level 2, 30 Hasler Road,
Osborne Park, Western Australia 6017
PO Box 1534,
Osborne Park, Western Australia 6916
Telephone + 61 (08) 9244 9631
Facsimile + 61 (08) 9244 9782
Email admin@biopharmica.com.au
Internet www.biopharmica.com.au

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"RMIT University Bacterial Research Agreement"

BioPharmica's infectious disease business Diagnostic Array Systems (DAS) has entered into a research and development agreement with RMIT University for the development of bacteria related biotechnology.

The agreement will greatly benefit DAS with the expansion of world leading scientific expertise and access to an outstanding, world-class microbiology research facility. The state of the art RMIT University biotechnology laboratories were built at a cost of \$32,000,000.

DAS will retain all intellectual property and commercialisation rights to its current bacterial DNA diagnostic work, however all other intellectual property rights and inventions developed by the collaboration will be owned jointly by DAS and RMIT University.

The prototype and pilot test of the rapid lung disease test developed with Drs Fry and Nawagamuwa from Diagnostic Array Systems will be the initial focus. The Federal Government's Biotechnology Innovation Fund has provided \$204,000 in funding to assist in the development and testing of the DAS prototype.

The scientific team will be represented by DAS supported staff and RMIT staff and will initially consist of Drs Fry and Nawagamuwa and RMIT Microbiologist Professor Peter Coloe. Peter Coloe is Professor of Biotechnology and Head of the School of Applied Sciences at RMIT. He has published widely and has active research projects funded by ARC, RIRDC and commercial companies. He serves on the Editorial Board of Microbiology Australia and has served on several State and Federal government committees. Prof Coloe is a Fellow of the Australian Society for Microbiology, a member of the American Society of Microbiology and is President of the Federation of Asian Pacific Microbiological Societies.

DAS's commercialisation strategy is to conduct research work in collaboration with leading Universities and Institutes and partner with large in vitro diagnostic companies to gain access to worldwide sales and marketing networks.

The company is working to develop a range of diagnostic tests that use molecular methods to detect and quantify selected diseases caused by bacteria. Current lung disease tests using traditional culture based methods only identify the organism causing an infection in around 30% of cases.

Research, innovation and regulatory approval processes for diagnostics projects tend to experience a much faster path to market compared to drug or therapeutic developments. Molecular diagnostics is one of the fastest growing segments of the global diagnostics industry, estimated at over \$22 billion in 2003.

David Breeze,



Managing Director
BioPharmica Limited