

Saluting the biotech industry leaders in Asia Pacific

BioSingapore presents the 2009 BioSingapore Asia Pacific Biotechnology Awards

17 March, Singapore – BioSingapore has announced the five most innovative and successful companies in the biotechnology field in Asia Pacific, as well as the Woman Entrepreneur of the year. The 2009 BioSingapore Asia Pacific Biotechnology Awards were given out at the BioSingapore Awards Gala Dinner held during BioMedical Asia 2009 on Tuesday 17 March. These awards are a prestigious accolade for the winners from their peers, for accomplishments in the Life Sciences industry, and for the significant contributions they have made in advancing the sector in the Asia-Pacific region. This is the second year that BioSingapore has recognised biotech leaders from Asia-Pacific through its awards.

“The BioSingapore Awards 2009 exemplify the growing economic impact and success of the biomedical industry, not only here in Singapore but throughout the Asia-Pacific region, and the importance of the close collaboration between the regional biotechnology organizations working together in the BioNetwork Asia-Pacific (BNAP),” said Prof Sir David Lane, Chairman, Biomedical Research Council (BMRC), Singapore, who was the keynote speaker at the Awards Gala Dinner. The event was attended by life science conference participants and exhibitors from around the world, as well as by scientific and industry leaders, research institutions, and Singapore government officials responsible for driving the nation’s biomedical development.

There are 6 categories for the BioSingapore Awards. The 2009 winners are:

1. Most Innovative Start-Up – Siogen Biotech Sdn Bhd, Malaysia
2. Best Listed Company – Biocon Limited, India
3. Most Successful Bio-Partnership – S*BIO Private Limited, Singapore
4. Most Important Technology Development – XCyton Diagnostics Limited, India
5. Best Performing CRO – PAREXEL APEX International Co. Ltd, Taiwan
6. Woman Entrepreneur of the Year – Dr. Deborah Rathjen, Bionomics, Australia

Commenting on this year’s nominations, Dr Michael Entzeroth, Chairman, BioSingapore, said, “We believe these companies and individuals represent the best of the many excellent and exciting things going on the region. We were also very pleased to see a significant increase in entries this year, which shows a growing interest in the awards. Our judges had some difficult decisions, but are

very satisfied with the winners. As the sector grows in our region, we look forward to having an even larger selection to choose from next year!”

Every year, BioSingapore receives nominations from biotechnology industry associations (BNAP), industry peers, academics and institutions across Asia-Pacific for the most outstanding companies or individuals in various categories. The nominees are judged by a panel of distinguished leaders in the field. This year, the judging panel consisted of Dr Anna Lavelle (CEO and Executive Director, AusBiotech), Dr Shrikumar Suryanarayan (Director General, Association of Biotechnology-Led Enterprises of India), Dr Jonghoon Choi (Secretary General, Korea Biotechnology Industry Organisation) and Dr Michael Entzeroth.

About the winners:

SIOGEN – Most Innovative Start-up

Siogen Biotech is an innovative and dynamic biotech company, positioning itself globally in the new and exciting area of drug targeting and delivery, with an ever-increasing network of strategic partnerships all around the globe. Equipped with its proprietary cutting-edge drug delivery platform called Siosomes® (based on Silane molecules), the company is focusing on the commercialisation of its nano-technology for the improvement and development of medical drugs. The platform technology provides added benefits to drugs such as enhanced efficacy, decreased toxicity, alternative routes of administration and lower dose of administration. This ultimately translates to lower treatment costs and better treatment management for patients. Siosomes® can also be used to modulate the immune system in immunotherapy applications, such as vaccine and allergy.

Apart from being a carrier nano-particle and immune modulator, the Siosomes® platform can provide IP protection to unpatentable compounds, such as natural ingredients and biosimilars. The Company intends to further extend its strategic partnerships in the hope of developing a larger product pipeline, particularly in the areas of therapeutic drugs, vaccines, cosmeceuticals, pesticides/insecticides, active ingredients, herbal remedies, and wound healing. The Company has successfully raised seed capital, grants and generated revenues six (6) months since its inception.

BIOCON – Best Listed Company

Established in 1978, Biocon Limited is recognized as India's premier biotechnology company. Biocon and its two subsidiary companies, Syngene International Ltd and Clinigene International Ltd form a fully integrated biotechnology enterprise, specializing in biopharmaceuticals, custom research and clinical research. With successful initiatives in clinical development, bioprocessing and global marketing, Biocon delivers products and solutions to partners and customers across the globe. Many of these products have USFDA and EMEA acceptance.

Biocon is research-driven and a global healthcare equipped company with a strong matrix of capabilities along the biopharmaceutical value chain. Focusing on unmet medical needs in cancer, diabetes and inflammatory diseases, Biocon offers novel therapies on a platform of affordable innovation. Biocon believes its strategic licensing partnerships will rapidly provide the company wider global access and greater market penetration. More significantly, they will enable Biocon to deliver breakthrough therapeutics to millions of patients the world over.

S*BIO - Most Successful Bio-Partnership

S*BIO is a privately-held biotech company focused on the research and clinical development of novel targeted small molecule drugs for the treatment of cancer with leading programs around histone deacetylases (HDAC) and kinases. S*BIO's lead candidate, SB939, entered the clinic in 2007. SB1518, S*BIO's potent and orally-active JAK2 inhibitor, also entered the clinic in 2008 and has received orphan drug designation from the U.S. FDA. S*BIO has entered into a development collaboration, and option & license agreement with Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. to develop and commercialize SB1518 and its other novel JAK2 inhibitor, SB1578. S*BIO's SB1317, a novel multi-kinase inhibitor, is in pre-clinical development and under a worldwide exclusive license with Tragara Pharmaceuticals, Inc. for its development and commercialization.

In line with its vision to be a leading fully-integrated oncology-focused biotech company in Asia Pacific, S*BIO has established a state-of-the-art R&D infrastructure, complemented by a strong clinical development team. S*BIO has strong links with a network of medical oncologists in Asia Pacific and its investors include EDB Investments' biomedical sciences subsidiary Bio*One Capital, Aravis Ventures, Novartis Bioventures and other international funds. In 2009, S*BIO received the BioSpectrum Editor's Choice, Emerging BioScience Company of Singapore Award.

XCYTON – Most Important Technology Development

XCyton is a medical diagnostics company dedicated to *Certainty in Diagnosis* for critical care infections. Since inception, the company has built a wide array of immunodiagnostic and molecular diagnostic products and services. The *XCyto Screen* molecular diagnostic range is based on a proprietary, high-speed, easy to use technology innovation developed by XCyton's scientific team.

XCyton's advanced multiplex technology simultaneously amplifies up to 24 signature genes, each distinct to a probable organism implicated in a particular syndrome. This amplification drastically reduces the complexity of the final visualisation: hospital technicians or doctors use a simple coloured grid to differentiate diseases. Within 24 hours after admission into the hospital, a single test using a single sample enables the appropriate treatment regimen to be initiated, saving lives and preventing permanent damage or disability.

The *XCyto Screen* platform has already been adapted to diagnose critical neurological diseases: meningoencephalitis, pyogenic meningitis and chronic meningitis; critical eye infections such as viral retinitis, uveitis, infectious endophthalmitis and keratoconjunctivitis; and for cervical cancer, the human papillomavirus (HPV). Current research is focused on the detection of septicaemia and antibiotic resistance.

PAREXEL APEX International Co., Ltd. -- Best Performing CRO

Through its acquisition of APEX International, Asia's leading contract service provider in drug development, PAREXEL has more than 1,400 employees, including over 580 clinical monitors located in Asia Pacific providing clients with a wide range of clinical research service offerings throughout the Asia-Pacific region, across 15 countries, including China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, India, Japan, and Australia.

Headquartered in Taiwan, PAREXEL APEX International has a broad range of experience across a variety of therapeutic areas including endocrinology, infectious diseases, oncology, dermatology, cardiology, respiratory, gastroenterology, and central nervous system disorders. Their database of 6,500 potential/experienced investigators in Asia facilitates fast patient recruitment for clients, and the training courses they offer to Investigators and clinical research professionals are well regarded. PAREXEL APEX International's wealth of experience with the regulatory requirements, medical practice, cultures and languages within different Asian countries creates innovative solutions that apply specifically in this region.

The acquisition of APEX combined with PAREXEL's existing presence in Japan, India, and Australia positions PAREXEL as the leading provider of biopharmaceutical services in the Asia-Pacific region.

DEBORAH RATHJEN - Woman Entrepreneur of the Year

Dr. Deborah Rathjen is the CEO and Managing Director of Bionomics Limited, an ASX listed company, based in Thebarton, Adelaide. She specializes in cell biology, with particular talent in the field of cell inflammation and certain cancers. Her considerable efforts in the field of biology have been far-reaching and impacting. Numerous articles have been written about her discoveries in cancer, inflammation, immunity and other medical conditions. In recent times, she has presided over many contributions to new medical technologies including a treatment for solid tumours such as prostate and breast cancers and an anxiety treatment. Bionomics has a major partnership with Merck Serono for the discovery and development of novel treatments for Multiple Sclerosis and a number of other revenue generating licensing deals – all of which have been spear-headed by Dr Rathjen

Dr. Rathjen's career has been highly distinguished; earning herself a Ph.D. Dr Rathjen has pursued a career in biotechnology since 1988. At Peptech Group,

she was a co-inventor of their TNF technology and successfully implemented Peptech's strategy for defense and licensing of the patents to Abbott and Johnson and Johnson, which generated significant revenues for Peptech. In 2000, she resigned from Peptech, to become CEO at Bionomics. Since then, she has turned Bionomics into a notable biotechnology/ biomedical firm, undertaking two acquisitions in 2005 (Neurofit SAS based in Europe and Iliad Chemicals based in Melbourne) and transforming the company into a fully integrated drug discovery and development company. Her role in the development of cancer-treating drugs and other medications is a large contribution to Bionomics' current success in the biotechnology market.

Dr Rathjen is a well known advocate for innovation and a well respected opinion leader in the biotechnology sector. She has been a personal member of The Prime Minister's Science Engineering and Innovation Council and Deputy Chair of the Australian Biotechnology Advisory Council. Dr Rathjen is currently a member of the Federal Government's Innovation Australia Board. In 2006 she was awarded a Distinguished Alumni Award from Flinders University and in 2007 was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Science, Technology and Engineering (ATSE).

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About BioSingapore

BioSingapore was established in May 2004 as the industry association for life sciences and biotechnology businesses based in Singapore. With members from across the sector, BioSingapore's goal is to "Create, Develop, and Promote" the burgeoning biomedical sciences cluster in Singapore and throughout the region. BioSingapore's members have operations and business linkages across Asia-Pacific, and the organization is an active member of BioNet Asia Pacific (BNAP) network of national biotechnology industry associations.

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Annex 1 – Background to the BioSingapore Awards:

The BioSingapore Biotechnology Awards are the only Asia Pacific peer-nominated awards.

The categories and criteria are:

Most innovative start-up

- a) Time since inception less than 2 years
- b) Excellent management team
- c) Intriguing business model
- d) Secured funding to reach milestones and next round of investment

Best listed company

- a) Company listed at one of the stock exchange boards
- b) Significant gain in market capital at some stage over the last 12 months
- c) Sound business model
- d) Excellent management team

Most successful bio-partnership

- a) International biomedical partnership with tangible outcome and innovative / creative in structure
- b) Monetary and strategic value benefits for both partners
- c) At least one partner must be an Asian company
- d) Partnership/deal must have been announced within the last year
- e) Deals between majority or wholly-owned subsidiaries and parent company are not eligible for this award

Most important technology development

- a) Important, recognized bioscience technology development
- b) Application in diagnostics, automation, manufacturing or
- c) Significant impact on manpower utilization, throughput, medical treatment, safety, costs or output
- d) Unmet medical or market need

Best performing CRO

- a) Focus on supporting preclinical or clinical R&D activities
- b) Interesting spectrum of activities
- c) Internationally well-reputed institution (quality and delay)
- d) Competitive edge or market niche

Woman Entrepreneur of the Year – NEW in 2009!

- a) Heads her own business (not a subsidiary)
- b) Has expanded the business geographically in the last year; or
- c) Has launched 2 or more products; or
- d) Has 1 or more products in clinical trials

The winners last year were:

Most Innovative Start-up - PWG Genetics (Korea)

Best Listed Company - SinPhar (Taiwan)

Most Successful Bio-Partnership - CrystallGenomics (Korea)

Most Important Technology Development - HealthStats (Singapore)

Best Performing CRO - Maccines Pte. Ltd. (Singapore)