

**Embargoed until delivery**

**OPENING ADDRESS BY MR. STEVEN FANG, CHAIRMAN BIOSINGAPORE,  
AT THE LAUNCH OF BIOSINGAPORE  
STAMFORD BALLROOM, RAFFLES CITY CONVENTION CENTRE  
12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2004, 6.15PM**

Mr. Philip Yeo, Chairman A\*STAR and Co-Chairman EDB,  
BioSingapore members,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Good evening and thank you for being here with us, at the launch of BioSingapore. Introducing BioSingapore at today's BMA conference is most appropriate. Since BMA first started back in 2001, it has grown in size, number of speakers and participants, and scope. This growth is reflective of the rapid developments in Singapore's bioscience industry, which in turn has led to the initiation of BioSingapore.

**Voice of the industry**

2. But what exactly is BioSingapore? We are a new trade organisation that represents the interests of Singapore's emerging bioscience industry. With the rapid growth in this area, it becomes clear that this industry needs a voice. This is what BioSingapore aims to be. The association will represent the industry, acting as a platform of communication for the bioscience sector here. Our mission is to encourage and foster Singapore's bioscience enterprises, helping our members reach their full potential.

3. In this manner, BioSingapore will become a central networking organisation, liaising with local and international organisations, interested in

doing business. We will also represent our members to a range of parties, including the media, the financial sector and policy makers (we need to play down any lobby intentions). In addition, we need to educate the local community about the industry – its objectives, goals and needs. In short, BioSingapore will pool the resources and expertise of its members, to create a thriving business environment for rapid growth of the local bioscience industry.

4. Perhaps the easiest way to show how we can bring value to our members is to share my own experience. When I started up CordLife some three years ago, it was a challenge to meet some of Singapore's regulatory requirements, not because we could not do so, but because due to the uniqueness of tissue banking, these regulations had not been put in place yet. I would definitely have appreciated it if an association like BioSingapore would have been around to help us with sorting out the policies.

#### **Catalyst for the business and investment environment**

5. BioSingapore will act as the catalyst for improving business, investment and scientific opportunities. To do this, we will roll out a number of activities during the year; Activities that provide our members with key business tools and skills; Activities that stimulate investment into our local bioscience enterprises; Activities that encourage partnerships, collaborations and networking; and Activities that boost scientific knowledge within the industry.

6. The first event that we will be organising is a discussion and networking session on patent protection in the area of drug discovery. This will cover the importance of building up a company's IP portfolio, and typical obstacles that drug discovery companies face. This session will be the first in a monthly series that will focus on issues pertaining to this unusual industry. We are honoured to have international experts who will be speaking. Dr. Stephanie Pilkington will be speaking at the first session. She is from Eric Potter Clarkson, a leading law firm in Europe that specialises in the biotech industry and Prof. Sir David Lane has

indicated an interest in sharing his experiences. He is a world-renowned cancer scientist who is also the Executive Director of IMCB and founder of Cyclacel. I hope that many of you here today will be attending these sessions.

### **Building up membership to root BioSingapore**

7. These activities will be available to our members and we hope to rapidly build up the association's membership to firmly root it here. I am pleased to note that since the organisation began operations in May 2004, we have succeeded in bringing on 8 founding members, from the local biotech industry. These are A-Bio Pharma, Biomin Laboratory, Biotech Research Ventures, CordLife, iDNA Biotechnology, MediLynk Pte Ltd, Rockeby Biomed and Serono. However interest in the biosciences industry goes beyond just the biotech companies and our corporate members include companies from other sectors. Our corporate members currently are Affymetrix, Alban Tay Mahtani & de Silva, Ella Cheong Spruson & Ferguson, Lloyd Wise, Maida Vale Consulting and S\*BIO.

8. I would like to thank our pioneering members for their contributions. This is but the start, and I look forward to many more companies, organisations and individuals joining BioSingapore, to make it a dynamic, essential and worthy association for the bioscience community.

Thank you.

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