

ABIC 2006
Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference
July 05 Newsletter

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the first Newsletter for the Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference 2006 (ABIC 2006) to be held in Melbourne, Australia, August 6-9, 2006.

AusBiotech Ltd., the peak industry body for Australia's biotechnology industry, has invested significant resources in the support and promotion of the agricultural biotechnology sector within Australia. AusBiotech has done this because the AgBio sector represents a large portion of Australia's GDP, has a direct impact on more nutritional and effective food outcomes required to feed the world's growing population. In addition, agricultural biotechnology is often unfairly seen as the "little brother" of the human therapeutics sector, and this is certainly not the case when the global challenges of a growing population are considered. By hosting ABIC 2006 in Melbourne, AusBiotech is making a clear statement that the AgBio sector is crucial to biotechnology as a whole, and as such, it deserves a fully dedicated event that celebrates the achievements of the past and the potential of the future.

ABIC 2006 will bring together leading international researchers in the AgBio sector with industry partners and investors. The theme for ABIC 2006 will be **"unlocking the potential of agricultural biotechnology"**, and appropriately, the focus will be on both the innovation and the commercialisation, two processes that must go hand in hand. In other words, how do we take smart ideas from the laboratory bench to the market place where it will have maximum benefit for society?

Without a doubt, two of the most important challenges in the AgBio sector are:

- (i) The public perception of what "biotechnology" means; and
- (ii) The lack of effective commercialisation of innovative technologies.

ABIC 2006 will address these two challenges in the following ways:

- Organise speaker sessions that allow leading international experts to exchange ideas and nurture innovation;
- Provide informative and educational speaker sessions that highlight the benefits of AgBio to the non-scientist;
- Hold forums that address key policy and risk management issues such as commercial trials and regulatory approval for GM products;
- Provide an opportunity for AgBio companies and research organisations to meet with industry partners; and
- Bring major investors in the AgBio sector together with AgBio companies and research organisations seeking funding to develop their innovations.

At this stage, I would like to introduce some of the key people and organisations involved in the staging of ABIC 2006:

- **AusBiotech Ltd.** The host organisation for ABIC 2006, is responsible for managing this Conference in collaboration with the ABIC Foundation (see below). AusBiotech is the peak industry body for the Australian biotechnology industry and has over 2,600 members comprising both leading biotech companies and individuals.
- **ABIC Foundation.** The ABIC Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation based in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The ABIC Foundation was formed June 12, 1998, following the successful completion of ABIC '98. It was established to secure the continued success of the ABIC series. The Foundation's goal is to ensure ongoing opportunities for continuous learning and networking within the agbiotech community through the ABIC Conferences.
- **The Victorian Government** is supportive of the biotechnology sector in general, and specifically, has made substantial investments in agricultural biotechnology capabilities, especially in the areas of plant biotechnology and biosecurity. ABIC 2006 will provide the ideal platform for international leaders in the AgBio sector to discuss and showcase their work, and consequently, the Victorian Government is proud to be the Host State and Major Sponsor of this Conference.
- **The International Patron.**



Dr. Murray McLaughlin is CEO of Foragen, Inc., Canada, one of the leading venture capital firms active in the AgBio sector. Dr. McLaughlin was one of the Founders of ABIC and has provided continuing support to this important series of conferences since their inception in 1998. The present organisers of ABIC 2006 are delighted that Dr. McLaughlin has agreed to be one of the International Ambassadors for the Conference to ensure that there is vibrant international participation.

- **The Australian National Patron.**



Professor German Spangenberg is the Director of the Plant Biotechnology Centre in Bundoora, Australia. Being an international leader in plant biotechnology, Professor Spangenberg has committed to the enormous task of promoting ABIC 2006 throughout the international AgBio community.

- **The Program Committee.** The success of ABIC 2006 will depend very much on the quality of its program. As such, a group of key proponents in the AgBio industry has been gathered to oversee the program. The ABIC 2006 Program Committee comprises:
 - » Dr. Ian Edwards, Managing Director of Edstar Genetics Pty. Ltd. (Co-Chair)



- » Dr. T.J. Higgins, Deputy Chief of CSIRO Plant Industry (Co-Chair)



- » Dr. Glenn Tong, Director and Principal, BiotechSmarts Consulting, Australia (AusBiotech Representative)



- » Associate Professor Phil Batterham, Department of Genetics, The University of Melbourne, Australia.
- » Dr. Ben Cocks, Victorian Department of Primary Industries, Australia
- » Dr. Steve Chandler, Product Development Manager, Florigene Pty. Ltd., Australia
- » Mr. Scott Carpenter, Regulatory Affairs Associate, Bayer Crop Sciences, Australia
- » Dr. Malcolm Devine, Research Director, National Research Council, Canada
- » Ms. Paula Fitzgerald: - Executive Manager, Agrifood Awareness Alliance Limited
- Director of the ABIC foundation
- » Dr. David Garman, CEO, Environmental Biotechnology CRC, Australia
- » Dr. Mikael Hirsch, CSIRO, Australia
- » Professor Mike Jones, Director, State Agricultural Biotechnology Centre, Australia
- » Professor John Lovett, Director, Lovett Associates Pty. Ltd., Australia
- » Mr. Andrew Powell, ARB Consultants, Singapore
- » Mr. Selwyn Snell, CEO, BioProspect Ltd., Australia
- » Dr. Peter Welters, CEO, Phytowelt GmbH, Germany

In future editions of this Newsletter, we look forward to updating you on speakers and program details.

For further information about ABIC 2006

Please refer to the official ABIC 2006 Website www.abic2006.org or contact

Tour Hosts Conference Managers on:

Phone: +61 2 9265 0700
 Fax: +61 2 9267 5443
abc@tourhosts.com.au

REGISTER INTEREST

www.abic2006.org
HOST INDUSTRY BODY:

HOST STATE & PRINCIPAL SPONSOR:

ABIC 2006 Conference Managers

Ph: +61 2 9265 0700
 Fax: +61 2 9267 5443
ABIC2006@tourhosts.com.au