

# Media release



22 October 2010

## AusBiotech announces new directors at AGM

**AusBiotech has announced the appointment of two new directors to its Board at today's Annual General Meeting, following an election held this month. Dr Meera Verma, Director, Site Operations at Hospira Adelaide, and Dr Paul Walton, Senior Vice President of Corporate Development at CSL Limited, will join the Board, effective from today's meeting.**

Dr Meera Verma has been part of the biotech industry since 1987 when she joined BRESA Pty Ltd, a spin-out of Adelaide University. Initially managing the company's Gene Technology Group, which was involved in technical marketing and sales, Dr Verma was appointed General Manager of the Protein Pharmaceuticals division of BresaGen in 1995 before becoming Chief Operating Officer in November 2000. She was appointed to the BresaGen Board as Executive Director in late 2004 and was appointed to her current position when BresaGen was acquired by Hospira in late 2006.

Dr Verma led the team that registered Australia's first recombinant veterinary therapeutic product EquiGen Injection (equine somatotropin) in 1998. She was instrumental in BresaGen's IPO in 1999 and managed the funding and construction of the purpose-built GMP facility in Thebarton.

From 2002 to 2006, Dr Verma led the licensing and marketing efforts for protEcol Services, the business unit that provides contract process development and manufacturing services for biologic products, and continues to provide support for the current team.

Dr Verma is a member of the Therapeutic Goods Committee of the TGA.

Dr Verma was the winner of the inaugural BioInnovation SA Industry Leaders Award in 2007, the 2007 Telstra Business Women's Awards – South Australian winner and the Zaffyre International Private & Corporate Sector Award.

Dr Paul Walton is the Senior Vice President of Corporate Development at CSL Limited, based in Parkville, Victoria. Dr Walton's current role at CSL includes responsibility for corporate strategy, opportunities for corporate growth including Mergers & Acquisitions, and is Secretary of the CSL Board Innovation and Development Committee.

Dr Walton joined CSL in 1999 and has held various roles in CSL businesses in the USA including CSL Diagnostics and JRH Biosciences in Kansas City, and ZLB Bioplasma in Glendale, California. In these roles Dr Walton worked on acquisitions and mergers of the foundation organisations that formed CSL Behring, particularly the Aventis Behring acquisition where he managed the integration process. Before taking his current role in 2008 he was the Senior Vice President for Business Development at CSL Behring's USA headquarters in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

Prior to joining CSL Dr Walton held research and management roles at Genentech Inc. in San Francisco, Diagnostic Systems Ltd in Houston, GroPep Pty Ltd in Adelaide and the CSIRO. He has PhD and Master's degrees from the Pennsylvania State University and a Graduate Certificate from the Australian Graduate School of Management.

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The new Board is as follows:

Dr Anna Lavelle (Chief Executive Officer)  
Dr Deborah Rathjen (Chair)  
Dr Peter Isdale AM  
Ms Geraldine Farrell  
Dr Stewart Washer  
Dr Meera Verma  
Dr Paul Walton

In announcing the new Board, AusBiotech's Chair said that the new appointments were made from the largest field of standing candidates in AusBiotech's history. Dr Rathjen thanked departing Board members, Mr Michael Gilbert and Dr Greg Roger. Mr Gilbert has contributed six years' service to the Board and been Chair of the Risk and Audit Committee (RaAC) for five years. Dr Roger has served the Board for five years, and has been a member of the RaAC.

The next meeting of the Board will address the election of office bearers.

**ENDS**

#### **About AusBiotech**

AusBiotech is Australia's voice on biotechnology, and represents more than 3,000 members, encompassing medicines, medical diagnostics and devices, agriculture, alternative fuels and climate change.

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