



The Bioprocessing Network Newsletter

BPN is a forum where you can meet scientists from universities or companies, engineers, executives or representatives of supply industries and services. It offers the opportunities to meet people with similar challenges, show case your work and find out about latest techniques, exchange ideas, make contacts and solve problems. The value to you, your students, your laboratory and/or your company is enormous. Please make use of the network to ensure that you contribute to generating a vibrant industry which will allow Australia to take advantages of developments in this sector.

Keep abreast of events at the website www.bioprocessingnetwork.com.au. Contact us if you wish to highlight any external event or any event from your organisation on the website.

Message from the President

The Bioprocessing Network (BPN) is entering its third year of and we would like to thank all our members and corporate sponsors for their support.

We were very pleased with the outcome of the 2008 Conference with respect to the diversity of delegates from interstate, universities and companies. The range and quality of topics provided a tangible indication of the range and depth of Bioprocessing activities in Australia.

Despite the present economic challenges, as we all know "life goes on" and there are always benefits after a shake out as institutions are reformed and corrective measures put in place bear fruit. It is possible that science could benefit from the crisis. Thus it will be interesting to see if students eschew the finance sector in the future and return to the science and engineering areas. The Obama stimulus package is resulting in a large of influx of funds into scientific research which maybe transforming. The NIH budget after 6 years of no growth has been increased 36% from \$29 billion to close to \$40 billion. The National Science foundation also received an extra \$2 billion on top of its existing \$6.1 billion budget. Given the pre-eminent role of American scientific activity , the increased funding will not only help alleviate the existing crisis among many research laboratories but will have a multiplier effect through other science dependent industries. In the longer term it will underpin the innovation required to tackle health and environmental challenges and lay the basis of future economic growth.

In The Age on April 14th it was also gratifying to read the headline "Investment boom rejuvenates biotech". The article highlighted that biotech investment funds are cashed up and keen to invest in biotech companies. So far in 2009 there have been capital raising by at least ten biotechnology and medical device companies raising a total of \$56.1 million. Clearly there is still a positive outlook for a number of Australian biotech companies.

We at the BPN will also continue to propose that the glass is half full.

For 2009 we would like to announce that the 2009 BPN conference will be held in Brisbane from 30th September to 2nd October. Professor Peter Gray of the Australian Institute of Bioengineering and Biotechnology will be the keynote speaker. The conference will be held at the historic Parliament House next to the Brisbane Botanic Gardens. We are excited at having the conference in Queensland as we ensure that BPN becomes a national organisation.

We are continuing to further promoting the profile of BPN and in the upcoming issues of Australian Life Scientist there will an advertisement for BPN. We encourage all members to bring the BPN to the attention of any interested parties so that we can further increase our membership.

Joseph Bertolini

Bioprocessing Network goes even more National

The 2009 Bioprocessing Network conference will be held in Queensland for the first time. For more information please see the President's message and refer to the website for latest update.

With the terrific support for the BPN, especially the "National" Conference, from all states of Australia, it was inevitable the conference would move from Melbourne. The support and vision from Biotechnology Australia has ensured this will happen this year and the venue is Brisbane. We now have a truly National Conference on the back of a truly national BPN. We hope you can join us in Brisbane for a great conference.

Changes in the BPN Committee

Caron Roberts is on maternity leave from the BPN committee after giving birth to a baby girl Amelie. Janelle Bryce, also from GE, has taken her place.

Trent Munro from UQ has also joined the committee. Trent is our first permanently Queensland based committee member and has been instrumental in organising the first Brisbane based national conference.

Maria Keleva from Pall has left the committee and Amy Nankervis also from Pall has taken her place.

Ken Dibble from Millipore has joined the committee.

Andrew T'eo from Applimex Systems in NSW has also joined the committee. Andrew is our first permanently NSW based committee member.

We would like to welcome the new committee members and thank the outgoing members for their contributions.

Other events

We are planning a tour of the Synchrotron Facility in Clayton in late May. This will include a tour of the facility starting at 6 pm until 7.30. There will be refreshments offsite afterwards. Places are limited, so reply early to guarantee a spot. The final date and details will be forthcoming very soon. We hope to see you there.

Corporate members

We have issued a call for corporate members to re-sign with the BPN. We would like to thank all the foundation corporate members for their support. It has been fantastic and this support has allowed us to grow into the large network we currently are. Corporate membership helps maintain the BPN and allows the staging of the annual conference which brings together a large number of scientists engaged in Bioprocessing. Corporate membership entitles the sponsor to place their logo on the website, utilise the website for announcements and also receive a discount for a trade display at the annual conference.

We would like to reiterate to the membership that it is the corporate membership that keeps YOUR membership free. Please support them and refer to the website for an up to date list of the corporate members.

Membership

We would like to thank you for your membership to the BPN and ask that you continue spreading the work of the BPN to your colleagues, friends and collaborators. There is strength in numbers and to fully represent your needs, we need a large membership base. With free individual membership and very competitive corporate membership, we would like to grow another 100% this year. You can join via the website.

www.bioprocessingnetwork.com.au

Communications to our membership can be sought by contacting the secretariat at Joe.Bertolini@csl.com.au