



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Brisbane secures premier international complementary medicines conference

In New York over the weekend, Queensland Premier Anna Bligh announced that Brisbane has been selected to host the 2011 International Conference on Mechanisms of Action of Nutraceuticals (ICMAN 5).

It's expected that more than 400 delegates will convene at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on 13-15 October 2011, to take part in what has become a key event in the international nutraceutical and complementary medicines industry calendar.

Brisbane ICMAN Bid Convenor and Chief Executive Officer of host organisation Queensland Clinical Trials Network Inc. (QCTN), Mario Pennisi, said the city secured the bid due to its excellent research facilities and active industry stakeholders, contributing to Queensland's growing prominence in the pharmaceutical and nutraceutical industry.

"Brisbane has been selected as the host city for ICMAN5, thanks to its world-class research infrastructure, convention facilities, its proximity to emerging Asian markets in the pharmaceutical industry as well as the state's own nation-leading industry," said Mr Pennisi.

"The success of the bid has also been due to the support of the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Sanofi-Aventis, and the Queensland Government, and the attraction of Brisbane's idyllic subtropical climate and lifestyle didn't hurt either," he said.

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ICMAN5 is set to attract leading international researchers, clinicians, pharmacists and industry and government leaders, to discuss issues relevant to the role nutraceuticals and complementary medicines have in the application to healthcare and nutrition, through plenary sessions, breakout seminars, and trade exhibitions.

Key topics will focus on the latest developments and results of complementary medicines and nutraceuticals on diseases such as diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular and inflammatory disorders, as well as anti-aging opportunities, and will address issues such as regulatory affairs, integrating complementary medicine into community pharmacy practice, education for clinicians, and the emergence of new markets such as the Asia Pacific region.

“Australia’s nutraceutical and complementary medicines industry is estimated to be worth AUD \$1 billion, of which Queensland contributes about half. Further demonstrating that Brisbane is the ideal venue for the conference, it’s hoped this event will continue to push the local industry to further success,” said Mr Pennisi.

It is estimated that the 400 delegates will contribute more than \$700,000 into the local economy while in Queensland, with many international delegates set to tour local medical and manufacturing facilities, and also take advantage of tourism opportunities across the state and the country.

Brisbane joins a prestigious list of host cities for ICMAN, including Dubrovnik, Croatia; Krems/Danube, Austria; Waynesville-Maggievalley North Carolina; Tel Aviv, Israel; and New York City in the United States.

ICMAN 5 will be held from the 13 – 15 October, 2011.

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About QCTN

Queensland Clinical Trials Network Inc. (QCTN) was established in 2005 and is an independent, not-for-profit industry organisation, based in Australia. QCTN itself does not undertake preclinical or clinical research; however, QCTN member organisations provide the research services.

As a peak industry representative organisation, QCTN is an 'umbrella organisation' representing more than 70 national and international businesses which have a presence in Queensland – and represent almost every facet in the therapeutic product development pipeline. These organisations are life sciences service providers and related entities serving the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, complementary medicines and medical devices industries.

With over 70 members, QCTN is a primary point of contact for international organisations seeking to undertake preclinical and clinical drug development in Australia, QCTN helps identify and connect overseas organisations with appropriate Australian research institutes, biotechnology and medical device companies and life sciences third party service providers.

The broad base of QCTN's membership extends beyond clinical trials alone, with entities ranging from preclinical services providers, medical services, research organisations and also support service-related companies.

QCTN is involved in organising seminars, training industry workshops, conferences, establishing and maintaining relationships with other industry groups in Australia and abroad and participating in national and international forums to improve current regulations and systems for undertaking preclinical and clinical research.

QCTN's aim is to promote and raise the visibility of the Australian biopharmaceutical industry and life sciences service providers at a national and international level and to support them in building their capabilities in terms of know-how, best business practices, information and human resource solutions, as well as to facilitate opportunities for in/out licensing deals, mergers and acquisitions, and marketing activities. In addition, QCTN has introduced several unique initiatives that provide members and sponsors access to specialised support not available elsewhere:

- Registered Training Organisation
- Independent Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC)
- Independent Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
- Staff deployment services – SOS (Staff on Site)
- TrialChecker
- 1300Trials.

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