

## **MEDIA RELEASE – 10 November 2009**

### **Biomedical researcher examining atherosclerotic plaque stability wins the BioAssayLINK award for commercialisation potential**

#### **About the BioAssayLINK Award**

This is the second year of this cash award for early career biomedical researchers doing research that shows the most potential for commercial application. The primary goal of this award is to get researchers to think about the potential commercial significance of their research. The secondary goal is for researchers to forge closer links with industry. The inaugural award was presented to Cassandra Sparkers at last year's Australian Atherosclerosis Society (AAS) meeting for her breakthrough work simplifying fatty acids analysis using whole blood from a finger prick blood sample. The BioAssayLINK award has expanded this year and another award will be presented to a researcher at the Epigenetics meeting in Melbourne next month.

#### **Winner of this year's AAS BioAssayLINK Award**

The BioAssayLINK award winner for this year was PhD scholar Francis Geronimo from The Heart Research Institute (Sydney) for his comprehensive assessment of the effect of apoA-IV injections on plaque stability in a mouse model of atherosclerosis. His study demonstrated that four apoA-IV treatments resulted in profound changes in plaque composition resulting in more stable plaques. Positive benefits were measured across eight plaque stability parameters, including acute plaque ruptures, fibrous cap thickness and macrophage/SMC. All changes were statistically significant. Plaques with greater stability are less likely to rupture and thus result in heart attack. This work clearly has merit for potential commercial application. The award was accepted on Francis's behalf by his supervisor, Professor Kerry-Anne Rye, at the meeting dinner on Oct. 15. View the winning abstract.

Dr Smith commented, 'I am pleased to note that the applicants for this year's award are starting to pay greater attention to whether their research may have future commercial application'. Professor David Sullivan, President of the AAS, responded by adding, 'The BioAssayLINK award helps young scientists to take a broader view of their work which emphasises the importance of innovation and the relevance to commercial opportunity'.

#### **About BioAssayLINK**

BioAssayLINK is a convenient global online marketplace where industry seekers who are involved in the development of new therapeutics can quickly identify biomedical researchers, service providers and specialised consultants who have the know-how and expertise. BioAssayLINK's online matching tool is cost-effective for seekers and for providers/researchers/consultants who want global exposure. The lab and consultant options provided to seekers allow them to arrive at better decisions more quickly to advance their R&D programs and ultimately increase their speed to market.

#### **About AAS**

The Australian Atherosclerosis Society (AAS) promotes the advancement of science, research and teaching in the field of atherosclerosis. The AAS endeavours to achieve these objectives by promoting the exchange of existing knowledge, encouraging new research ventures and interdisciplinary approaches, and fostering the dissemination of knowledge by organising national and international scientific meetings.

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