

MEDIA RELEASE – 8 November 2010

Role of TRAIL in model for atherosclerosis and diabetes wins the BioAssayLINK Award for commercialisation potential

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About the BioAssayLINK Award

This is the third 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 in 2008 to Cassandra Sparkes for her breakthrough work simplifying fatty acids analysis using whole blood from a finger prick blood sample.

Winner of this year's AAS BioAssayLINK Award

The award winner for 2010 was recent PhD graduate Belinda Di Bartolo from The Centre for Vascular Research at The University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney for her investigations into the role of TRAIL (TNF-related apoptosis-inducing ligand) in a mouse model of atherosclerosis and diabetes. TRAIL is a member of the TNF family of cytokines and can promote cell proliferation and apoptosis. TRAIL has received significant attention in the cancer field, but much less in the cardiovascular area. The research, supervised by Dr Mary Kavurma, head of Molecular Signalling Unit at the Centre for Vascular Research, UNSW, highlights the non-apoptotic functions of TRAIL in regulating proliferation of vascular smooth muscle cells in atherosclerosis. The model provides a novel tool to not only delineate mechanisms of TRAIL signalling, but also to assess atherosclerosis and diabetes-dependent on TRAIL. The award was presented to Dr Belinda Di Bartolo by Dr Jeffery Smith, President and CEO of BioAssayLINK at the meeting's dinner on October 28 in Cairns. [View photo.](#)

Dr Smith commented, 'Each year the number of applicants seeking this award is increasing and BioAssayLINK is once again pleased to be able to provide support and encouragement for researchers to appreciate the potential commercial application of their work'. Professor Peter Clifton, President of the AAS, responded by adding, 'The BioAssayLINK Award is very important to young scientists as it means their work is not just academic but may well be the basis in the future for an invention that directly influences patient care'.

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 information provided to seekers allows them to arrive at better decisions more quickly to advance their R&D programs and ultimately increases 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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