



Press Release

For immediate release

July 15, 2009

CSL BACKS KEY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR HEALTH AND MEDICAL SCIENCES

The Bio21 Cluster today announced sponsorship of its flagship education and training program by CSL Limited. The sponsorship deal will underpin delivery of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) for the next 3 years.

UROP provides a key program in building skills in the biomedical and health sciences sector. Students join biomedical research teams as casual employees, thus experiencing research at a very early stage of their career. Students experience the highs and lows of research and relish the opportunity to tackle real research issues and start “making a difference”.

The Bio21 Cluster, a non-profit network of biomedical research organisations, universities and hospitals, delivers the UROP recruitment service. In announcing the sponsorship, CEO of the Bio21 Cluster, Dr Stella Clark said “The Bio21 Cluster is very proud that CSL, Australia’s leading biotechnology company, has chosen to become a primary sponsor of UROP. The goal of UROP is to introduce high achieving undergraduates to the real world of biomedical research and to foster the next generation of best and brightest young minds. CSL’s support will make a significant contribution to achieving this goal.”

CSL will provide financial support to UROP and be an active participant in the scheme by providing student placements. Chief Scientific Officer at CSL, Dr Andrew Cuthbertson said “At CSL, we believe supporting and encouraging our most promising biomedical students is an investment in Australia’s future. We are therefore delighted to be able to support the continued delivery of UROP as part of our contribution to the ongoing development of Australia’s world-class medical research community.”



UROP began in 1999 as an initiative of a cooperative research centre, championed at the time by Professor Doug Hilton, now the incoming Director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute. In 2004, the program expanded when it was adopted by the Bio21 Cluster with support from the Victorian State Government, through the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development. This saw the scheme delivered to all Victorian undergraduates and the host organisations expanded across both the greater Parkville and Clayton research precincts.

Since 2004, over 250 undergraduate students have been employed through the scheme.

Innovation Minister Gavin Jennings said “CSL’s support for UROP demonstrates the benefits of a productive partnership between industry, Government and research organisations, to build the skilled workforce we will need to achieve our goal of being one of the world’s Top Five locations for biotechnology.”

For media enquiries, please contact:

Dr Elizabeth Johnson, Bio21 Cluster	+61 418 561 199
Dr Rachel David, CSL Limited	+61 401 775 779

