

San Francisco: Genetic Testing - The Ultimate Match Maker



Left to Right: Brian Camahan (Victorian Government) Victor Perton, Commissioner to the Americas, State Government of Victoria (Australia), Maria Chiam (Nucleus Network) and Louis Matthews (Advance)



Thursday 30 July, 2009, Maria Chiam, Marketing Manager of Nucleus Network and Advance Chair for the Bay Area- Life Sciences, assisted in the organisation of the Genetic Testing - The Ultimate Match Maker event in San Francisco.

The event was hugely successful with over 80 attendees participating in the event and Australian Biotech sciences and Industry promoted to a diverse US, Swiss and Australian audience in San Francisco.

In a world where personalized medicine is becoming an increasingly important factor in our daily lives, companies are now commercializing the genetic testing process to find the perfect partner and create the perfect baby.

As one of the top five global biotechnology locations, Melbourne continues to build on a long established international reputation for excellence in genetic research.

Advance, Victorians Abroad and swissnex invited members to an intimate and critical debate analyzing the future of genetic engineering.

Invitees met leading Victorian, Professor Alan Trounson to discuss:

- *The influence of stem cell research - when can we expect cures?
- *DNA dating - risk awareness for families
- *The future patient – a personalized map of potential health risks
- *What are the opportunities and challenges of genetic diversity for humanity, disease and the environment?

Special Guests:

Dr. Alan Trounson, President, California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. Former Professor of Stem Cell Sciences and Director, Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories at Monash University, and the Founder of the National Biotechnology Centre of Excellence – ‘Australian Stem Cell Centre’.

Professor Georg A. Hollaender, head of the laboratory of Pediatric Immunology at the Department of Biomedicine of the University of Basel. Hollaender is also an Associate Professor at the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Montreal, Canada.

Elissa Levin, Director of Genetic Counseling, Navigenics. Navigenics educates individuals and their physicians with knowledge of their genetic predispositions and motivates them to act on the information to prevent or lessen the onset of disease.

With questions moderated by: **Evan Ratliff**, contributing editor, Wired magazine, science, technology, crime and environment writer for The New Yorker, the New York Times, Sunday Magazine, Men’s Journal.

Sponsored by Victorians Abroad Melbourne and Swissnex

Watch the video of the event here:

http://fora.tv/2009/07/30/Genetic_Testing_The_Ultimate_Matchmaker