SCIEX and A*STAR’s Bioprocessing Technology Institute Enter Multi-Year Collaboration to Advance Biologics Research & Development in Singapore

Agreement aims to boost innovation of protein drugs that target new diseases and are safer for patients

SINGAPORE, 25 January 2016 – SCIEX, a global leader in life science analytical technologies, and the Bioprocessing Technology Institute (BTI), a research institute under Singapore’s Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) with expertise in bioprocess science and engineering, today announced a collaboration to advance research and development in the area of biologics in Singapore.

Biologics refer to a new class of therapeutics, including monoclonal antibodies and antibody drug conjugates, which are increasingly being used for the treatment and prevention of human diseases. Unlike conventional drugs that are chemically synthesized, biologics are produced using cell cultures and represent an increasing growth area due to its potential to treat a range of conditions with no treatments available presently. While biologics hold great therapeutic benefits, much effort and cost is needed to purify these drugs, to eliminate residual components of the host cell system used in manufacturing. These components, or host cell proteins, may elicit unpredictable immune responses in patients or compromise the stability of the product.

The collaboration aims to meet the needs of the biopharmaceutical industry in developing accurate and high-throughput methods for analysis of these contaminants, to help the industry validate therapeutic candidates and ensure the safety and efficacy of biologics according to established regulatory guidelines.

Under the collaboration agreement, SCIEX will provide BTI with their reliable, sensitive and intuitive instruments including the TripleTOF® 6600 system and a Nano LC system, along with SCIEX software, and support from a team of application experts to assist with the analysis of complex contaminant protein molecules related to the production and analysis of biologic drugs.
BTI will supply SCIEX with data and validation results of methods developed in the course of the collaboration, while comprehensively profiling the host cell proteins or contaminants using the collaboration instruments. BTI will closely work with SCIEX’s demo chemists, applications chemists, and other concerned parties in the application of the methods developed.

“As Singapore is a recognised biomedical and biomanufacturing hub in the Asia Pacific, it gives us pride and honour to form this collaboration with an institute such as BTI who is spearheading innovative research in a very exciting and fast growing field like Biologics. Ultimately, by sharing our expertise and highly qualified resources, our analytical tools and solutions, and collaborating with BTI researchers, new methods and analyses will be developed in the quest to find treatments to new diseases, that will effectively improve people’s lives,” said Jean-Paul Mangeolle, President of SCIEX.

Professor Lam Kong Peng, Executive Director of BTI, said, “We see an increasing demand for new and innovative protein drugs that target diseases and are safer for patients. BTI will continue to work with industry partners such as SCIEX, combining our expertise in the production and analysis of biologics with the use of industry-leading high performance mass spectrometry instruments, to advance research in this area. We intend for our research to result in outcomes that can improve human health, meet the needs of the biopharmaceutical industry and enhance Singapore’s reputation as a world-class destination for biopharmaceutical R&D and manufacturing.”

###

**About SCIEX**

SCIEX helps to improve the world we live in by enabling scientists and laboratory analysts to find answers to the complex analytical challenges they face. The company’s global leadership and world-class service and support in the capillary electrophoresis and liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry industry have made it a trusted partner to thousands of the scientists and lab analysts worldwide who are focused on basic research, drug discovery and development, food and environmental testing, forensics and clinical research. With over 40 years of proven innovation, SCIEX excels by listening to and understanding the ever-evolving needs of its customers to develop reliable, sensitive and intuitive solutions that continue to redefine what is achievable in routine and complex analysis. For more
About the Bioprocessing Technology Institute (BTI)

Bioprocessing Technology Institute (BTI) is a member of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR). Established in 1990 as the Bioprocessing Technology Unit, it was renamed the Bioprocessing Technology Institute (BTI) in 2003. The research institute’s mission is to develop manpower capabilities and establish cutting-edge technologies relevant to the bioprocessing community. Some of the key research areas include expression engineering, animal cell technology, stem cell research, microbial fermentation, downstream purification and analytics.

For more information about BTI, please visit http://www.a-star.edu.sg/bti

Media Contacts:
Melinda Ilagan/ Edmund Ding
EASTWEST PR on behalf of SCIEX
sciex@eastwestpr.com
+65 6222 0306

Vanessa Loh
Agency for Science, Technology and Research
Vanessa_loh@a-star.edu.sg
+65 6826 6395