



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ChemGenex CEO Receives AusBiotech Award

MELBOURNE, Australia, and MENLO PARK, California U.S.A. (28th October 2009) – ChemGenex Pharmaceuticals Limited (ASX:CXS) is pleased to announce Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Greg Collier, PhD. was recognized this morning for his outstanding contribution to the advancement of biotechnology in Australia.

Dr Collier received the AusBiotech 2009 Chairman's Excellence Award for outstanding contribution by an individual within a company. The Board and management of ChemGenex extend their congratulations to Dr Collier upon the receipt of this award.

Please find attached the media release from AusBiotech.

About ChemGenex Pharmaceuticals Limited (<http://www.chemgenex.com>)

ChemGenex is an oncology focused biopharmaceutical company developing small molecules with new mechanisms of action to treat malignancies with significant unmet medical needs. The company is developing its lead product candidate OMAPRO™ (formerly omacetaxine) for the treatment of patients with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML), Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML), and Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS). A New Drug Application has been submitted to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for CML patients with the Bcr-Abl T315I mutation. The corporate strategy for ChemGenex is to commercialize OMAPRO™ independently in North America and to establish commercial partnerships in the rest of the world. ChemGenex currently trades on the Australian Stock Exchange under the symbol "CXS". For additional information on ChemGenex Pharmaceuticals, please visit the company's website at <http://www.chemgenex.com>.

Details on the clinical trials can be accessed from the following websites;

<http://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00375219?term=homoharringtonine&rank=9> and

<http://www.tkiresistantcmltrials.com>

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Media Release



**Wednesday 28 October 2009
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Greg Collier, ChemGenex CEO, awarded for excellence at AusBiotech 2009 Conference

ChemGenex CEO Dr Greg Collier was today recognised for his outstanding contribution to the Australian biotech sector, receiving the AusBiotech 2009 Chairman's Excellence Award for outstanding contribution by an individual within a company.

Dr Collier has played a significant role internationally and domestically in promoting Australia's leadership in biotechnology development and commercialisation. Under Dr Collier's leadership ChemGenex has emerged as an Australian success story, being the first Australian company to submit a New Drug Application (NDA) to the US Food and Drug Administration for a cancer medicine.

ChemGenex has submitted its NDA for Omapro™ (omacetaxine mepesuccinate), for the treatment of patients with chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) who have failed treatment with the drug imatinib and who have developed the T315I mutation. Patients with this mutation do not respond to existing therapies, and in clinical trials Omapro has been shown to be effective in 85% of patients with chronic phase CML.

ChemGenex also recently discovered in preclinical testing that Omapro kills human leukemic stem cells - a significant development with research showing stem cells appear to fuel the growth of several kinds of cancers including leukemia and are resistant to standard cancer therapy.

With stem cell therapies being hailed by many as the silver bullet in cancer treatment, this discovery is an interesting development for the Company and expands potential new and wide ranging avenues for the use of Omapro.

Further information and interviews:

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Media Release



Dr Collier has more than 20 years' experience spanning commercial, operational, clinical and scientific aspects of pharmaceutical research and development. He has been CEO of ChemGenex for seven years.

In presenting the awards, AusBiotech Chairman Dr Deborah Rathjen said: "Dr Collier has made a sustained and significant contribution to the Australian biotechnology industry not only through his achievements at ChemGenex but in his general pursuits in the discovery and commercialisation of Australian research in the important area of cancer therapies."

AusBiotech is the national body for the biotechnology and life sciences industry, hosting AusBiotech 2009 – the premier Australasian biotechnology conference from 27 – 30 October in Melbourne.

-ENDS-

About AusBiotech

AusBiotech is Australia's voice on biotechnology, and represents more than 3,000 members, encompassing medicines, medical diagnostics and devices, agriculture, alternative fuels and climate change.

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For additional event information visit the conference website at: <http://www.ausbiotech2009.com.au/>

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