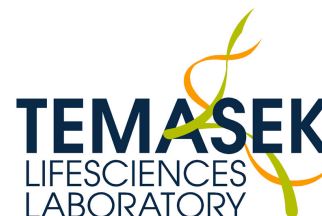


PRESS RELEASE

Singapore, 20 November 2003



TEMASEK LIFE SCIENCES LABORATORY APPOINTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Singapore, 20 November 2003 - Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL) is pleased to announce that Professor William Chia has been appointed its Executive Director, and will assume his duties early in 2004. In his new appointment, Professor Chia will oversee the research and developmental activities at TLL. He will work closely with TLL's Scientific Advisory Board to develop TLL into a research centre of excellence in the broad fields of life sciences. Professor Chia will also work to translate TLL's discoveries into commercial applications for the wider benefit of the community.

Ms Ho Ching, Chairman of TLL's Board of Directors said: "We are extremely honoured and pleased that a scientist of Professor William Chia's calibre has agreed to return to Singapore to take up the Executive Director position at TLL. His scientific and management credentials are outstanding and internationally recognised. I am confident that he will provide excellent leadership at TLL, and will continue to foster and nurture a culture of scientific excellence and open inquiry among our scientists and staff in TLL.

"I am also very grateful to A/Prof Mohan Balasubramanian for his dedicated leadership at TLL during the start-up phase. He has continued to attract young, talented scientists and staff – this will be an excellent foundation for TLL going forward," she added.

Professor Chia is no stranger to Singapore. He headed a laboratory at the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology (IMCB) from 1990 to 2001, and was appointed Professor by the National University of Singapore in 1995. He was also the Deputy Director for Research and Academic Matters at IMCB from 1998 to 2001. Professor Chia was awarded the prestigious National Science Award in 2001 by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*Star) for his outstanding contributions towards research in the area of developmental neurobiology.

Professor Chia is presently a Wellcome Trust Principal Research Fellow and Professor of Developmental Genetics at the MRC Centre for Developmental Neurobiology, King's College London, United Kingdom. He is a leading expert in the fields of cell and developmental biology, and has used the genetically amenable fruit fly as a model to understand complex biological principles. In particular, his recent studies have led to an understanding, at the molecular level, of fruit fly stem cells that allow proper differentiation of the nervous system.

Professor Chia is the recipient of several awards and is keenly involved in many academic activities. He has an editorial role with several scientific journals and serves on the Scientific Advisory Boards of several prestigious institutes, such as Riken Centre for Developmental Biology (Kobe, Japan) and the Centre for the Molecular Genetics of Development (Adelaide, Australia).

A/Prof Mohan Balasubramanian, Acting Director of TLL, said "I am extremely pleased about Professor William Chia's appointment as Executive Director of TLL for several reasons, but foremost is that he is deeply interested in the research work of all scientists,

including junior principal investigators, post-doctoral fellows and PhD students here. In addition, he is an extremely active scientist at the forefront of an area of research defined by himself, that intersects disciplines such as stem cell biology, neurobiology, and developmental biology. My tenure in administration was also made easy by several people who I should thank, including Drs. K.K. Tan, Suresh Jesuthasan, Wei-Cai Yang and Mr. Peter Chia”

Professor William Chia will be actively taking on the management of TLL from January 2004. A/Prof Balasubramanian will continue his role as a key research scientist as well as Deputy Director in the TLL senior management team.

“It is with great anticipation and pleasure that I look forward to joining TLL and to help build upon the already substantial foundations laid during her inaugural year under the leadership of A/Prof Balasubramanian.” said Professor Chia. “We intend for TLL to be a research institution that is driven by concepts and ideas, where the excitement of discovery and acquisition of knowledge is combined with the fulfillment of our obligation to enrich and benefit the community.”

About Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL)

Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL) was established in August 2002 by the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and Temasek Holdings to undertake cutting edge research in molecular biology and genetics in the broad fields of life sciences. Currently, there are 15 research groups working in the areas of cell biology, developmental biology, pathogenesis and bioinformatics. In addition, TLL has training programs for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, as well as students from the universities and junior colleges. More information on TLL is available at www.tll.org.sg

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