

PRESS RELEASE

TEMASEK LIFE SCIENCES LABORATORY APPOINTS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Singapore, 7 May 2007 - Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL) is pleased to announce that Dr Stephen Cohen will take up appointment as Chief Executive Officer from July 2007. He will succeed Professor William Chia to oversee the research and developmental activities at TLL.

Dr Cohen is presently the Head of the Developmental Biology Unit at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL). Dr Cohen's research work utilizing the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster* has led to several seminal discoveries in diverse areas such as cell signaling, embryonic development, growth control and metabolic diseases and microRNA function. Dr Cohen, a Canadian national, received his PhD in biology from Princeton University, USA, in 1983 and did post-doctoral work at MIT and at the Max-Planck Institute. Prior to joining EMBL in 1993 as group leader, he was an Assistant Professor and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Assistant Investigator at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, USA.

Prof William Chia said "Steve Cohen has been a leading molecular geneticist/developmental biologist over the past two decades. His outstanding scientific capabilities, energy, and leadership qualities will all be greatly beneficial to a young institution like TLL. We are fortunate indeed that Steve has agreed to guide TLL over the next phase of her development."

Nobel Laureate Sir Prof Paul Nurse, Chairman of TLL's Scientific Advisory Board, said, "Steve Cohen is one of the very best biologists in Europe; recruiting him a full time leader of TLL is a remarkable achievement for all of Singapore. With his exceptional scientific achievements and leadership skills, TLL should reach even greater heights."

Dr Tan Guong Ching, the Chairman of TLL, in welcoming the appointment of Dr Cohen, said, "Steve brings along with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in molecular and developmental biology. These will add greatly to the scientific capabilities of TLL and help bring about new achievements in TLL." Dr Tan also paid tribute to Prof William Chia for guiding the organization through its formative years. He said, "TLL is indebted to Bill for his leadership and also for agreeing to stay on in TLL for a little longer, to help Steve Cohen settle into his new role."

Dr Cohen is the recipient of several awards and was elected a member of the European Molecular Biology Organization in 1996. He is currently an editor of the journal *Developmental Biology* and serves on the editorial boards of several scientific journals including *Science*, *Genes and Development*, *Developmental Cell*. Dr Cohen also serves on the Scientific Advisory Boards of several prestigious institutes such as Wellcome/CRUK Institute, Cambridge UK, the RIKEN Cell and Developmental Biology Laboratory in Kobe, Japan and Department of Human Genetics, Flanders Interuniversity Institute for Biotechnology (VIB), Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

Dr Steve Cohen said "I'm very excited by ongoing developments on the biological sciences scene in Singapore and am eager to work with the faculty at TLL to ensure that we do our best to contribute to the success of these initiatives"



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 25 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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