



MEDIA ADVISORY – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2008

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**Human Genome Pioneer Dr. J. Craig Venter to Speak:
On Genomic Advances & New Energy Sources on March 20**

*CONNECT, CleanTECH San Diego, BIOCOM and UC San Diego
Set 5 p.m. event as part of Frontiers in Science lecture series*

WHAT: Dr. J. Craig Venter, world-renowned human genome pioneer, will discuss the latest advances in human genome research, synthetic biology and designer organisms, and discuss how he is applying tools and techniques developed to sequence the human genomes to discover new genes of microbes around the world. In addition, he will discuss research efforts to identify organisms that could reduce the world's dependency on fossil fuels and act as a new class of anti-parasitic drugs.

WHO: J. Craig Venter, PhD, is founder, chairman, and president of the J. Craig Venter Institute (JCVI), a not-for-profit, research and support organization with more than 500 scientists and staff dedicated to human, microbial, plant and environmental genomic research, the exploration of social and ethical issues in genomics, and seeking alternative energy solutions through genomics. Their most recent achievement is the publication of the first diploid human genome.

In 1992, Venter founded The Institute for Genomic Research (TIGR), a not-for-profit research institute, where in 1995 he and his team decoded the genome of the first free-living organism, the bacterium *Haemophilus influenzae*, using his new whole genome shotgun technique. TIGR, which was recently merged into the JCVI, sequenced more than 50 genomes using Dr. Venter's techniques.

WHERE: *UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences,*

Health Sciences Educational
Center Auditorium
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, CA 92121

WHEN: Thursday, March 20, 2008
5:00 p.m. Lecture
6:00 p.m. Reception

Those interested in attending should contact CONNECT on 858-964-1300 or visit <http://www.connect.org/programs/frontiersinscience/upcoming.htm>. Tickets are \$55 for CONNECT and BIOCOM members, \$65 for non-members and \$85 the day of the event and at the door.

About Frontiers in Science

The Frontiers in Science and Technology lecture series aims to enhance the dialogue between the business community and San Diego's leading scientists, engineers and researchers. These frequent seminars provide access to many heretofore-unknown research efforts underway at SDSU, UCSD, The Salk Institute, The Burnham Institute, TSRI, SPAWAR and other research institutes

About CONNECT

CONNECT is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating and sustaining the growth of innovative technology and life science businesses in San Diego. Since 1985, CONNECT has assisted in the formation and development of over 1,200 companies and is widely regarded as the nation's most successful regional program linking inventors and entrepreneurs with the resources they need for success. Its programs include: Springboard, Venture Round Table, Frontiers in Science and Technology, FrameWorks, CEO Strategy Forum and Connect with CONNECT; affiliate programs with The Center for Commercialization of Advanced Technology (CCAT), Tech Coast Angels (TCA), MIT Enterprise Forum (MITEF), and Wireless-Life Sciences Alliance; and its awards and recognition programs, Hall of Fame, and The Most Innovative Products (MIP) Awards.

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