

MEDIA RELEASE – Sunday November 11, 2007

World leader in breast cancer research speaking at ASMR National Scientific Conference, Katoomba NSW, Monday November 12, 2007



Dr. Mina Bissell - Director, Life Science Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, University of California

"From models to therapy: putting the Mammary Gland & Breast Cancer in Context

"Designer Microenvironments" has allowed the finding of unexpected pathways involved in invasion and progression....

Dr. Mina Bissell is a world leader in the role of extracellular matrix (ECM) and microenvironment in the regulation of tissue specific function, particularly in Breast Cancer, where she has changed some established paradigms.

"An extraordinary and pioneering scientist", Mina Bissell proposed that the tissue surrounding a cancer cell is just as important at controlling its behaviour as the genes inside it. Today, this idea is one of the hottest topics in cancer research.

Dr. Bissell's laboratory has developed "designer microenvironments" in three dimensional (3D) cultures to study the role of the microenvironment and tissue structure in normal and cancer cells and how these factors affect signals that are responsible for the development and growth of the breast.

Her research team has discovered a number of new pathways which may be possible targets for therapy.

Dr. Mina Bissell will deliver the Firkin Oration at the conference.

Biographical information available from www.asmr.org.au

Interview opportunities

Media Contacts: Dr Emma Parkinson-Lawrence 0400 635 822

Catherine West 0415 928 211

Priscilla Diment 0422 461 251