

Dr. Villoo Morawala-Patell receives The BioSpectrum Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2006

Bangalore, December 13, 2006:

Dr. Villoo Morawala Patell, Founder and Managing Director of Avesthagen was presented the Entrepreneur of the Year 2006 award at a recently concluded BioSpectrum awards function in Bangalore. The award was given in recognition of her steering Avesthagen into the league of top Biotech companies in India through an innovative business model which combines product development and services.

Dr. Patell was presented the award at a glittering ceremony, which was presided over by the Union Minister for Science and Technology, Mr.Kapil Sibal, Dr.R.A.Mashelkar, Director-General of CSIR and Dr.MK.Bhan, Sec. Dept. of Biotechnology of Govt. of India. Also were present many luminaries from the biotech industry.

Dr M.K. Bhan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, and Chairman of the BioSpectrum Awards Jury, along with other biotech industry leaders were in complete agreement with the selection of Dr. Villoo Morawala Patell as Entrepreneur of the Year. Dr.Patell is a first generation scientist-turned-entrepreneur who founded **Avesthagen**, focused on the novel concept of preventive personalized healthcare. "Dr. Villoo has set up an impressive company with a sustainable business plan. She has been successfully forging alliances and coming up with novel products," said Nitin Deshmukh, Head, private equity, Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Avesthagen was recently declared a Red Herring Magazine 100 Asia Winner for 2006 for "disruptive innovation." The award recognizes that Avesthagen is an emerging star in Asia and follows a stringent evaluation of its business model, profitability forecasts, management team and technology.

In acknowledgement Dr.Patell said "This award is in recognition of the unique model of Avesthagen pursuing its vision to achieve convergence of food, pharma and population genetics leading to preventive personalized medicine."



Left to right, Dr. Villoo Morawala-Patell, Mr. Kapil Sibal

About Avesthagen:

Avesthagen was founded in 1998 by one of India's pioneers and leading biotech entrepreneurs Dr. Villoo Morawala-Patell, who got her Ph.D from Louis Pasteur University in Strasbourg, France, in 1993. It began business operations officially in 2001.

Since its inception Avesthagen has grown into one of India's leading healthcare technology group in India, and its activities include, in addition to its agri-biotechnologies product pipeline, development of scientifically validated bioactive nutraceuticals, derived from Indian medicinal plants, as well as the development of a pipeline of bio-similar drugs. Avesthagen has four strategic business units: Biopharmaceuticals, Food For



PRESS RELEASE:

Dec 13, 2006

Medicine (Nutraceuticals), Seed For Food (agribiotech) and Science Innovation. Avesthagen's partners include multiple top 10 global companies in each of its fields of research.

Avesthagen collaborates at every stage in the value chain with appropriate partners, both public and private, for access to and exchange of technology and overall commercial expertise to leverage the 'India advantage'. Avesthagen employs 250 people worldwide. For Avesthagen on the web: www.avesthagen.com

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