

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE'S 17TH ANNUAL INNOVATION NIGHT TO TAKE PLACE ON OCTOBER 21

Major Networking Event for San Diego's Groundbreaking Science and Tech Community to Celebrate 100 Years of Scripps Research

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse's 17th annual **Innovation Night** will take place on **Monday, October 21** from 5:30pm to 8:30pm on the Playhouse's outdoor Taper Plaza. Co-chaired by **Denise Bevers**, President & CEO, Vetmab Biosciences; **Adam Jacobs**, Co-Founder, The Jacobs Scheriff Group; and **Tim Scott**, President & CEO, AustinPx, the 2024 event will celebrate **100 Years of Scripps Research**, currently under the leadership of President and CEO Peter Schultz, Ph.D., Honorary Chair.

Innovation Night is San Diego's premiere networking event that brings together leaders from San Diego's biotech, life sciences, high tech, clean tech, defense, telecommunications and associated industries for an extraordinary evening at La Jolla Playhouse – a leader in creating the most cutting-edge and innovative theatre for San Diego and beyond. The event supports the Playhouse's New Play Development and Learning & Engagement programs. The San Diego region enjoys one of the largest innovation economies in the world, producing major medical, pharmaceutical, diagnostic, biologic and wireless products that have led to breakthroughs in healthcare, technology and more. In recognition of this vibrant culture of innovation, this annual Playhouse event has become one of the city's most highly-anticipated fundraisers, celebrating the ingenuity among the world's top tech companies.

"San Diego's dynamic innovation community is led by extraordinary visionaries like Peter Schultz, who has built a reputation at Scripps Research for pushing the frontiers of science and medicine," said **Playhouse Managing Director Debby Buchholz**. "Over the last fifteen years, Innovation Night has raised indispensable funds to enhance the Playhouse's own 'R&D' efforts, while cultivating vital creative collaborations between San Diego's high-tech/biotech industries and the arts."

Innovation Night guests will enjoy an evening of networking, along with a live performance component from La Jolla Playhouse's acclaimed **Without Walls (WOW)** program. The event will also feature a special **Innovation Gallery**, showcasing projects by participating companies.

Innovation Night is supported by Presenting Sponsor: **PNC Bank**, along with Lead Sponsors **Cooley** and **UC San Diego**; Host Sponsors: **Show Imaging**; and Co-Host Sponsors: **AustinPX**, **Carson Royston Group**, **Latham & Watkins**, **The Lodge at Torrey Pines**, **Marsh McLennan Agency**, **Qualcomm**, **San Diego State University**, **Scripps Research**, **University of San Diego** and **VETmAb Bio**.

The title of Innovation Night Honorary Chair has been awarded to an individual who has contributed to San Diego's tech and bio-tech community in a profound way. Past honorees have included **Irwin Jacobs**, Founding Chairman and CEO Emeritus, Qualcomm; **Mary Walshok, Ph.D.**, Co-Founder of Connect; **David Hale**, Chairman & CEO, Hale BioPharma Ventures, LLC; **Dr. Peter C. Farrell**, Founder and Chairman of the Board of ResMed; **Greg Lucier**, Chairman, NuVasive Inc.; **Dr. Paul E. Jacobs**, Former Executive Chairman, Qualcomm Incorporated; **Jay Flatley**, Executive Chairman, Illumina; **Dr. J. Craig Venter**, Founder, Chairman & CEO, J. Craig Venter Institute; **Alan Gold**, Co-Founder, BioMed Realty Trust, Inc.; **Duane Roth**, (1949-2013), Chief Executive Officer, Connect; **Dr. Ivor Royston**, Former Managing Member, Forward Ventures and current President & CEO, Viracta Therapeutics.

– more –

Scripps Research was founded in 1924 as the Scripps Metabolic Clinic in La Jolla with a gift from local philanthropist Ellen Browning Scripps. Inspired, in part, by the discovery of insulin in 1921 to treat diabetes, she believed that science would transform the field of medicine. The tremendous impact of Scripps Research over the past century has proven her right and today we carry on that tradition, continuing the institute's rich history and achievements to push the frontiers of science and medicine over the next century and beyond. The institute sets the standard for excellence in a number of research fields, evidenced by the steady stream of groundbreaking discoveries that emerge from the institute's labs in chemistry, neuroscience, immunology and structural biology, to name a few. Building upon this foundation of scientific excellence, they have established a remarkable track record of generating new medicines. Discoveries made in the institute's labs have enabled 15 FDA-approved therapies...with many more on the horizon. Under the leadership of Peter Schultz, President and CEO of Scripps Research, they have begun to build on this remarkable record to establish a new paradigm for the institute and for the field of science more broadly.

Peter Schultz, Ph.D., is the president and chief executive officer of Scripps Research as well as a successful biotech entrepreneur. Widely considered one of the top chemists in the world, he has made many seminal contributions to the field, including the development and application of methods to expand the genetic code of living organisms, the discovery of catalytic antibodies, and the development and application of molecular diversity technologies to address problems in chemistry, biology and medicine. In recognition of his accomplishments, Dr. Schultz has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Wolf Prize in Chemistry, the Alan T. Waterman Award of the National Science Foundation, the Solvay Prize, the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize, the Arthur C. Cope Award of the American Chemical Society and the Heinrich Wieland Prize. Schultz has founded nine biotech/tech companies that have pioneered the development and application of new technologies to challenges in energy, materials and human health. In 1999, he founded the Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation, serving as its director for more than 10 years. In 2012, he established Calibr, a nonprofit biomedical research institute designed as a new model to accelerate the discovery of medicines for unmet needs. He continues to oversee its programs as chief executive officer. *Nature Biotechnology* ranked Schultz the #1 translational researcher in 2013. The co-author of more than 600 scientific publications, Schultz is active on many editorial and scientific advisory boards. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. Additionally, he has trained over 300 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, many of whom are on the faculties of major research institutions around the world. Schultz earned his undergraduate (*summa cum laude*) and doctoral degrees at the California Institute of Technology. After postdoctoral studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he joined the faculty at the University of California, Berkeley in 1985, where he was a chemistry professor, a principal investigator at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. He joined Scripps Research in 1999 and was appointed chief executive officer in 2015. The following year, he was named president of the institute.

For more information, please visit LaJollaPlayhouse.org/innovation-night. To secure tickets to the event or space in the Innovation Gallery, please contact Katie Wallace at kwallace@ljp.org.

La Jolla Playhouse is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, the Playhouse is currently led by Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Managing Director Debby Buchholz. The Playhouse is internationally renowned for the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 120 world premieres, commissioning 70 new works, and sending 36 productions to Broadway, garnering a total of 42 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

#