



GARDINER FOUNDATION

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Ramon Hall Leads Dairy Health and Nutrition Consortium**

Dr Ramon Hall has been appointed Manager of the \$12.5m Dairy Health and Nutrition Consortium. The Consortium was founded in 2007 to build the science which underpins label claims on Australian dairy products in domestic and export markets.

Gardiner Foundation is the major funder with \$5m invested. Six major dairy companies, Fonterra, Murray Goulburn, National Foods, Parmalat, Tatura Milk and Warrnambool Cheese and Butter collectively invest another \$7.5m. The program is delivered by Dairy Innovation Australia Limited with Dairy Australia providing significant in kind support.

Ramon Hall's career has centred around food science and nutrition. He gained a PhD in Food Science and Nutrition at Deakin University, work supported by an Australian Research Council grant. Before joining the Consortium on secondment Ramon was a member of the Fonterra Ingredients team with the role of Senior Research Scientist – Nutrition and Bioactives.

Ramon is an active member of the Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology and is current Chair of the Institute's Victorian Nutrition Group. He is also a Registered Nutritionist with the Nutrition Society of Australia. Ramon is a prolific author with a wide range of scientific papers and abstracts in the area of food science and nutrition. Over the course of his career, Ramon has developed a global network of food science and nutrition research collaborators which will further enhance the capacity of the Consortium.

Paul Ford Chief Executive of the Gardiner Foundation said *"Melbourne has a unique convergence of world class medical research and globally competitive dairy companies which was the trigger to develop this partnership in 2007. Since then multi million dollar projects have been completed at Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, Deakin University and CSIRO's Division of Food & Nutritional Science"*.

He added: *"In 2010 we conducted a mid term review of this program. Dairy health and nutrition science continued to be a high priority issue for dairy investment. The Consortium partners committed to investing in a second round of projects and to create a Board of senior company executives to provide the strategic oversight of the program"*.

Peter Hobman General Manager Murray Goulburn Nutritionals said *"The first round of the Consortium's projects has provided new and exciting insights into the nutrition and health benefits of dairy product consumption. We are very fortunate to have attracted Ramon to the position of Consortium Manager. The combination of Ramon's academic background and commercial experience is unique and in the context of the research program, will provide Murray Goulburn and other Consortium Members with valuable commercial opportunities"*.

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Media contacts:

**Ramon Hall – Dairy Innovation Australia – 03 9974 8709**

**Paul Ford – Gardiner Foundation – 03 9606 1900**

Photo caption:

#### **Dairy Health & Nutrition Consortium Board welcomes Ramon Hall**

Ramon Hall (centre foreground) and L. to R. Connie Restuccia (Parmalat), Buck Rogers (Tatura Milk), Jeremy Hill (Fonterra), Stephanie Djajamihardja (National Foods), Isabel MacNeill (Dairy Australia), Lesley MacLeod (Dairy Innovation Australia), Peter Hobman (Murray Goulburn Nutritionals), Paul Ford (Gardiner Foundation) and Steve Billington (Warrnambool Cheese and Butter).

**Print quality photo available – contact Cynthia Mrigate 03 9606 1911**

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