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Craig Venter to Speak at 2016 Spring Meeting on “Directed Evolution” Outlook

Alexandria, VA (November 16, 2015) — Dr. Craig Venter, one of the leading scientists of the 21st Century, has accepted an invitation to speak at ALDA’s Spring Meeting for Senior Executives on May 2 in Boston, MA.

The Spring Meeting program is expected to examine what is happening in the area of directed evolution, including synthetic biology, gene editing, manipulation, etc, and to offer strategic insights on how it is likely to evolve as well as the implications and opportunities for members of ALDA.

Dr. Venter is regarded as one of the leading scientists of the 21st century for his numerous contributions to genomic research. He is founder, chairman, and CEO of the J. Craig Venter Institute (JCVI), a non-profit, research organization dedicated to human, microbial, plant, synthetic and environmental genomic research, and the exploration of social and ethical issues in genomics. Dr. Venter and his team at JCVI continue to blaze new trails. They have sequenced and analyzed hundreds of genomes, and have published numerous important papers covering such areas as environmental genomics, the first complete diploid human genome, and the groundbreaking advance in creating the first self-replicating bacterial cell constructed entirely with synthetic DNA.

Dr. Venter is also co-founder, executive chairman and co-chief scientist of Synthetic Genomics Inc (SGI), a privately held company focused on developing products and solutions using synthetic genomics technologies and a co-founder, executive chairman and CEO of Human Longevity Inc (HLI), a genomics and cell therapy-based diagnostic and therapeutic company focused on extending the healthy, high performance human life span.

In 1998, Dr. Venter co-founded Celera Genomics to sequence the human genome using new tools and techniques he and his team developed. This research culminated with the February 2001 publication of the human genome in the journal, *Science*. He and his team at Celera also sequenced the fruit fly, mouse and rat genomes.

For more information regarding ALDA, contact Mike Duff, President, at 703-647-6214. More information regarding ALDA, its purposes, objectives and programs, and links to its members’ websites can be found at www.thealda.org

Based on the Washington DC suburb of Alexandria, VA, ALDA is an industry trade association for companies that develop and supply life science, analytical and diagnostic products and services used to conduct research, drug discovery, QA/QC testing and diagnostics in a wide range of industries and applications. Major customer segments including pharmaceuticals, biotech, academic and government research, food safety and environmental testing, personalized medicine and diagnostics.

ALDA's Mission is to be an advocate for our industry and a valuable aid to our members' global business success and to their customers' advancement of healthcare, science and industrial innovation by providing meetings with strategic content, networking, global market and business intelligence, and insights on emerging technologies, markets and business strategies.