

## **San Diego Venture Group to Highlight What Makes a Winning CEO Feb 17**

*Breakfast program of top panelists to outline common characteristics of heads of successful venture-backed company*

**San Diego, CA, Feb 08, 2012** - San Diego Venture Group will host its second 2012 breakfast program on February 17 entitled "What Makes a Winning CEO."

Tina Nova, CEO of Genoptix, Drew Senyei, Managing Director of Enterprise Partners along with Genomatica CEO Christophe Schilling and Alloy Ventures' Leighton Read will discuss the common characteristics of the heads of successful, venture-backed companies.

"This is a must attend for anyone who is considering launching or investing in start-up organizations," said Dave Titus, president of the San Diego Venture Group. "The panelists have extensive experience identifying the key traits of CEOs who've raised capital and executed a successful exit strategy. We're looking forward to a lively and interactive conversation!"

Nova has served the President and Chief Executive Officer of Genoptix, Inc., and a member of the Board of Directors from March 2000 - February 2011. From 1994 to January 2000, she served as Chief Operating Officer and President of Nanogen, Inc., a provider of molecular diagnostic tests, where she was a co-founder, and from 1992 to 1994, Nova served as Chief Operating Officer of Selective Genetics, a targeted therapy biotechnology company. She holds a B.S. degree in biological sciences from the University of California, Irvine and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of California, Riverside.

Senyei is a managing director at Enterprise Partners where he leads the life science practice. He focuses on investments in pharmaceuticals, biopharmaceuticals, diagnostics, medical devices and consumer healthcare. Senyei has served on more than 25 public and private boards including Adeza Biomedical, NuVasive, Corixa Corp., Ligand Pharmaceuticals, Nanogen, Inc., and Discovery Partners. He currently sits on the boards of current Enterprise portfolio companies including: Scoperta, Inc., Ascenta Therapeutics, Celladon, Celula, Complete Genomics, Ophthonix, TargeGen and Scoperta, Inc.

Schilling co-founded Genomatica and holds a Ph.D. in bioengineering from the University of California, San Diego, where he was a Powell Foundation and Whitaker Foundation Fellow. He received a B.S. in biomedical engineering from Duke University where he was a Howard Hughes Undergraduate Research Fellow. Schilling's awards include the Top 100 Young Innovators from MIT's Technology Review, R&D100 for the SimPheny part of the company's technology platform, and the Distinguished Young Alumnus from Duke University's Edmund T. Pratt, Jr. School of Engineering.

Before joining Alloy, Leighton spent 14 years as a biotechnology entrepreneur and investor. He co-founded Affymax NV, under the direction of Dr. Alejandro Zaffaroni, setting the stage for two successful spin-outs: Affymetrix and Maxygen. Leighton founded Aviron, a biotechnology company best known as the developer of FluMist™, the intranasal influenza vaccine, where he served as Chairman and CEO until 1999 and Director until its acquisition by MedImmune in 2002. While at Alloy, Leighton also served as the first CEO of Avidia, a spin-out of Maxygen later acquired by Amgen.

More information on the program is available at <http://www.sdv.org/events/>.

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The San Diego Venture Group cultivates durable and high value relationships between entrepreneurs, capital providers and strategic advisors intended to promote the formation and funding of innovative new ventures in the San Diego area, community to educate San Diego entrepreneurs in strategies for obtaining venture funding and developing their businesses, and to promote the San Diego venture capital and entrepreneurial communities on a regional and national basis. More information is available at [www.sdv.org](http://www.sdv.org).