

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE'S 18TH ANNUAL INNOVATION NIGHT TO TAKE PLACE ON OCTOBER 20

San Diego's Major Networking Event for San Diego's Groundbreaking Science and Tech Community to Celebrate Honorary Chair Dr. Martha G. Dennis

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse's 18th annual **Innovation Night** will take place on **Monday, October 20** from 5:30pm to 8:30pm on the Playhouse's outdoor Taper Plaza. Co-chaired by **Adam Jacobs**, President, Xzōm, Inc.; **Tim Scott**, President and CEO, Biocom California; and **Mary Walshok**, Retired Associate Vice Chancellor, UC San Diego, the event will honor **Dr. Martha G. Dennis**, celebrated telecommunications technologist, entrepreneur and venture capitalist. For more information, visit lajollaplayhouse.org/innovation-night.

Innovation Night is San Diego's premier 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 vibrant innovation community is led by extraordinary visionaries like Dr. Martha G. Dennis, whose phenomenal 50-year career has helped advance the frontiers of the technology and software industries in San Diego," said **Playhouse Managing Director Debby Buchholz**. "Over the last two decades, Innovation Night has raised indispensable funds to enhance the Playhouse's own 'R&D' efforts, while cultivating vital creative collaborations between San Diego's science and arts sectors."

Innovation Night guests will enjoy an evening of networking, refreshments, and 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**, **Qualcomm** and **UC San Diego**; Host Sponsors: **The Lodge at Torrey Pines**, **Prebys Foundation** and **Show Imaging**; and Co-Host Sponsors: **Alaska Airlines**, **Biocom**, **Marsh McLennan Agency**, **San Diego State University**, **Sanford Burnham Prebys** and **University of San Diego**; Friends of Martha Circle: **Peter and Doris Ellsworth**, **Lynn Gorguze and Scott Peters**, **Susan and Bill Hoehn**, **Susan and Peter Mallory**, **Karin E. Winner** and **Iapetus Capital, Inc.**; and In-Kind Sponsors: **CONNECT**, **La Cuisine**, **Neyenesch Printers**, **San Diego Union-Tribune** and **Snake Oil Cocktail Company**.

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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 **Pete Schultz, Ph.D.**, CEO of Scripps Research, **Irwin Jacobs**, Founding Chairman and CEO Emeritus, Qualcomm; **Mary Walshok, Ph.D.**, Co-Founder of Connect and former Vice Chancellor, UC San Diego; Pete **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.

During her 50-year career, **Dr. Martha G. Dennis** has been a telecommunications technologist, entrepreneur and venture capitalist, becoming a leader in the technology and software industries in San Diego. She holds a doctorate from Harvard University in Applied Mathematics and a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Smith College. She was the recipient of an Athena "Pinnacle Award" for Technology, a "Women Who Mean Business" award, recognition as an American Heart Association "Legendary Woman of the Heart," as a "Woman of Dedication" from the Salvation Army, as a "Cool Woman" award recipient from the Girl Scouts, and as a Founder's Medal recipient from the UC San Diego Rady School of Management. Martha is also a member of Sigma Xi, San Diego Rotary Club 33, Wednesday Club and the International Women's Forum (The Trusteeship). Currently, Martha is Principal at Gordion Knot, an advisory firm to emerging technology business in San Diego, and serves as a Director of Mundoval (NASDAQ: MUNDX). Formerly she was a Venture Partner with Windward Ventures, a firm that invested in early-stage Southern California technology companies. Martha was also Co-founder and President and CEO of WaveWare Communications, Inc., which sold software for wireless handheld connectivity. Prior to that, Martha co-founded Pacific Communications Sciences, Inc., a San Diego wireless communications equipment company that was acquired by Cirrus Logic. Earlier, she led software development at Linkabit Corp as Assistant Vice President. In addition, she served as Chairman of the Board of Netsapiens, Inc., which was acquired by Crexendo in June 2021, and served as Director of SpaceMicro, which was acquired by Voyager Space Holdings in December 2021. Martha and her husband, Dr. Edward Dennis, are active philanthropists in San Diego and have each demonstrated exceptional civic and charitable leadership through their ever-growing service, dedication and ability to inspire others to engage deeply with the organizations they support. They have been supporters of La Jolla Playhouse, where Ed has been involved in Board Leadership for more than three decades. Martha has been Chair or President of several boards and commissions, including La Jolla Music Society, Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, Bishop's School, The Charter One Hundred, Athena, City of San Diego Science & Technology Commission, San Diego Telecommunications Industry Association and the Dean's Council of Advisors of the UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering. She is currently on the Board of Directors at the San Diego Symphony. She is also an Emerita Board Member of Harvey Mudd College, of the Dean's Advisory Council of the UC San Diego Rady School of Management, and of *inewssource*. In addition, she has been a trustee of the Tech Coast Angels, San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, San Diego Foundation, San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation and the YMCA of San Diego County. She has been on the Advisory Board of CALIT2 and a member of Chairmen's RoundTable.

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, mounting 120 world premieres, commissioning 70 new works, and sending 37 productions to Broadway, garnering a total of 42 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.