

## **ISPE Melbourne and Sydney Chapters Particle Characterisation Seminars.**

As part of the Australian Affiliates commitment to promoting the Process Analytical Technology (PAT) initiative, the Australian PAT Community of Practice, in conjunction with the Melbourne Chapter organised two sessions in Melbourne and Sydney to address the area of in-line and at-line particle characterisation.

Both seminars had an excellent attendance from a wide range of companies, consultants and vendors. The Melbourne event was held at the GlaxoSmithKline facility in Boronia, where 42 people were attended. The Sydney event was held at the AstraZeneca conference centre at North Ryde, where 35 people were in attendance.

The invited speakers were Dr Karen Hapgood from Monash University, Mr Eric Dycus, from Mettler-Toledo and Mr Glen Blackstock from Real Time Instruments. Dr Hapgood was the first speaker at both seminars and provided an excellent overview of the wet granulation process and outlined the need of process technology for real time monitoring and control of the granulation process.

Mr Dycus was next to speak and provided a brief overview of the application of the Lasentec Focussed Beam Reflectance Measurement (FBRM) and the Particle Video System (PVS) equipment for real time monitoring of granulation in both high shear and fluidised bed applications. Mr Blackstock then focussed on the application of in-line laser diffraction systems for monitoring of granulation processes.

Mr Brad Swarbrick of SeerPharma, and current chair of the Australian PAT CoP provided the attendees an update on the progress of the steering committee and the CoP's objectives over the next 12 months.

Overall, the level of attendance shows the current interest of PAT in the Australian industry. However, it is easy to get interest from the technical people within industry, but in order to make real progress, attendance by the general manager and production operations level is required.