



BIOTECanada honours excellence in Canadian biotechnology

Toronto (May 18) – Industry leaders gathered earlier this week at Toronto’s Olympic Spirit for BIOTECanada’s Conference 2005, Recognition Awards, and Annual General Meeting.

The agenda included expert panel discussions among leaders of the Canadian biotech community exploring the promise of biotechnology in North America and the demands for transformative technologies to improve our quality of life. Participants also discussed tactics needed to maneuver through international business development and the goal of protecting Canada’s leading scientific capacity in biotechnology.

“Canadian companies are now competing in an international marketplace. We have a lot of potential in this country, with great ideas and great leaders, now we have to work hard to stay competitive with global developments and ensure Canada overcomes the hurdles to success,” said BIOTECanada president and CEO, Peter Brenders.

Panelists for the opening session exploring the promise of biotechnology for consumers included Brad Limpert, Lawyer and Patent Agent, Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP; Terry Albert, Executive Director, Canadian Medical Association; Dr. Durhane Wong-Rieger, President and CEO, Anemia Institute for Research & Education; and Chris Ward, President, Ward Health Strategies. The day’s second panel outlining best practices for Canadian competitiveness included Robert Ingratta, Vice President of Regulatory & International Affairs, Monsanto Canada Inc.; Mr. Brian Harling, Vice-President Corporate Affairs & Gov. Relations, MDS Inc.; Mr. Bill Newell Senior Vice President & Chief Business Officer, QLT Inc.; Lloyd M. Segal, President and CEO, Caprion Pharmaceuticals Inc.; and Jim Willoughby, Vice President of General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Hoffmann-La Roche Limited.

“Honouring leadership within the industry is a highlight of our conference,” said Brenders. “Not only did we see this in our excellent panel discussions, but afterward when we presented our annual recognition awards.”

Each year, BIOTECanada proudly recognizes those individuals and companies who have demonstrated significant accomplishments, exemplary leadership and commitment to the biotech industry in Canada and to the national association.

The 2004 Recognition Award Winners include:

Dr. John Mendlein, Chairman and CEO, Affinium Pharmaceuticals Inc. – *Contribution to the Association*

Dr. Mendlein was recognized for his participation throughout the year in events and meetings such as National Biotechnology Week advocacy day in Ottawa and the kick off event held in Toronto. As well, John represented BIOTECanada at the hearings of the House of Commons Finance Committee last fall as they deliberated on recommendations for the federal budget. John and the team at Affinium offer valuable expertise and insights to the association in many facets of its activities.

SemBioSys Genetics Inc. – *Biotech Company of the Year*

SemBioSys developed along two lines of business: molecular farming, focused on manufacture of high value protein products for pharmaceutical, industrial enzyme, and antibody markets; and personal care/cosmeceutical ingredients. Under this strategy, SemBioSys formed research partnerships and funded collaborations worth more than \$20M with several international firms, including Syngenta Participations AG, Martek Biosciences Corporation, Arcadia Biosciences Inc., Dow AgroSciences LLC, and Lonza Inc. The company most recently completed a successful IPO on the TSX in December 2004 for \$17.5M.

Theresa Kennedy, Director of Hill & Knowlton's North American Life Sciences Practice - *Contribution for Advancing the Benefits of Biotech for Canadians*

Ms. Kennedy led a national committee that included people from the National Biotech Accord community each of whom were vital elements to the success of the program in its first year. Within just a little over five months of planning, Theresa and team created a national program that has established itself in a professional and energetic manner that will bring even greater accomplishments in the years to come.

This year's *Promising Early Stage Company Award* recipients, are **ImmunoVaccine Technologies** based in Halifax, NS; **Performance Plants** from Kingston, ON; and **Trillium Therapeutics Inc.** from Toronto, ON.

These award winners receive a year's membership with BIOTECanada, sponsored by IBM Life Sciences Inc. and Marsh.

Board of Directors

At the Annual General Meeting, new 2005-2006 Board of Directors were welcomed. These include: **Dr. Simon Pimstone**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Xenon Pharmaceuticals Inc., **Rainer Englehardt**, Chief Executive Officer, Ottawa Biotechnology Incubation Centre, **Wayne Taylor**, Director Health Services Management Programs, McMaster University

For more information about our Board of Directors and the 2004 award winners, please visit www.biotech.ca

About BIOTECanada

BIOTECanada is the national association representing the broad spectrum of biotech constituents including the health, agricultural, environment, and industrial sectors, as well as academic and research institutions and other organizations dedicated to the long term and sustainable development of biotechnology, its practices and products.

Contact BIOTECanada

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