

CANADIAN BIOTECH INDUSTRY RECOGNIZES TOP PERFORMERS

Gold Leaf Awards Honour Canadian Biotech Excellence

CHICAGO, IL [April 22, 2013] – BIOTECCanada will formally present the 2013 winners of the prestigious Gold Leaf Awards, which recognize biotechnology excellence tomorrow afternoon, during the BIO International Convention in Chicago. Nominated and judged by biotechnology industry leaders, the awards honour companies and individuals who have made significant contributions to the growth of Canada's biotech sector.

"Whether through products that have been developed, technological breakthroughs that have been introduced, or the leadership qualities they exhibit, the recipients of these awards represent the best of what Canadian biotechnology has to offer," said the Honourable Gary Goodyear Minister of State for Science and Technology. "Our government's objective is to build on Canada's strengths by providing the most favourable conditions for industry to take its work to market, creating Canadian jobs, growth and prosperity."

"These remarkable individuals and companies demonstrate passion and vision for how biotechnology is providing solutions to the many pressing challenges we face in a global economy. The various clusters of excellence throughout Canada where biotechnology is thriving showcase the very best we have on offer," commented Andrew Casey, President and CEO BIOTECCanada. "Together we are building a world-leading bio-economy and establishing the foundations for a safer, cleaner, healthier and more sustainable future."

Xenon Pharmaceuticals Inc. – Company of the Year

Dr. Albert Friesen – Industry Leadership

Novo Nordisk - Contribution to Canadian Communities

Aquinox Pharmaceuticals Inc. - Early Stage Health

Okanagan Specialty Fruits Inc. – Early Stage Agriculture

Dr. Catherine Lau, Janssen Inc. - Contribution to the Association

The Gold Leaf Awards will be presented during a ceremony at the BIO International Convention in the Canada Café (booth # 3831) on Tuesday April 23 at 4pm. Followed by a Taste of Canada Reception (5pm – 6:30pm) where regional menus shine on the exhibit floor hosted by BIOTECCanada, Ag-West Bio, Atlantic Canada Bio-industries Alliance, BioAlberta, Life Science Association of Manitoba and Life Sciences Ontario.

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BIOTECCanada is the national industry association representing nearly 250 biotechnology member companies nation wide, reflecting the diverse nature of Canada's health, industrial and agricultural biotechnology sectors.

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