

For Immediate Release

BIOTECHNOLOGY AND MEDICAL DEVICE LEADERS TO BE RECOGNIZED

David H. Wilkins, United States Ambassador to Canada To Deliver Keynote Address at the National Awards Dinner

Toronto (June 15, 2006) –

Ambassador David Wilkins will deliver the keynote address at the 2006 National President's Award Dinner hosted by BIOTECCanada and MEDEC on Monday, June 19th, 2006 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

Biotechnology and medical devices offer exceptional potential for economic growth and improved quality of life. "Canadian researchers continue to meet the demands for new treatments and medical devices in an increasingly competitive global marketplace. The outcomes of their work positively affect Canadian patients," said Stephen Dibert, President & CEO of MEDEC, the association representing the medical device industry in Canada.

"Biotechnology is a global technology, and Canada is making its mark" said Peter Brenders, President & CEO, BIOTECCanada. "Our National Presidents' Award winners are proof of that. Aspreva, a successful and profitable Canadian company, has made huge strides in only four years. Other winners have contributed over 30 years to the industry. Companies are showing huge promise in the development of new home-grown technologies. Both associations will also recognize those who have contributed to the success of our public policy activities over the past year."

"We are proud of this opportunity to celebrate companies and individuals that have made significant achievements in the healthcare industry. The recipients being honoured from the medical device and biotechnology communities have had a direct impact on patient care in Canada, and that's why we have chosen to honour their achievements on June 19th" said Dibert.

MEDEC's Awards for Excellence

MEDEC Award for Medical Achievement:

DR. ROBERT BURRELL, University of Alberta

Dr. Burrell is being recognized for his dedication to the research, development and invention of Acticoat with Silver Nanocrystals Antimicrobial Barrier Dressing, which helps reduce infection in wounds.

President's Award for an Outstanding MEDEC Member:

Co-recipients NANCY ABBEY, Baxter Corp. and DAVID AMES, Johnson & Johnson Medical Products

Nancy Abbey has worked with MEDEC members to build relationships with the Ontario government. In addition to serving on MEDEC's Board of Directors, she chairs the Pandemic Planning Task Force. David Ames currently chairs MEDEC's Health Policy Committee, which published a number of papers in 2005 covering issues such as Health Technology Assessment, Cost of Goods and Cleaning and Sterilizing Reusable Medical Devices. He has been a driving force in the Association's work on legislation for the reprocessing of single use medical devices.

President's Award for Outstanding MEDEC Committee:

CANADIAN HEART RHYTHM TASK FORCE

This Task Force has developed a regional scoring system to benchmark patient access to implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) technology and has developed a joint symposium on ICD therapy for the Canadian Cardiovascular Congress.

National Biotechnology Awards

Biotech Company of the year:

ASPREVA PHARMACEUTICALS (Victoria, BC)

Aspreva has translated a unique business model of indication partnering market valuation close to \$1 billion. Since its inception, it has reached various key milestones at an impressive rate including partnerships, private equity financing raising US\$57 million and Phase III trials for three autoimmune conditions.

Contribution to Advancing the Benefits of Biotech for Canadians:

DR. ALEX MCPHERSON, Former President, Biomira (Edmonton AB)

Dr. McPherson has demonstrated exemplary vision and leadership in biotechnology and commitment and support for biotechnology in such areas as public awareness, scientific discovery or commercial application. Dr. McPherson stepped down from Biomira in May after serving as President & CEO since 1991.

Promising Early Stage Companies:

MBEC BIOPRODUCTS (Edmonton, AB)

Its first product, the MBEC Assay, is a high throughput screening system for drug/biocide discovery and is sold worldwide to over 80 clients.

RIMON THERAPEUTICS LTD. (Toronto, ON)

Co-founded in 2000, by Dr. Michael May and Prof. Michael Sefton, Rimon Therapeutics, the Theramer™ company, develops advanced medical polymers that look beyond the advent of combination products

Contribution to the Association:

DR. LUIS BARRETO, Vice-President of Public Policy, Sanofi Pasteur Limited (Toronto, ON)

Dr. Barreto's year's of support of BIOTECanada, including his recent work in establishing and co-chairing the new Public Affairs Committee, as well as championing the association to stakeholders and supporting national and international advocacy efforts and events such as National Biotechnology Week have distinguished Dr. Barreto as a leader within the association.

More information about the awards and the National Presidents' Awards Dinner is at

<http://www.canmedbio.com>

About BIOTECanada

BIOTECanada is the national association representing the broad spectrum of biotech constituents, including emerging and established companies in the health, agricultural, 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. <http://www.biotech.ca>

About MEDEC

MEDEC is the national industry association representing medical device and diagnostic companies. MEDEC members are dedicated to serving the health care community through the



CANADA'S MEDICAL DEVICE TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES
LES SOCIÉTÉS CANADIENNES DE TECHNOLOGIE DES
DISPOSITIFS MÉDICAUX

research and development and provision of high quality medical products and services that benefit Canadians. MEDEC serves as the primary source for advocacy, information and education for the medical device industry. <http://www.medec.org/>

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