

EMBARGOED UNTIL: Monday, March 9th, 2009; 7:00AM EST

LifeSciences BC Announces Recipients of the 2009 LifeSciences British Columbia Awards

Vancouver, British Columbia – LifeSciences British Columbia today announced the recipients of the 2009 LifeSciences British Columbia Awards. They are:

Genome BC Award for Scientific Excellence:

- Dr. Ben Koop, Centre for Biomedical Research, University of Victoria
- Dr. Willie Davidson, Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Simon Fraser University

Innovation & Achievement:

- John Babcook, AMGEN British Columbia

Leadership Awards:

- Dr. Jack Saddler, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia
- Dr. Julio Montaner, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS

Medical Device Company of the Year:

- Response Biomedical Corporation

Life Sciences Companies of the Year:

- OncoGenex Pharmaceuticals
- Nexterra Energy Corporation

These awards are presented annually by LifeSciences British Columbia to recognize individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the development of British Columbia's life sciences industry across all sub-sectors, from biopharmaceuticals and medical devices to bioproducts and bioenergy – sectors which are critical to the economic future of the province and country.

"We all know what a challenging business environment the world is facing," commented Karimah Es Sabar, President of LifeSciences British Columbia, "So it's even more important during such times that we celebrate and continue to nurture these great accomplishments. These recipients have all proven over the last year and during the course of their careers that great science and the application and commercialization of that science continue to be achieved right here in British Columbia. We extend our warmest congratulations and appreciation to each of the Award recipients."

The awards will be presented at a gala ceremony Wednesday, April 8th, 2009 in front of an audience of approximately 600 biopharmaceutical, medical device, bioproducts, bioenergy and greater life sciences community and public policy leaders at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver. Please visit www.lifesciencesbc.ca for full details.

The LifeSciences British Columbia Awards are presented by Ernst & Young; Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy, LLP; Genome British Columbia; and Rx&D (Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies). Media sponsor: Business in Vancouver Magazines.

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ONE BACKGROUNDER ATTACHED

For further information, contact:

Barry Gee

Director, Operations and Communications, LifeSciences British Columbia

Tel: 604-602-5226

Email: bgee@lifesciencesbc.ca

About LifeSciences British Columbia

LifeSciences British Columbia supports and represents the biopharmaceutical, medical device, bioproducts, bioenergy and greater life sciences community of British Columbia through leadership, advocacy and promotion of our world-class science and industry. Via active facilitation of partnering and investment into the life sciences sector, British Columbia is fast becoming a global life sciences leader. LifeSciences British Columbia is a not-for-profit, non-government, industry-funded association.