

KARIMAH ES SABAR – ADDRESS TO THE BC BIOTECHNOLOGY AWARDS, APRIL 18, 2007

Good evening ladies, gentlemen, friends and colleagues, and distinguished guests. Welcome to the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual BC Biotechnology Awards. As you'll see by the Programs on your seats, we have a very exciting evening planned, but to make it even more thrilling, we do also have a surprise for you!

To kick-off tonight's celebration in grand form, I am delighted to welcome to the stage, the Premier of the Province of British Columbia, the Honourable Gordon Campbell.....

[ANNOUNCEMENT BY PREMIER GORDON CAMPBELL]

Thank you Premier Campbell. I have to say that \$25 million does indeed kick-off the evening pretty well -- perhaps we can make that an annual tradition? CDRD is going to be a tremendous catalyst for this industry, and so many people in this room have worked very long and hard to make CDRD a reality, and tonight with your announcement, we're finally there. We greatly appreciate this support from your Government. Thank you for making the time to be here tonight to make the announcement personally despite having another important engagement to go to. Premier, you have stayed committed

to the development of the life sciences sector in British Columbia, and your efforts are greatly appreciated by everyone in our community.

Let me move now to tonight's Program, and begin my official remarks by congratulating this year's Award recipients, UltraSonix Medical Corp, Dr. Max Cynader of the Brain Research Centre, Dr. Alan Winter of Genome BC and Dr. Aubrey Tingle from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, Drs. Allen and Connie Eaves of the Terry Fox Laboratory at the BC Cancer Agency, and the StemCell Group of Companies, and of course Dr. David Dolphin who is being recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award for the contributions he has made via his numerous past and present affiliations. Each of these distinguished individuals have made a real difference to their respective organizations and to the broader life sciences industry in British Columbia and Canada, and we are very proud to be able to acknowledge them this evening. We also congratulate the sanofi-aventis Biotech Challenge winners tonight who are our life sciences champions of the future.

Although this is our 9<sup>th</sup> Awards Ceremony, it is our first as LifeSciences British Columbia. This recent change in name is a recognition of the fact that biotech in British Columbia doesn't just mean biopharma, that British Columbia is *the* life sciences province, with strengths in medical devices, agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, bioproducts, and industrial biotech, and that the province needed an organization that brings together all of these bio-groups

synergistically, to create a strong collective voice. Henceforth these Awards will be called the BC LifeSciences Awards.

One of the most exciting initial elements of this evolution is the merger between BC Biotech and BC MedTech, the organization representing the province's medical devices sector. I'd like to thank the Board and members of BC MedTech for working with us to create LifeSciences British Columbia. We're certain that this union will have a great positive impact on biopharma, medical devices, and all life sciences sub-sectors in BC. I'm also very pleased that this merger will also result in our current Board of Directors being expanded by two seats specifically dedicated for medical device sector leaders. I'd like to announce that those seats will be filled by Barry Allen, President and CEO of UroDynamix Technologies, and Paul Geyer, President and CEO of Medical Ventures Corp. Barry and Paul, can I just ask you to please stand and be recognized? Thanks very much, and we look forward to having you both add value to the discussions around our Board table.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce to you the current members of the Board of Directors of LifeSciences British Columbia, firstly to acknowledge them for the tremendous amount of time and energy they dedicate to our organization and industry, but also because LifeSciences BC is a member-based organization, and in order for us to be successful, both management and our Board need ongoing input and involvement from you, our members. So please do take the opportunity to engage with these individuals (and

*most* are quite engaging I must say) to make sure that LifeSciences BC is meeting the needs of your organization. Those Directors are (and can I please ask them to each stand, and everyone to please hold your applause):

- Our Chair, David Hall from Angiotech
- Vice Chair, Simon Pimstone of Xenon
- Past Chair, Ms. Natalie Dakers with the Centre for Drug Research and Development
- Secretary, Joe Garcia with McCarthy Tetrault
- Our Treasurer, Mr. John DeLucchi from PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Mr. Hector MacKay-Dunn, Senior Partner with Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy
- Mr. Scott Cormack, CEO of OncoGenex
- Dr. Bob Sindelar, Dean of Pharmaceutical Sciences at UBC
- Patrick Wolfe, Managing Director with Raymond James
- Mr. Don Avison of the University Presidents' Council; and finally
- Peter O'Callaghan, Senior Vice-President at QLT.

Please join me in thanking them all for their dedication and leadership. Thanks very much.

Our change in name and merger however are not the only ways in which we've evolved this year. We continue to successfully grow into our role as an influential advocacy organization, and play a principal part in the policy discussions shaping our industry.

Our Chair David Hall will be speaking more to this point and some of our successes on the public policy front in his remarks, so I will leave further comment to David, though I do want to thank everyone who has supported us in our advocacy efforts both provincially and federally, and also thank the many partners we have within government, both at the bureaucratic and political levels. I personally appreciate the great working relationships we've built, without which neither industry nor government would have a chance at being successful in our individual or collective mandates.

On this point, I would like to welcome several new leaders to our community: first, Mr. Brent Sauder, the new Assistant Deputy Minister for Research and Innovation at the Ministry of Advanced Education; and Mr. Mike Carter, the new Assistant Deputy Minister of Marketing with the Ministry of Economic Development, and Mr. Matthew Watson, the newly appointed President and CEO of the BC Innovation Council. We're pleased to have you as part of the extended life sciences family, and look forward to achieving much together.

I would also like to take a moment to introduce some special guests here this evening who each very much personify the types of valuable working relationships and partnerships I refer to. If I can please ask you to hold your applause until they are all introduced. Please welcome:

- Peter Brenders, President of BIOTECCanada
- Dr. Robert Kilpatrick producer of the extremely successful annual BioPartnering North America Conference
- Dr. Moura Quayle, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education
- Mr. Don Fast, Deputy Minister of Economic Development
- Mr. Rob Cruickshank, President of the BC Technology Industries Association, and TIA's VP of Operations, Ms. Cindy Pearson
- Ms. Tanja McQueen, CEO of the Vancouver Economic Development Commission
- Ms. Cheryl Slusarchuk, President of the Premier's Technology Council
- The President of sanofi-pasteur, who traveled all the way from Toronto to present the sanofi-aventis Biotech Challenge Awards, Mr. Mark Lievonen, who also happens to be my former boss;
- And one of our winning students from last year's sanofi-aventis Biotech Challenge, now alumni of the program, Mr. Philip Edgecumb;
- And you may know her as the former President of BIOTECCanada, but is now the newly-appointed Vice President of Provincial Affairs for Rx&D, Ms. Janet Lambert;
- The President of WIN BC, Ms. Shana Korotash; and
- The President of AceTech, Ms. Kathy Troupe;
- Representing the City of Vancouver, Councillor Peter Ladner;
- Representing MP, Blair Wilson is Mr. Max Zahedi;

- And finally joining us a little later and addressing the audience, the Honourable Murray Coell, Minister of Advanced Education and Minister Responsible for Research and Technology;

Please join me in sincerely thanking them all for being here and showing their support of the biotech industry.

The theme of tonight's event is "Local Excellence – Global Impact", highlighting the world-class stature of our award recipients, as well as the fact that the discoveries and products we're making here in BC will ultimately reach and affect the lives of people on virtually every part of the globe. In keeping with this global theme, I would like to make just one more round of introductions, and welcome the members of Vancouver's Consular Corps who are here tonight. In working to increase our industry's international profile and partnerships, LifeSciences BC is very pleased to work directly with many of these international representatives, and look forward to expanding those relationships further.

Can I ask each of the following dignitaries to please stand and be recognized, and remain standing, as I'll ask everyone to again please hold your applause until the end.

- The Honourary Consul General of Costa Rica, Mr. Antonio Arreaga-Valdés;
- Mr. Michael D. Adlem, Honourary Consul of the Czech Republic
- The Honourary Consul for Uganda, Mr. John Halani;

- Ms. Eva K. Henderson, Honourary Vice-Consul of Sweden;
- Mr. Mir Ihor Lubomyr Huculak, Honourary Consul of Ukraine;
- Honourary Consul of Tunisia, Mr. Lyall Knott, QC;
- Mr. Bunyan Saptomo, Consul General of Indonesia;
- The Consul General of Switzerland, Mr. Armin Meile;
- Deputy Consul General of the United Kingdom, Mr. Andy Newlands;
- Consul General of Japan, Mr. Seiichi Otsuka;
- Dr. Nittin Kumar Reebye, Honourary Consul of Mauritius;
- Honourary Vice-Consul of the Dominican Republic, Pedro Alfonso Reyes De Leon;
- Mr. Mehmet (Mark) Sezginalp, Honourary Consul General of Turkey;
- Mr. Ron Bozzer, Honourary Consul of Luxembourg;

And finally;

- Lewis Alan Lukens Consul General of the United States of America

Welcome, benvenuto, recepción, välkommen; and *Irrasshaimase Yoko So.*

As we all know, international partnerships are vital to our industry. Although what we've developed here in BC is certainly something to be proud of, we have to remember that there is a much bigger world out there that we can't ignore if we are going to be truly successful.

This is why over the past year and a half in particular, LifeSciences BC has also evolved to play a much more active role in the international marketing of the industry cluster and the Province, as well as active facilitation of partnering and investment into our sector.

This has been seen via the partnering days we've held with companies such as Pfizer, Roche and Takeda; as well as in our recent missions to BioVision & BioSquare where we worked to develop new European relationships, or our efforts at BioJapan and in Singapore in order to realize the collaboration potential with the Asia-Pacific Region, and of course our ongoing relationship and support of BPN's sister conference, BioPartnering Europe. And in fact, virtually all of these outbound missions saw returning delegations to BioPartnering North America this year, and we were able to welcome even more of the world to Vancouver for this year's conference.

Our international efforts also include of course, coordination of British Columbia's presence at BIO which we very successfully expanded upon last year, and will do so again at this year's conference coming up in a few weeks. I'd also like to mention that we're very pleased that Minister Coell will be leading the BC delegation this year, and we look forward to having him with us, and hopefully providing some first-hand insight as to the sheer scope of the international biotech industry, and what other jurisdictions are doing to compete. I'd just like to add that if any of you are planning on attending BIO, please do

let one of us at LifeSciences BC know so we can involve you with our official delegation and planned events.

I'd also like to add that we very much recognize the need to be extremely strategic about our global activities and conference participation in particular, and only undertake those which we feel will have the greatest impact and results for our members, and in fact each of our efforts to date have resulted in real deals being done with BC organizations. We'd also like to recognize the support that the provincial government has provided for these activities, in order to make sure British Columbia is not only present at key international events, but that we show our very best.

We of course would not be able to do any of our projects and activities if it were not also for the support of our members and sponsors. As you know, we implemented an organizational sponsorship program approximately a year and a half ago which has been a tremendous success thanks to the many participating organizations. I really want to stress that these organizations have stepped up in a very real way, are putting resources back into the industry and allowing us at LifeSciences BC to undertake activities and make real changes that will help everyone here.

These organizations are:

At the Gold Sponsor Level:

- Angiotech
- Aspreva

- AstraZeneca
- Deloitte
- Ernst & Young
- Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy
- Genome British Columbia
- McCarthy Tetrault
- Pfizer
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Raymond James
- QLT
- Rx&D; and
- Western Economic Diversification

And our Silver Sponsors:

- Discovery Parks
- GlaxoSmithKline
- KPMG
- Merck Frosst

And the Bronze Sponsors:

- Aon
- BMO Nesbitt Burns
- Business in Vancouver Magazines
- CANTEST
- Dorsey & Whitney
- Galt Global Recruiting
- Roche

- Lang Michener
- TSX & TSX Venture Exchange; and the
- University of British Columbia Industry Liaison Office

Please join me in thanking them all for their contributions to the development of the biotechnology industry in British Columbia.

And finally, I'd like to conclude my remarks by mentioning that that we will also be recognizing tonight, the participants of the sanofi-aventis Biotech Challenge, a biotech competition for high school students, that LifeSciences BC coordinates with assistance from BCIT and NRC-IRAP. I've purposely left mention of s-abc to the end of my remarks because I feel this competition represents one of the most important elements to the evening, and in fact to the industry. Led by their inquisitive nature, and their desire to learn something new by venturing into the world of biotech, these students truly embody what our industry is really all about. Marie Curie once said "I am among those who believe that science has great beauty. A scientist in his laboratory is not only a technician: he is also a child placed before natural phenomena which impresses him like a fairy tale."

I think this really speaks to the wonderment behind what we are all trying to ultimately achieve, and which tonight's Award recipients have so successfully attained. We can talk endlessly about the steps and strategies we need to take to build a successful industry, but keeping this child-like wonder is really the single-most important thing we all *must* do, as this is an industry that is most essentially fueled by

curiosity and the pure joy of discovery. Carl Sagan said “Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known,” so I wish you all much success in discovering your own incredible something somewhere, while every day being “impressed like a child by a fairy tale”.

I'd now like to call to the stage, the Chair of LifeSciences British Columbia, from Angiotech Pharmaceuticals, Mr. David Hall.