

Dates to Remember

Integrative Healthcare Symposium

January 17-19, 2008

Marriott Marquis

New York, New York

ihSYMPOSIUM@ttgonline.com2008

CCGD Western Conference

January 23 & 24, 2008

The Coast Plaza Hotel

Calgary, Alberta

www.ccgd.ca

FarmTech 2008: Global Perspectives... Local Knowledge

Jan. 30 to Feb. 1

Mayfield Inn & Suites Edmonton

www.farmtechconference.com

Biopartnering North America 2008

February 3-5, 2008

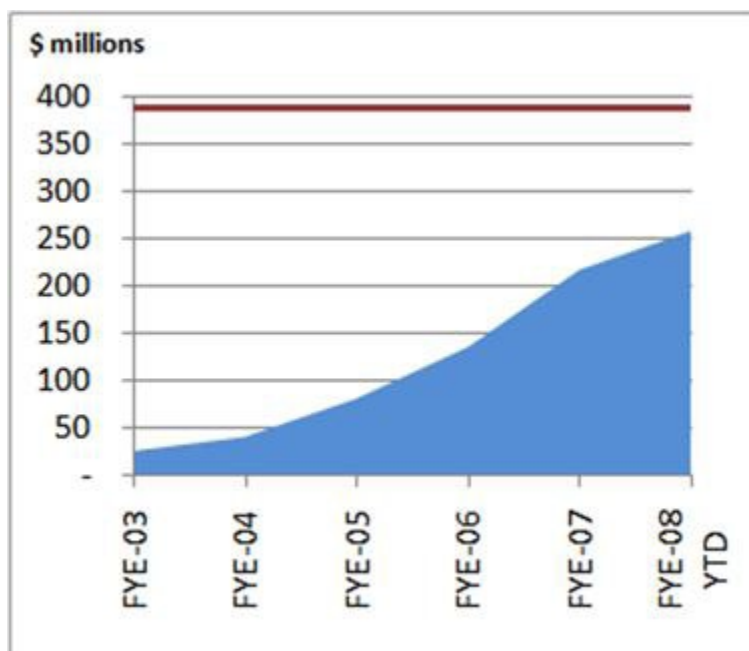
Westin Bayshore Resort,
Vancouver

<http://www.techvision.com/bpn/registration/>

[Cont. on Page 2](#)

Recent News

Aggregate Sales of AVAC Investees (Nov 30-07)



Lilly in deal for rights to BioMS MS drug

Eli Lilly and Co said on Monday it has entered a deal that gives it exclusive worldwide rights to an experimental multiple sclerosis drug being developed by Canada's BioMS Medical Corp. The drug, MBP8298, is currently in late-stage clinical trials for secondary progressive multiple sclerosis (MS) and in mid-stage trials for relapsing-remitting MS, the companies said. BioMS Medical will receive an upfront payment of \$87 million, potential development and sales milestones up to \$410 million and escalating royalties on sales if the drug is approved. Lilly and BioMS Medical will collaborate on the development of MBP8298 and will share in certain development costs, while Lilly will be responsible for future research and development, manufacturing and marketing, the companies said.

[Continued on Page 2](#)

CAFA Agricultural Change & Opportunity

Feb. 6th, 2008

Red Deer, Alberta

www.cafanet.com

Nutri-Net Canada Forum

Feb. 18-19th, 2008

Delta Hotel

Quebec City, PQ

isa@intersectalliance.ca

Globe 2008

March 12-14, 2008

Vancouver

www.globe2008.ca

Fifth Annual World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology & Bioprocessing

April 27-30, 2008

Chicago, Illinois

www.bio.org

Pulse, Canola and Barley Growers Call for Environmental Strategy

The Alberta Canola Producers Commission, the Alberta Barley Commission and the Alberta Pulse Growers are calling for an environmental strategy for the province's crop sector following completion of a report they recently commissioned.

The Crop Environment Strategy report says an inclusive and overarching approach is needed to develop crop sector policies, guide appropriate land management practices and advocate actions. The study also recommends creating a unified crop sector working group that can respond to emerging policy issues as needed.

Conducted by Toma & Bouma Management Consultants, the study assessed many environmental issues facing Alberta's crop sector: water use; land use and management practices; wetlands; biotechnology; genetically modified organisms (GMOs); climate change; and market innovation.

The report recommends that crop producer groups guide and legislate evidence-based, democratic policy. As well, policy development should focus on commercial farm needs and be coordinated by a small, flexible and accountable organization.

"Thoughtful, well developed environmental policies are the foundation for our industry's sustainability," says Mike Leslie, CEO of the Alberta Barley Commission. "We need – and consumers are demanding – environmental policy that clearly outlines our responsibilities to the land and to our industry."

"Alberta has 17,000 crop farmers and we need a framework in which to co-operate," says Barry Grabo, president of the Alberta Pulse Growers. "Crop producers are concerned about environmental issues and this study is the first step in a unified strategy."

"The goal of the strategy is to develop a strategy that connects crop producers, environmental policies, initiatives and research," says Greg Porozni, chair of the Alberta Canola Producers Commission. "The recent creation of the Crop Sector Working Group is the first step towards achieving this goal."

BioAlberta AGM & Awards Gala - Sense of Wonder and Curiosity

BioAlberta held its 8th AGM and awards gala on November 28 at the Winspear Centre in Edmonton. Premier Stelmach started the evening with greetings from the Government of Alberta and congratulated award winners before heading out with Mrs. Stelmach to the Stollery Hospital's Festival of Trees fundraiser dinner event.

Scientific Achievement and Innovation Award: Dr. John Wallace, U of Calgary, is an internationally recognized researcher and Heritage Scientist on inflammatory diseases, and in 2004 became president and CEO of a start-up company, Antibe Therapeutics Inc.

Emerging Company of the Year Award: CardioMetabolics Inc., an Edmonton-based company that develops drug therapies to help reduce the risks of recovery from open heart surgeries. The award was accepted by president and CEO Kim Lucas.

Company of the Year Award: QSV Biologics Ltd., another Edmonton-based company that provides global cGMP biologics contract manufacturing services to biotech firms with protein therapeutics in development. Dr. Graham Macaloney, president, founder and CEO, accepted the award and thanked IRAP and AVAC for their investments at early stage of the company.

Dr. Ronald Micetich (1931 - 2005), was inducted into the Alberta Bioindustry Hall of Fame, which was proudly accepted by his son, Chris Micetich, current president and CEO of NAEJA Pharmaceuticals Inc. Since his first research position in 1963, Dr. Micetich brought two major drugs to market, established a joint venture research company with Japanese partner, Taiho, and started NAEJA. Today, NAEJA is a completely self-supporting private Alberta company founded by the Micetich family, which from an initial staff of 40 in 1999, has grown to 130, and is still growing. Dr. Micetich joined the five esteemed 2006 inaugural inductees, including AVAC board member, Dr. Robert Church.

Keynote speaker was Dr. Roberta Bondar, Canada's first woman and the world's first astronaut-neurologist on the space shuttle Discovery mission in 1992. Dr. Bondar encouraged us to always keep our sense of wonder and sense of curiosity in our daily lives, and to pursue truth through research and knowledge discovery. Having been to space and conducting microgravity experiments therein, Dr. Bondar has a passionate view of our daily planet. She has travelled by plane, helicopter, boat and snowshoe in order to record unique images of all of Canada's national parks. The *Passionate Vision: Intimate portraits of Canada's national parks*, is now a

travelling exhibition.

Finance Minister Dr. Lyle Oberg concluded the evening by recognizing the important ongoing contributions of all winners to Alberta's emerging bio-industry and the excellent keynote messages.

SemBioSys appoints former Esperion Officer to Board of Directors

SemBioSys Genetics Inc. today announced that Oye Olukotun, MD, MPH, FACC, FAHA, has agreed to join the Board of Directors of the Company. Dr. Olukotun is the co-founder and Chief Medical Officer of VIA Pharmaceuticals a company focused on cardiovascular disease treatments. He will replace Dr. Douglass Given, who is retiring from the Board of SemBioSys after serving for seven years.

Dr. Olukotun is a Board Certified Cardiologist with more than twenty-five years of experience in clinical research and drug development in the pharmaceutical industry. He formerly served as Chief Medical Officer at Esperion Therapeutics, Inc., a company that was developing Apo AIMilano as a cardiovascular therapy, until its acquisition by Pfizer in 2004.

SemBioSys has recently demonstrated commercial levels of native Apo AI and Apo AIMilano production in safflower and is currently preparing to conduct animal studies to establish the functional equivalence of plant-produced Apo AI and Apo AIMilano to serum derived HDL.

Government of Canada Invests Over \$300,000 to Boost Health Benefits of Beef

The Government of Canada announced it is investing \$305,792 towards bringing to the marketplace Canadian beef enhanced with bioactive lipids considered to be beneficial to human health. This Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) led project will focus on the development of a strategic business plan for a commercialization pilot program featuring beef containing beneficial fatty acids. These fatty acids, such as Omega 3 and Conjugated Linoleic Acid (CLA), are known to help reduce the risk of heart disease, cancer, diabetes and obesity. This is an essential first step in taking on the challenge of establishing bioactive lipid-enriched beef as a successful food product in Canada, much in the same way egg producers have developed and marketed Omega 3 eggs.

In addition to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) funds, the project will receive an estimated \$96,000 of in-kind contributions through industry stakeholders.