



Keynote presenters pack a punch at ABIC 2010

Saskatoon, SK: A powerhouse of five plenary speakers is lined up to take the stage at ABIC 2010: Bridging Biology & Business this September. The speakers, all well-known and respected names in the biotech industry, promise not to pull any punches at ABIC.

The Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference returns to Saskatoon September 12-15, 2010, hosted by Ag-West Bio. ABIC 2010 is expected to draw 1000 delegates from around the world to hear a stellar line-up of presenters in three streams: **Energy, Health and Sustainability**. The conference includes a public forum, an international poster competition and a tradeshow, along with networking events.

Keynote speakers include:

John E. Hamer, Managing Director Malaysia, Latin America, Burrill & Company, has published more than 70 research articles and has received numerous awards of distinction throughout his career. He has served on numerous scientific review and biotechnology advisory boards including the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. Hamer also serves on the Boards of Directors of Chromatin, Cobalt Technologies, Nanovasc Inc, Arête Therapeutics, and Diadexus.

Julian Cribb is the author of “The Coming Famine: Risks and Solutions for Global Food Security.” Topics he explores include food waste in developed countries – while a billion people starve in the developing world; water consumption and contamination; funding for agricultural research versus weapons funding. “There’s an urgent need,” he says in a synopsis of his book, “not only to redouble the agricultural research effort worldwide, but to develop a new ‘eco-agriculture’ that is sustainable and less dependent on heavy use of energy, water, nutrients and other increasingly scarce industrial inputs.”

Karl Dawson serves as the Director of Worldwide Research for Alltech and directs research activities at the company’s Biosciences Centers. His ABIC presentation, entitled “The Role of Biotechnology in Nutrition and Food Security,” explores the use of molecular and functional genomic tools for evaluating nutritional management strategies. These tools, he says, promise to revolutionize our view of nutrient requirements and the safety of ingredients entering the food chain.

Clive James is founder and Chairman of ISAAA (International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications). ISAAA facilitates the sharing of biotech knowledge from industrial countries to benefit farmers in the developing world. James’ presentation will address environmental sustainability through biotechnology.

Prem Warrior is senior project manager with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s Global Development Program. Warrior has hands-on experience in the discovery, development and commercialization of crop protection products. As closing keynote, he presents “Agbiotech: The Global Sustainability Challenge.”

For more information about confirmed speakers please visit the ABIC 2010 website: **www.abic.ca/abic2010**

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About ABIC 2010

The Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference returns to Saskatoon September 12-15, 2010, hosted by Ag-West Bio. ABIC 2010 is expected to draw 1000 delegates from around the world to hear a stellar line-up of presenters in three streams: Energy, Health and Sustainability. The conference theme is Bridging Biology & Business.

ABIC background

In 1996, Ag-West Bio created the first major international conference devoted to science and business development in agbiotech. In 1996 the first Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference (ABIC) in Saskatoon hosted 700 delegates from 29 countries. A second conference in 1998 resulted in the formation of an organization that would oversee the ABIC Concept, and, to secure the continued success of the ABIC series. The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation, based in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Directors of the ABIC Foundation are drawn from several countries. The Foundation's goal is to ensure ongoing opportunities for continuous learning and networking within the agbiotech community through the Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference.

ABIC has traveled the world: It has been hosted in Germany, Australia, Ireland and Thailand, and returning to Saskatoon, SK, Canada for the 10th conference. The ABIC 2010 planning committee comprises the top biotech experts from Saskatchewan's life science cluster. A tradeshow, an international poster competition and a public forum are included in this premier conference.

Ag-West Bio Inc. is a leading catalyst for industry growth in Saskatchewan's bioeconomy. Ag-West provides seed capital, regulatory support, industry information and aids strategic alliances. Ag-West Bio is a member-based organization representing agricultural biotechnology, bioproducts and bioprocesses, and the natural health products and functional food sectors.