

For Immediate Release (3/8/2010)

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10 Small Businesses Awarded Scholarships to Attend International Biotechnology Convention, Other Funds Still Available

MADISON, Wis., March 8, 2010 – Ten Wisconsin biotechnology companies have been awarded scholarships of \$1,100 each to support them in attending the Biotechnology Industry Organization's (BIO) International Convention at Chicago's McCormick Place May 3-6, 2010 in Chicago. All recipients plan to participate in BIO's one-on-one partnering with potential customers from around the world, or to present to potential investors.

The grant fund was assembled by BioForward, and includes funds provided by BioForward, Alliant Energy, the City of Madison, Thrive, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER). Scholarship recipients are small biotechnology businesses that demonstrate a strategic approach to the Business Forum, and have a financial need.

Companies still seeking support to attend the International Biotechnology Convention are encouraged to apply to the Wisconsin Department of Commerce Trade Show Grant Program. Visit <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/ie/ie-tradeshowgrant.html> to download application materials or contact Christine Stamm at christine.stamm@wisconsin.gov or (608) 264-7824.

The scholarship recipients are:

Addiction Therapeutix Inc. (Wauwatosa) -- Develops proprietary compounds for the treatment of various addictions and related illnesses. The company is currently focused on the development of medications for Co-Morbid Alcoholism and Anxiety and Opioid and Nicotine Addiction.

C-56 Technologies (Middleton) -- Develops and commercializes solutions for the conversion of agricultural and forestry feedstocks into five carbon and six carbon sugars, high value chemicals, food products and fuels.

CellCura (Madison) -- Dedicated to the development of novel equipment and products for use in Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Stem Cell Research. Products from CellCura will improve safety and efficiency in both clinical and research environments.

Echometrix (Madison) -- Early-stage developer of proprietary ultrasound technology that offers a new, quantitative approach to the assessment of tendon, ligament and muscle pathology.

InvivoSciences (McFarland / Wauwatosa) -- Researches and develops engineered, tissue-based assays that mimic human and animal functions. The high-throughput system and ready-to-use tissues grown in a three-dimensional (3D) environment are predictive and cost-effective.

Intense Engineering (Madison) -- Helps dynamic companies in the medical and biotechnology fields by providing expert design and engineering services for technology development and product line advancement.

Neoclone (Madison) -- Develops monoclonal antibodies for research and diagnostic applications and has a research program for making human therapeutics.

Primorigen (Madison) -- Develops innovative, low cost protein and cell biology research products to speed development of new regenerative medicines and other therapeutics for conditions such as diabetes.

Quintessence Biosciences (Madison) - A private biopharmaceutical company developing anti-cancer compounds that attack a new target, the RNA in cancer cells. The company has a drug called QBI-139 in a Phase I clinical trial.

Vatrix Medical (Fitchburg) -- Medical technology company focused on developing less invasive and more complete methods to diagnose and treat the root causes of aneurysmal disease.

“It’s critical for these companies to connect with potential customers and partners from around the world,” said Bryan Renk, executive director of BioForward. “In a tough funding environment we are pleased to be able to assemble this consortium of partners to fund these promising Wisconsin companies.”

“As a privately-funded company, we have a limited amount of available capital and are very cautious about expenditures,” said Frank Langley, president and CEO of Addiction Therapeutix. “The BIO 2010 Small Business Scholarship Award was critical in our decision to attend the Bio 2010 meeting and participate in the various meetings and partnering program.”

ABOUT THE SPONSORS

BioForward -- BioForward is the member-driven state association that is the voice of Wisconsin’s biotechnology industry. We advocate actively on our members’ behalf to create investment and partnership opportunities, attract and retain the very best people, and support public policy that fosters their continued growth. www.bioforward.org.

Alliant Energy -- Alliant Energy, headquartered in Madison, is an investor-owned utility providing electric and natural gas service to 1.4 million customers in Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota. Biotechnology is one of our targeted industries and we proudly support the state and regional efforts to grow this important industry in Wisconsin. www.alliantenergy.com

City of Madison

The City's Economic Development Division is the official liaison between the business community and the City of Madison. The City, through the Division's Office of Business Resources (OBR) strives to help advance Madison's critical mass of both the biotechnology and bioag industry sectors at the 2010 BIO Conference.

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/business/OBR/bio.cfm> www.bioaggateway.com

Thrive -- Thrive is the economic development enterprise for the eight-county Madison Region, created to grow the region's economy in ways that preserve and enhance the quality of life.

www.thrivehere.org

University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) --Through strategic partnerships across campus and the state, the University of Wisconsin-Madison CIBER supports the ability of Wisconsin businesses to compete in the global marketplace. www.bus.wisc.edu/ciber/

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