Life Science Association of Manitoba Honors Innovation and Expertise in Manitoba

The Associated Press

WINNIPEG, Manitoba--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Feb 4, 2013--LSAM has its work cut out for itself when trying to choose winners for their highly coveted awards program.

“This is an industry of innovators, so choosing just a few of them to receive recognition is challenging,” says Tracey Maconachie, President, LSAM. “But, what a fantastic position to be in. The whole industry is becoming a major success story for our province and this year’s winners showcase the best and the brightest we offer to the world.” The life science industry in Manitoba, which now accounts for 7% of the province’s GDP, covers a wide range of core businesses. The over 100 LSAM member companies can be grouped into three primary categories: agriculture and food products, health products and industrial bio-products.

This year’s winners exemplify that variety of expertise in a very real way.

“With such a big range of businesses covered by life sciences our awards program is truly representative of the breadth and impact of this industry,“ says Earl Gardiner, Board Chair, LSAM. “From a green pulp and paper company to life saving medical equipment, the awards showcase the far reaching impact our province is having on the world outside our borders.” Winners were chosen in several categories: outstanding leadership in research, life science company of the year, life science award for innovation (health), life science award for innovation (agriculture) and most promising life science student.

“We’re honoured to have been recognized for our accomplishments to date, and for our further potential going forward,” said Christopher J. Moreau, President and Chief Executive Officer, Miraculins, winner of the Life Sciences Company of the Year award. “We are proud to share news of this award and this recognition with our shareholders, our investors, and our customers. Furthermore, we are pleased to be acknowledged amongst the many deserving companies in Manitoba and we are proud to be a part of this important industry in a region with a true appreciation for innovation.” The Life Science Association of Manitoba (LSAM) presents its annual Life Science Awards as a way to recognize the leaders and innovators of the life science community.

All awards are being presented at the Life Science Association Award Gala, February 13, 2013 at the Winnipeg Winter Club. Key note speaker James Robbins is a motivational speaker and adventurer whose new book Nine Minutes to Monday is the Globe and Mail’s #1 business book for 2012. He is sharing how to transform leadership in just minutes a day.

For more information please contact: Stephen Szczerba (204) 291-8146 About LSAM

LSAM is the voice and organizational nucleus for the life science industry of Manitoba.

This innovative industry, which now accounts for nearly 7% of Manitoba's GDP, is extremely diverse and wide-reaching. The industry's core businesses can be grouped in three distinct categories: agriculture and food, health and industrial bioproducts.

LSAM focuses on attentive, proactive, and timely services and programs to over 100 member organizations. They constantly strive to understand which products, services, and support their members value most, and create partnerships and programs to deliver them.

LSAM's activities are focused on four key areas: To be a connector for people, information, and ideas; To support the development of Manitoba's human resource capacity; To strengthen the business environment for members; and To provide a strong voice for the life science industry in Manitoba. For more information go to www.lsam.ca AWARD WINNERS Outstanding Leadership in Research – Dr. David Levin This category is for the individual who demonstrates exemplary vision and leadership in life science research in Manitoba in such areas as public awareness, scientific discovery or commercial application. Dr. David Levin, University of Manitoba, Biosystems Engineering David B. Levin is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biosystems Engineering at the University of Manitoba, where he leads a multidisciplinary research group focused on "bioengineering for biofuels and bioproducts.

Dr. Levin holds an NSERC Discovery grant focused on "Bioengineering approaches to high-solids cellulose fermentation for biofuel production". Dr. Levin co-leads the Genome Canada funded project on Microbial genomics for biofuels and co-products from biorefining processes with Dr. Richard Sparling (Department of Microbiology). Additionally, Dr. Levin leads the Hydrogen Production and Purification theme of the NSERC funded Hydrogen Canada (H2CAN) network, and is the Prairie Platform leader within BioFuelNet, a pan-Canadian research network funded by the Network Centres of Excellence (NCE) program.

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