

## **ABIC 2002 Background**

### **Conference Satellite Sessions**

Four satellite sessions will be offered by various groups associated with ABIC 2002:

#### **The Canadian Regulatory Perspective: A Science-based Approach to Safety and Benefits**

Sunday, September 15, 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Lunch provided)

Imperial Room, Centennial Auditorium and Convention Centre

Hosted by Ag-West Biotech Inc. Fee: \$100

Breakthroughs in genomics have led to a convergence of informatics and the life sciences. The practical outcome of this has been the development of novel bioproducts that offer benefits to the industrial, agricultural, medical, and environmental sectors. The Federal Regulatory Framework for Biotechnology is intended to ensure that the benefits of biotechnology products and processes are realized in a way that protects health, safety, and the environment. In addition to the Canadian Framework, Canada has international commitments under the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

This regulatory workshop will focus on Canada's regulatory system and how it adapts and responds to the latest developments in biotechnology and international challenges using a science-based approach to safety and benefits.

#### **The Bio-based Economy: Moving from Concept to Reality**

Wednesday, September 18, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Regal "B" Room, Centennial Auditorium and Convention Centre

Hosted by Environment Canada and Industry Canada. Free of charge

The bio-based economy uses renewable bio-resources and eco-efficient processes to develop sustainable bio-products, and create jobs. The global economy now depends largely on energy, chemicals, and a wide range of other products derived from diminishing fossil carbon sources. But our present level of energy consumption, production, and industrial growth is not sustainable.

Advances in technology are making it economically viable and environmentally attractive to begin replacing petroleum with biomass derived mostly from plants. Improved understanding of biodiversity, ecology, biology, and biotechnology are making it possible both to increase biomass productivity in forestry and agriculture and to utilize that biomass and waste organic materials in an efficient and sustainable manner. Advances in science and technology are making possible an economy where industrial development is not in opposition to environmental protection and quality of life.

This session focuses on key issues that will influence the evolution and commercialization of this technology in Canada.

More information on the ABIC 2002 program, registration, sponsor, and exhibitor information can be found at [www.abic.net](http://www.abic.net) or by phone CANADA (306) 683-2242.

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### **Conference Satellite Sessions**

#### **Biotech Communicators: The Interface Between Scientist and Public**

Wednesday, September 18, Full-day option: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (includes lunch) or Afternoon option: 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Regal "A" Room, Centennial Auditorium and Convention Centre

Hosted by Ag-West Biotech Inc.

Full-day fee: ABIC registrants \$100; all others \$250. Afternoon only fee: \$100

The morning session includes the ABIC 2002 Wednesday morning plenary speaker Dr. Anatole Krattiger, as well as the *Public Perception* session which includes featured speakers Professor Vivian Moses (Educating the European Public about Biotechnology); Dr. Michael Jacobson (Maximizing Benefits, Minimizing Risks); and Dr. Terry Medley (The Role of Regulation in Strengthening Public Trust).

The interactive afternoon program will present the concept of the "citizens' jury," an activity designed to provide the public with the appropriate level of background information to make informed decisions about complicated issues.

This session brings together experts and communicators in many areas of biotechnology, allowing you to improve the effectiveness of your communications, share your experiences and concerns and cultivate new contacts.

#### **The Multiple Roles of Metabolic Profiling**

Wednesday, September 18, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Imperial Room, Centennial Auditorium and Convention Centre

Hosted by Phenomenome Discoveries Inc. and Ag-West Biotech Inc. Fee: \$100

Why is genomics so important to biological research? Simply put, the differences among the genomes of organisms are what define that organism's biological qualities (i.e. disease susceptibility). It is important to understand that the differences within a species are at least as important as the differences between species. When expressed, genes encode proteins, which in turn become the machinery that is used to operate all cellular functions.

The goal of agricultural research is to produce the most viable organism with the most advantageous traits. This can be done by either conventional breeding or by physically making changes to the genetic code through biotechnology. In either case, we are actively working to determine which genes are associated with desirable functions.

This symposium will discuss the role of metabolic profiling in determining gene function, the effect of genetic engineering/plant breeding, and in evaluating the substantive equivalence of new GM products.

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