

For Immediate Release

First Ever Conference on Plant-made Pharmaceuticals in Québec City

Toronto – February 20, 2003 – The Molecular Farming Association announced today that the first ever meeting of all plant-made pharmaceutical companies is coming to Québec City, on March 16-19, 2003.

Attendees will learn all there is to be known about biopharmaceuticals made in plant-factories, or Plant-made Pharmaceuticals (PMPs). Biopharmaceuticals are new, critically needed drugs. Their active element is usually a protein too complex to be produced by the usual chemical synthesis technologies. Genetically transformed living organisms, like cells in culture, transgenic animals or plant-factories, must be used. Biopharmaceuticals might represent up to 35% of the drugs sold in 2010, a US\$ 20 billion dollars market for protein manufacturers. The Conference on Plant-made Pharmaceuticals will show the progress of plant-factories (safflower, alfalfa, corn, tobacco) toward solutions for Alzheimer's disease, cancers, cholera, tooth decay, arthritis and others.

«Plant-factories, like other innovative technologies, raise both hopes and concerns », said François Arcand, the Conference's president, «and this international meeting will be the first ever opportunity to establish a complete *State of the Industry* ».

Conference highlights include:

- how new plant-made drugs get positive results in clinical trials, and how working agreements with bio-pharma companies are blooming
- how improved regulations and recent scientific discoveries ensure food safety and sound environmental practices, and how the public reacts
- how the 20+ plant-factory companies progress despite demanding r&d programs and ruthless financial markets (see list of companies)
- how plant-factories will improve the availability of these expensive and difficult to produce new drugs (see list of targeted illnesses).

The Conference on Plant-made Pharmaceuticals will receive 80 world-class speakers to discuss science, business and

regulatory/stewardship issues with an audience from biopharma, academic and stakeholders from the Americas, Europe and Asia.

The Conference on Plant-made Pharmaceuticals is designed as an international, senior level meeting. The conference is sponsored by more than 20 plant-factory companies from the USA, Canada and Europe, and Canada and Québec governments. The associations BioteCanada and Drug Information Association (DIA) support the Conference, to be held at the Hotel Loews Le Concorde, on the cliff by the Saint-Laurence River, just by the Québec's historical quarter.

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Media registration

Contact Josée Fleurent at 418 658 6755. On site registration is also available.

Program and registration form

www.cpmp2003.org.

Background Information -

Conference on Plant-made Pharmaceuticals in Québec City, March 16-19 2003

Plant-factory companies registered (* = presenting)

Biolex*, Ceres*, Dow Chemical Company, Dow AgroSciences*, Epicyte Pharmaceuticals*, greenovation Biotech*, Large Scale Biology Corporation, Medicago*, Meristem Therapeutics*, Monsanto Protein Technologies*, Nexgen, Novoplant, Plantigen*, Planton, Prodigene*, SemBioSys*, Simplot Plant Sciences, SunGene, Icon Genetics*, Syngenta*, Unicrop
Coming from Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Korea, USA, etc. ... and using various technology platform taking

advantage of the biology of alfalfa, corn, duckweed, moss, potatoes, tobacco, saflower and other plants.

Speakers include:

Dr. C Arntzen, **Arizona State University** o Dr. Julio Baez, **Fibrogen** o Dr. Francis Bellido, **Société générale de financement** o Mr. Ron During, **Gowlings** o Dr. Loïc Faye, **CNRS Rouen** o Mr. Justin Gillis, **Washington Post** o Dr. Barry Holtz, **Large Scale Biologics Corporation** o Dr. Steve Howell, **Iowa University** o Dr. Jonathan C. McIntyre, **Monsanto Protein Technologies** o Dr. Richard McCloskey, **Centocor** o Dr. Maurice M. Moloney, **SemBioSys** o Ms. Cindy Smith, BSR/APHIS - **USDA** o Dr. Ulrich Steiner, **Bayer** o Dr. Louis P. Vézina, **Medicago** o Dr. Roger Wyse, **Burrill & Company**

Potential treatments for disease include:

Alzheimer's Disease, Cancer, Cholera, Cystic Fibrosis, Heart Disease, Hepatitis B, HIV Multiple Sclerosis, Obesity, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Spinal cord injuries, Tooth Decay and many others.