



*******MEDIA ADVISORY*******

What: Introducing the Manitoba Nominees for the prestigious Manning Innovation Awards 2017 at the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce May Luncheon

When: Thursday, May 18, 2017 - 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM CDT

Where: Hotel Fort Garry, 222 Broadway, Winnipeg
To attend, purchase tickets at:
<http://www.winnipeg-chamber.com/membership-luncheon-series.html>

Why: The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce will recognize the Manitoba nominees for the 2017 Manning Awards which recognize outstanding Canadian innovators.
These nominees are eligible for one of the Foundation’s four awards, which will be announced on November 29th at the 36th Manning Innovation Awards Dinner, presented by Scotiabank.

The awards include two \$10,000 Manning Innovation Awards, the \$25,000 David E. Mitchell Award of Distinction and the \$100,000 Principal Award.

Who: Two of the 2017 Manitoba nominees - Manas Banerjee and Xiangguo Qui - will be in attendance at the luncheon:

Manas Banerjee understands the importance of the biological relationship between plants and microbes. He observed that traditional technology in this area no longer produces the beneficial impact it used to, so set out to develop a new formulation of microbial inoculants that would enhance plant growth and crop yields.

His innovative technology is called AGPT® (Advanced Growth Promoting Technology), which is developed and commercialized at XiteBio. This inoculant formulation is designed to stimulate the activity of the native soil microbes including rhizobia, which perform many of the natural processes that take place within the soil to promote overall plant growth and health. AGPT® is user friendly, as it is an all-in-one formulation that is ready to apply right out of the box.

AGPT® is an important innovation in support of sustainable agriculture, which is increasingly important in today’s world. (139)

Gary Kobinger and Xiangguo Qui have accomplished what many believed was impossible, an effective treatment against the Ebola virus infection. Their research, which spanned a decade, produced a therapeutic cocktail of monoclonal antibodies that are used to both prevent and cure lethal human infections caused by the Ebola virus.

Success in their pre-clinical experiments led to the successful compassionate use of the resulting ZMapp product in infected health care workers during the last major Ebola outbreak in West Africa. It also led to the model driving the recent explosion of monoclonal antibody therapies against many other infectious agents such as HIV, Lassa, and Marburg among others.

Intense R&D collaborations with industrial development partners in Canada first and also in the U.S. and various agencies worldwide, contributed to generate a stockpile of ZMapp™ for international public health security. (137)

Background: The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation is helping create a culture of Canadian innovation by discovering, encouraging and rewarding Canadian innovators, and telling their stories. The Foundation was established in 1980 by Alberta Energy Company CEO David Mitchell. Working with former Alberta premier Ernest C. Manning and others, he built the foundation to recognize and celebrate Canadian innovators of all ages and across all disciplines. Since then, the Foundation has built a national network of 3,000 young and adult innovators who are leaders in technology, business, engineering, and social innovation advancement. It has awarded innovation prizes to 281 Canadians who have demonstrated innovative talent in developing and successfully marketing a new concept, process or procedure.

The Manitoba Chapter is one of 11 Chapters across the country, which are a dedicated group of volunteers who are passionate about innovation.

For more information, visit: www.manningawards.ca.

For more information and to book interviews, please contact:

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