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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IAPB Announces Partial List of Speakers for 12th World Congress June 6-11, 2010, St. Louis, Missouri

July 24, 2009 – St. Louis, MO – The International Association for Plant Biotechnology (IAPB), the largest membership organization dedicated to caring for and supporting plant tissue culture and biotechnology around the world, has announced a partial list of speakers for the 12th World Congress, which will be held at the America's Center in Downtown St. Louis, June 6-11, 2010.

Approximately 60 plenary and keynote lectures will be presented at the event that is expected to attract approximately 1,500 participants from around the world, including a wide-range of research scientists in plant and agricultural biotechnology. Held every four years, IAPB meetings are the primary forum for members to meet face-to-face and learn about novel research from the scientists themselves. The 12th World Congress will include an opportunity to publish abstracts from the presented research, oversee the latest equipment from scientific vendors, and interact with fellow IAPB members.

In addition to special speaker, **Rajiv Shah, M.D.**, Chief Scientist for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), confirmed plenary speakers include **Dr. Roger Beachy**, President, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, St. Louis, MO, and President of IAPB 2006-2010; **Dr. Mark Howden**, Theme Leader – Adaptive Primary Industries, Enterprise and Communities Climate Adaptation Flagship, CSIRO, Australia; **Dr. Jeffrey Gordon**, Dr. R. J. Glaser Distinguished University Professor, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine and Director of the Center for Genome Sciences; **Dr. Mary Ann Lila**, Director, Plants for Human Health Institute, North Carolina Research Campus, North Carolina State University; **Dr. Calestous Juma**, Professor of the Practice of International Development; Director, Science, Technology, and Globalization Project; Principal Investigator, Agricultural Innovation in Africa; and Member of the Board, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University; **Dr. Inder Verma**, Irwin Mark Jacobs Chair in Exemplary Life Sciences, Professor and American Cancer Society Professor of Molecular Biology, Laboratory of Genetics, The Salk Institute, La Jolla, CA; **Dr. Robb Fraley**, Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, Monsanto Company, St. Louis, MO, **Dr. Peter Beyer**, Professor, Institute for Biology II (Cell Biology), University of Freiburg, Germany; **Dr. Steven Pueppke**, Assistant Vice President for Research & Graduate Studies, Michigan State University East Lansing, MI; and **Dr. Richard Flavell**, Chief Scientific Officer, Ceres Corp., Thousand Oaks, CA.

“The program committee is very pleased with the number of positive responses we’ve received from speakers invited to participate at the Congress,” said Dr. Roger Beachy, President, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center and President of IAPB 2006-2010. “More than 90 percent have indicated availability and excitement about being part of IAPB 2010.”

In addition to presentations by leading international scientists on a wide range of topics focused on the fundamental and applied aspects for plant sciences, the 12th World Congress will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Society for In Vitro Biology (SIVB). Topics will include the following:

- Climate change and its effects on agriculture
- Advances in plant science: tolerance to heat, drought, insects and diseases
- Advances in biofuels and other biorenewables from plants
- State-of-the-art sessions on epigenetics, 3D models, stem cells in *in vitro* toxicology, and innate immunity
- Biosensors, animal-plant interactions, and impact of bioactive molecules on animals
- Metabolic engineering of plants/cells for pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals
- Agriculture and biotechnology in developing countries
- Biosafety, regulatory structures, and commercialization

According to Dr. Beachy, St. Louis was chosen as the site for the 12th World Congress because of its strategic importance to plant biotechnology, as well as its central U.S. location. In addition to being in the heartland of the U.S. agriculture industry, many of the early discoveries in plant biotechnology were made in St. Louis. It is also a region that contains outstanding research institutions, private companies, and growers groups that develop and/or employ the products of agriculture, as well as the nationally renowned Missouri Botanical Garden and the 2006 Baseball World Series Champion Cardinals.

The Congress website is <http://www.iapb2010.org>. Check back regularly for updates.

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