



For more information contact  
Robyn Frankel, Frankel Public Relations  
Toll free: 1-877-863-3373, [rfrankel@frankelpr.com](mailto:rfrankel@frankelpr.com)  
OR Kathleen Mackey, Danforth Plant Science Center  
314-587-1203, [kmackey@danforthcenter.org](mailto:kmackey@danforthcenter.org)

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## **Sustainability Through Agricultural Biotechnology: Food, Biomaterials, Energy and Environment to be Recurring Theme at IAPB 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress**

*Reduced Rates for early registration end February 1, 2010*

January 18, 2010 – St. Louis, MO – The full schedule of approximately 60 plenary and keynote lectures to be presented at the 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Association for Plant Biotechnology (IAPB), June 6-11, 2010, at the America's Center in downtown, St. Louis, Missouri, is now available online at [www.iapb2010.org](http://www.iapb2010.org). In addition, information about reduced rates for early registration that ends February 1, 2010, as well as general information is available on the website.

Presented by IAPB, the largest membership organization dedicated to caring for and supporting plant tissue culture and biotechnology around the world, the Congress is being held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Society for In Vitro Biology (SIVB).

With an emphasis on the fundamental and applied aspects of sustainability through agriculture, topics will focus on food, biomaterials, energy and the environment. Approximately 1,500 research scientists in plant and agricultural biotechnology from around the world will attend.

As President of IAPB, **Dr. Roger Beachy**, newly appointed Chief Scientist of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) in Washington, hopes the program will help influence a regulatory structure that is more science-driven. Presentations will be made by those involved with regulations, as well as those whose inventions have gone through the regulatory process.

Harvard's Kennedy School of Government's **Dr. Calestous Juma** agrees and adds that the regulatory process is an international issue. Dr. Juma is Professor of the Practice of International Development; Director, Science, Technology, and Globalization Project; and Principal Investigator, Agricultural Innovation in Africa. "Africa needs to establish region-wide regulatory measures covering groups of countries that are effective, transparent, and efficient, and based on the co-evolutionary approach of promoting innovation, while protecting the public," said Dr. Juma.

## Distinguished Speakers

Speaker presentations will focus on sustainability with reduced impact on the environment; political and social acceptance, especially in developing countries; translating fundamental knowledge into application; climate change; a mix of animal and plant biotechnology; and policy regulation.

Plenary speakers include **Dr. Jay Keasling**, Acting Deputy Laboratory Director, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, University of California at Berkeley; **Dr. Mark Howden**, Theme Leader – Adaptive Primary Industries, Enterprise and Communities Climate Adaptation Flagship, CSIRO, Australia; **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; **Jeff Gordon, M.D.**, Dr. R. J. Glaser Distinguished University Professor, Washington University, St. Louis School of Medicine and Director, Center for Genome Sciences; **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. Robert Corell**, Vice President of Programs, H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and the Environment, Washington, D.C.; **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.

Presentations will cover 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 and home to the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, one of the largest independent plant science research institutes in the world, 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.

Held every four years, IAPB meetings are the primary forums for members to meet face-to-face and learn about novel research from the scientists themselves. The 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress will include an opportunity to publish abstracts from the presented research, preview the latest equipment from scientific vendors, and interact with fellow IAPB members.

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