

Bio[®] Show Daily

International Convention

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The Global Event for Biotechnology

Fox Seeks Collaboration



By George Miller

Michael J. Fox yesterday threw down a drug development gauntlet to the biotech industry: Innovate, and accelerate the translation of basic science into improved therapies for patients.

"Who's funding innovation today?" he asked. "I've been reasonably well treated for 15 years using a drug that's been around for 40 years."

He described an unmet need for new drugs based on a statistic he attributed to financier Michael

Milken: of 30,000 known human diseases, treatments exist for only 10,000. "That's a lot of opportunity," he said, and then identified himself as an optimist.

Filling this unmet need, he said, is not about finding more money. It's about spending money more wisely.

"The tough truth is that [the drug development funding] system breaks down just where we need it the most, where risk is highest. How can we get this right?"

As a patient advocate, he acknowledged measuring drug development success differently than do stockholders, investors, and even company executives. "But it seems to me that we can all achieve success by redeploying [existing assets]. "It's a question of finding common ground where stakeholders in the drug development process — including academic and industry researchers, government, and private research funders — can work together toward tangible results," he said.

Fox publicly disclosed in 2000 that he had been diagnosed with

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Queen Noor of Jordan to Speak Today



At today's Plenary Luncheon (Level 3, Ballroom, 12:15-1:45 pm), Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan will deliver a keynote speech entitled "Biotechnology and Its Impact on Global Health."

Queen Noor is known for her international humanitarian efforts and outspoken views on world peace and justice. She has initiated, directed, and sponsored projects and activities to address current global issues in the areas of education, culture, women and children's welfare, sustainable community development, environmental

conservation, human rights, and conflict resolution. She is Founder and Chair of the King Hussein Foundation International, a nonprofit, non-governmental organization established to foster peace and security through programs that promote cross-cultural understanding and social, economic, and political opportunity in the Muslim and Arab world. Queen Noor also heads the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, recognized for its institutions and programs focused on empowering women, community development, and micro-finance. ☺

Today

Registration

Level 0, East Lobby
Tuesday, 6:30 am to 6 pm
Wednesday, 6:30 am to 4 pm

Exhibition Hours:

Tuesday, 10 am to 6:30 pm
Exhibition Hospitality
Receptions, 5 to 6:30 pm
Wednesday, 10 am to 3 pm

BIO Store Open

(see page 4)
Level 1, North Lobby

Thought-Leader Breakfast

7:15 to 8:45 am
Level 3, Ballroom

Keynote Luncheon

12:15 to 1:45 pm
Level 3, Ballroom

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William Mattes of C-Path will speak at the Arizona Pavilion on Tuesday, May 8, at 10 am and 2 pm. Mattes is C-Path's Director of Toxicology and Director of the Predictive Safety Testing Consortium. He is an internationally known expert on toxicogenomics, the study of gene activity in order to identify toxic substances in the environment and treat people at greatest risk for diseases caused by environmental pollutants.

Mattes coordinates the Predictive Safety Testing Consortium (PSTC), a collaboration of 16 of

established a public toxicogenomics database at the European Bioinformatics Institute. His academic accomplishments include a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. in biological chemistry from the University of Michigan.

"I have been very impressed with Arizona's commitment to biotechnology," said Mattes. "I look forward to speaking at BIO 2007 about the strong collaboration of the Predictive Safety Testing Consortium where 130 scientists from 16 leading

pharmaceutical companies share strategy and data in order to develop best of class methods to speed drug development."

The Arizona Pavilion, "Biozona: Enhancing Life, Advancing Science," is anchored by the science and research conducted at the state's three universities and will focus on Arizona's core competencies of cancer therapeutics, neurological sciences, bioengineering, optical sciences, and bioinformatics. 



William Mattes, Director of Toxicology and Predictive Safety Testing Consortium

the world's largest pharmaceutical companies, the U.S. FDA, and Europe's regulatory agency, EMEA. Members of the PSTC share internally developed laboratory methods used to evaluate the safety of new drugs, and test each other's methods. One of the PSTC's primary goals is to identify methods for testing drug safety that are useful for industry and also for the FDA; therefore, FDA scientists participate in an advisory capacity.

Headquartered in Tucson, AR, with an office in Rockville, MD, the Critical Path Institute (C-Path) was established in 2005 as a publicly funded, nonprofit research and education institute to serve as a trusted third party for collaborations between scientists and others from government, industry, and academia. C-Path's mission is to help implement the FDA's Critical Path Initiative by developing faster, safer, and smarter pathways to new medical products.

Before joining C-Path, Mattes was Senior Scientific Director of Toxicogenomics at Gene Logic, where he directed the genomics-based mechanism of toxicity program. He has more than 23 years of industry experience in the fields of genetic and molecular toxicology and chaired a subcommittee within the International Life Sciences Institutes that



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