

## THREE VANCOUVER COMPANIES RECEIVE BIOTECanada GOLD LEAF AWARDS FOR INNOVATION IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

June 8, 2011

BIOTECanada is proud to announce the winners of this year's Gold Leaf Awards: Cardiome Pharma Corporation - Canadian Biotechnology Company of the Year; Allon Therapeutics -Early Stage Company of the Year (Health), and EnWave Corporation - Early Stage Industrial Biotechnology Company of the year. As a celebration of Canadian innovation, BIOTECanada's Gold Leaf Awards program is designed to recognize both companies and individuals who have made significant achievements to Canada's biotechnology industry. Three out of six Gold Leaf winners this year are based in Vancouver, which showcases the high level of research and clinical development occurring in one of Canada's leading biotechnology clusters. Each company was selected from a list of nominees by the Board of Directors of BIOTECanada, and they will receive their awards at the BIO International conference to be held this year in Washington D.C on June 28.

"The Gold Leaf Awards given to British Columbia-based Cardiome Pharma Corp., Allon Therapeutics Inc., and Enwave Corporation are a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit, scientific expertise and technological diversity that exists within our Province," commented Don Enns, President of LifeSciences BC. "The contributions these organizations have made to improving patient outcomes, helping health authorities more effectively deliver health care, and promoting further development of the sector will have a global impact. On behalf of the entire life sciences community in BC, I would like to congratulate each of the award recipients and look forward to seeing how they progress in the years to come."

Cardiome Pharma Corporation is a life sciences company focused on developing proprietary drugs to treat or prevent cardiovascular and other diseases. They have been awarded Company of the Year. CEO Doug Janzen sees Cardiome making great strides in the next five years. "2010 was a momentous year for Cardiome with the European marketing approval of vernakalant IV (Brinavess). Over the next five years, we look forward to seeing Vernakalant IV approved in many additional territories beyond Europe. Cardiome also expects to leverage its expertise to build a diversified portfolio with projects at various stages of development. The focus for internal R&D efforts is, and will continue to be on targets for diseases with a high unmet need," he said.

Allon Therapeutics Inc., a clinical-stage biotechnology company focused on bringing to market innovative central nervous system therapies has been named the Early Stage Company of the Year (Health). Allon's lead drug *davunetide* is proceeding in a pivotal Phase 2/3 clinical trial in an orphan indication, progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), under an SPA with the FDA. Gordon McCauley, Allon's President and CEO, said the prestigious Gold Leaf Award recognizes the Company's clinical trial successes and progress toward commercializing products in devastating degenerative brain diseases, such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and several types of frontotemporal dementia. "Being chosen as Canada's leading pre-commercial healthcare biotech company is a great honour and an enormous



compliment to the dedication, innovation, and excellence demonstrated by our team every day,” said McCauley. “It is also important recognition of the investigators, patients, and caregivers we partner with to find solutions to these awful diseases.”

EnWave Corporation is an industrial technology company developing commercial applications for their Radiant Energy Vacuum (REV) dehydration technology. BIOTECanada has named them Early Stage Company of the Year (Industrial). Dennis Fotinos, President and CEO hopes this award will help bring attention to EnWave from the larger pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies who are want to produce shelf-stable biopharmaceutical products in vials, but want a faster, cheaper process than lyophilization. “The results we have already obtained from our single-vial and multi-vial freezeREV prototype tests, conducted with our partners at the Saskatchewan Research Council, are extremely encouraging, stated Dr. Tim Durance, Chairman and Co-CEO of EnWave. “These tests have shown that a vaccine can be dehydrated in 50 minutes versus 40 hours for a comparable lyophilization process, and that a dried biomaterial can be produced with similar shelf-life expectations”.

Join us at the Canada Café at the BIO International Convention to meet Canada’s best in biotechnology. June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in Washington DC. Booth number 3705 at 4pm.

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