2012 Venture Forum names PlantForm “Most Promising Technology”

GUELPH, Ont.—PlantForm Corporation received the “Most Promising Technology” award at the 2012 Venture Forum in Buffalo, New York, May 16-17.

PlantForm was one of 33 companies from a wide range of industries selected to present at the 2012 Venture Forum, a partnership between Buffalo Niagara's annual Bright Forum and the Center for Economic Growth's annual SmartStart UNYTECH Forum.

“We're pleased to receive this award, which recognizes our technology’s potential to dramatically reduce the cost of life-saving antibody drugs,” said Dr. Don Stewart, the President and CEO of PlantForm Corporation. “We are currently raising Series A capital to advance PlantForm into the regulatory approval process for our first antibody drug, a biosimilar version of the breast cancer drug Herceptin®.

“This venture forum provided an excellent opportunity to attract interest in our company and assist us in raising the necessary capital required to move the company forward.”

Proof-of-principle lab studies, published in the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, show PlantForm’s biosimilar trastuzumab has equivalent purity and activity compared to Herceptin®. Safety and pharmacokinetic studies in a mouse model have been successfully completed, and efficacy tests on breast cancer tumours in mice are under way. The manufacturing process has been successfully scaled up and human clinical trials are planned for 2013.

PlantForm Corporation’s mission is to provide low-cost, biosimilar antibody drugs to help people fight cancer and other critical illnesses. The company licenses its proprietary manufacturing platform from the University of Guelph, where it was developed by Dr. J. Christopher Hall, PlantForm’s Chief Scientific Officer and the Canada Research Chair in Recombinant Antibody Technology. All relevant intellectual property is protected by patent filings. Projected revenue is more than $50 million by 2016.

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