



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PlantForm scientists win excellence in writing award

*Feature article on biologics and biologic products earns accolade from
Ontario Society of Medical Technologists*

GUELPH, Ont., Oct. 9, 2013—PlantForm scientists Dr. Michael D. McLean and Dr. J. Christopher Hall were awarded the 2013 Richard Lafferty Excellence in Writing Award from the **Ontario Society of Medical Technologists** (OSMT) Sept. 22.

The award was for their article **Biologics and Biologic Products**, published in the Fall 2012 issue of the OSMT *Advocate* magazine.

Dr. McLean is PlantForm's Director Research. A plant molecular geneticist, he specializes in antibody selection and development, antibody purification, and antibody function and therapeutics. Dr. McLean has worked with Dr. Hall since 2001 to develop the system that PlantForm uses today to produce therapeutic antibodies and proteins in plants.

Dr. Hall is PlantForm's Chief Scientific Officer and a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Recombinant Antibody Technology. A professor in the University of Guelph's School of Environmental Sciences, he is acknowledged as a world leader in producing antibodies from plants for a range of applications.

The article gives an overview of the emergence of biologic and biosimilar therapeutic drugs, and looks to the future of the industry, including the potential of antibody fragments as a new platform for biologics development.

PlantForm Corporation was formed in 2008 to commercialize a plant-based manufacturing platform for low-cost monoclonal antibodies, protein drugs and vaccines that target cancer and other critical illnesses. The company's first product will be a biosimilar version of the breast cancer drug Herceptin[®] (trastuzumab). Two additional biosimilar antibody drugs for cancer are in development, as are antibodies for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus. Research is also under way on an enzyme to protect against nerve agent exposure, funded by the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Projected revenue is more than \$120 million by 2017.

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View the OSMT *Advocate* article **Biologics and Biologic Products**