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## **Canada's Top 10 life sciences investment prospects announced for BioNorth 2003**

*Finalist companies from BioNorth 2002 secured funding totaling more than \$60 million to date*

**OTTAWA, Ontario, October 7, 2003 – The Ottawa Life Sciences Council** today announced the jury selection of the top 10 life sciences investment and partnership prospects in Canada. The companies selected will go on to present their case to an audience of venture capitalists, potential strategic alliance partners and conference delegates at BioNorth 2003, one of North America's premier life sciences conferences.

The finalists in BioNorth's Top 10 in the past have proven to be highly successful in attracting funding and partnerships. Last year's Top 10 have already accumulated over \$60 million in new financing, and the finalist companies from 2000 and 2001 amassed a combined total of more than \$170 million in the year following each conference. Also notable among the finalists have been a number of significant partnerships, alliances and mergers.

“In recent years, BioNorth's Top 10 has consistently proven itself to be a highly accurate indicator of the likely success stories in Canada's life sciences sector,” said **Ken Lawless, President and CEO, the Ottawa Life Sciences Council**. “The ensuing investment and partnership activity observed among previous finalists is a testament to the quality of the selected companies and the expertise of our jury.”

The Top 10 companies were selected from a pool of entrants by an international jury of venture capitalists. Entrant companies were classified as either early stage (seeking first and second round) or emerging (seeking mezzanine or later stage) opportunities. Based on their expert knowledge of investment in the life sciences sector, the jury was asked to select the companies that they felt offered the best investment and partnership prospects.

The finalists of Canada's Top 10 Life Science Corporate Financing and Partner Prospects are:

### **Early Stage**

ARC Pharmaceuticals Inc. (Vancouver, B.C.)

BioAxone Thérapeutique Inc. (Montreal, Que.)

Inimex Pharmaceuticals Inc. (Vancouver, B.C.)

Interface Biologics Inc. (Toronto, Ont.)

Zelos Therapeutics Inc. (Ottawa, Ont.)

### **Emerging Stage**

Aegera Therapeutics Inc. (Montreal, Que.)  
Affinium Pharmaceuticals Inc. (Toronto, Ont.)  
Cytovax Biotechnologies Inc. (Edmonton, Alta.)  
Ecopia BioSciences Inc. (Montreal, Que.)  
Ionalytics Corporation (Ottawa, Ont.)

At BioNorth 2003 (November 17-19, 2003), the companies will have the opportunity to make 15-minute presentations on their opportunity to an audience of venture capitalists, potential strategic alliance partners and other conference delegates.

### **About the Top 10**

#### **ARC Pharmaceuticals Inc.**

ARC is a private biotechnology company focused on the development and commercialization of device and drug therapies for the treatment of proliferative diseases.

[www.arcpharma.com](http://www.arcpharma.com)

#### **BioAxone Thérapeutique Inc.**

BioAxone is a privately owned company located in Montreal, with a mission to develop and commercialize products that target Rho signalling pathways.

[www.bioaxone.com](http://www.bioaxone.com)

#### **Inimex Pharmaceuticals Inc.**

Inimex is focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of new medicines based on the enhancement of innate immunity.

[www.inimexpharma.com](http://www.inimexpharma.com)

#### **Interface Biologics Inc.**

Interface Biologics is a therapeutic biomaterials company focused on producing the next generation of smart, bioresorbable, implantable devices.

[www.interfacebiologics.com](http://www.interfacebiologics.com)

#### **Zelos Therapeutics Inc.**

Zelos is developing advanced technology for the treatment of osteoporosis, psoriasis and other diseases based on research initiated at Canada's National Research Council (NRC).

[www.zelostherapeutics.com](http://www.zelostherapeutics.com)

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#### **Aegera Therapeutics Inc.**

Aegera is a private biotechnology company focused on exploiting apoptosis control (programmed cell death) to extend and enhance the life of cancer patients.

[www.aegera.com](http://www.aegera.com)

#### **Affinium Pharmaceuticals Inc.**

Affinium is a structure-guided drug discovery company focused on the development of novel anti-infective medicines.

[www.afnm.com](http://www.afnm.com)

**Cytovax Biotechnologies Inc.**

Cytovax (TSE: CXB) is a biotechnology company focused on the development of products for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases.

[www.cytovax.com](http://www.cytovax.com)

**Ecopia Biosciences Inc.**

Ecopia has developed a proven and proprietary drug discovery platform designed to build a pipeline of new antibacterial, antifungal and anticancer agents.

[www.ecopiabio.com](http://www.ecopiabio.com)

**Ionalytics Corp.**

Ionalytics designs and manufactures a dynamic ion-filtering instrument for drug discovery within the pharmaceutical and proteomics industries.

[www.ionalytics.com](http://www.ionalytics.com)