



2010 ANNUAL AWARDS GALA

April 12, 2010 • DuPont Country Club • Wilmington, Delaware



[CLICK HERE](#) to view videos from the event

We at Delaware Bio would like to thank all of our sponsors, awards recipients and attendees for making the Delaware Bio 2010 Annual Awards Gala a success!

Delaware Bio recognized four individuals with awards at the 2010 Annual Awards Gala with a sold out audience of 300 leaders from Delaware’s diverse bioscience community. Once again present were business leaders and scientists from a mix of biopharma, agriculture and industrial biotech, medical device and diagnostics firms along with professionals from supporting legal, construction and marketing operations and academic and medical research institutions.

Chad Holliday, former Chairman and CEO of DuPont, received the Delaware Bio Visionary Award. Mr. Holliday’s talk recounted his experience with DuPont over the last 39 years and the company’s recent drive toward sustainability. He addressed biotechnology as a platform that could play a role in two pressing areas, feeding the world and fueling the world.

Mr. Holliday pointed out the rapid population growth in the world from 2.5 billion people to 6 billion from 1950 to 2000 has placed extraordinary demands on the food supply chain. He added that the “understanding of life...biotechnology.....might have just come at the right time” because it will be biotechnology that will help solve the world’s food supply chain issues. He suggested that government, academia and industry should escalate their partnerships toward solving this challenge that will inevitably stress supply channels within a few decades if not bolstered with new scientific discovery and new investment.

On the local front, Holliday reminded the audience of the last major transformation that Wilmington, Delaware began 30 years ago shifting from the Chemical Capital of the World to a Financial Capital with the Financial Center Development Act of 1981 that drove bank credit card operations to Delaware creating tens of thousands of jobs. And Holliday suggested that the timing was right for another transformation in Delaware just as the financial world was retrenching. Holliday observed that neither California nor Boston nor any other United States locale has laid claim to being the center for food and agricultural biotechnology. He further suggested that Delaware’s strengths in agricultural research and development and commercialization make it a likely center for food and agricultural biotechnology and encouraged his listeners to embrace this notion.

His advisory work with the World Wildlife Foundation is addressing the food supply chain with the top 100 organizations in the world. The goal is to collaborate with experts around the world to formulate a plan that will provide for a sustainable food supply.

In his remarks, he further addressed the United States need for a sustainable energy strategy and that Delaware should consider this area in its transformation plan. He suggested that biofuels, solar and wind all had roles to play in a renewable energy strategy. Holliday remarked that 10% of energy consumption could be easily reduced with little cost such as simple monitoring devices placed in each household. Holliday acknowledged that government support would be necessary as would stepped up research and development investment from private sector energy companies to accomplish more lofty goals toward a sustainable independent energy plan for the United States.

The evening progressed with other Award recipients coming to the podium to be recognized. Congressman Mike Castle was introduced by former Governor Pete du Pont and was recognized with the Delaware Bio 2010 Government Official Award for his contributions supporting the bioscience industry. Castle as Governor committed the funds that launched the Delaware Technology Park in the early 1990's which serves as a meeting place and business address for many of Delaware's bioscience businesses. As Delaware's lone U. S. Representative, Castle further supported the research efforts at the Delaware Biotechnology Institute, Fraunhofer CMB and many other bioscience companies. Castle was selected Legislator of the Year in 2005 by the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) for his contributions to the bioscience industry. He co-authored stem cell legislation in recent years supporting the addition of new cell lines at the federal level. Castle plans to continue advocating for bioscience initiatives in the future.

AstraZeneca's Catherine Bonuccelli received the Delaware Bio 2010 Service Award. Dr. Bonuccelli led the Bioscience Clustering work in 2004 and 2005 leading to the formation of the Delaware BioScience Association in 2006. Bonuccelli's external board commitments have included the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), the Delaware Technology Park, the Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN) and the Nemours Board of Managers. She is a tireless supporter of the biosciences locally, nationally and internationally.

Vidadi Yusibov with the Fraunhofer Center for Molecular Biotechnology (CMB) was the recipient of the Delaware Bio 2010 Innovation Award for the work Fraunhofer is conducting in vaccine research and development with its transient gene expression platform. Fraunhofer CMB is working on vaccines for plague, anthrax, flu, malaria, sleeping sickness and other diseases. The Fraunhofer team has grown from two individuals to over 100 in just 8 short years.

The audience included senior executives from DuPont including Chair of the Board and CEO Ellen Kullman who joined with members of the Delaware Bio Board of Directors and executives from almost 100 companies to network and recognize the award recipients.

Sponsors for the evening included VWR, PhRMA, AstraZeneca, BIO, Fish & Richardson, McCarter & English, RatnerPrestia, Conner Strong and Armor Graphics.