

## 7th Biovision forum: very positive feedback

**Lyons, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011** – At the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of [BioVision](#), the World Life Sciences Forum that came to a close on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March in Lyon, over 2,700 participants from over 60 countries gathered during 3 days to hear from 160 world renowned speakers and discuss on the major life sciences and global health issues

During the course of the Forum, leading experts from the fields of politics, industry, academic science and civil society debated on a variety of topics such as access to medicines for developing countries, links between environment and CO<sub>2</sub>, biofuels, synthetic biology, how to deal with infectious diseases in emerging countries, brain functioning, solutions to “cure” ageing, the precautionary principle...

The "Business in life sciences" track took place for the first time during BioVision2011, and led to a number of creative discussions around topics like cross sector open collaborative innovation, how to benefit from technology to improve treatments and healthcare systems.

Key scientific and global health issues were raised during the Forum, among them the right to Health for everyone and the associated costs, the emergence and re-emergence of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, progress in systems biology, and the future of healthcare systems which was discussed during an exciting closing plenary session, concluded with a keynote speech from Valérie Pécresse, French Minister for Higher Education and Research.

In addition to the sessions, a networking tool for participants had been set up for the first time to help participants connect with each other: and reported results are above expectations. Networking during BioVision was outstanding particularly during the “Networking Night” on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March, with 700 attendees., at the City Hall of Lyon.

This 7<sup>th</sup> Forum was noted for the massive participation of the regional scientific and economic community, whose members were drawn to the Life Sciences *Lyon biopôle* Pavilion. Over 60 companies and institutions from the Rhône-Alpes region took advantage of this opportunity to meet up and demonstrate the area’s booming economic activity in Life Sciences.

Over 100 students from the region Rhone Alpes also actively attended BioVision, blogging their impressions on the sessions and the 114 BioVision.Nxt students, enjoyed some memorable meetings with Nobel prize laureates, prominent scientists and decision makers from the industry.

The BioVision.Nxt Fellowship programme gave them an opportunity to network with other Fellows, work on new projects, through creativity seminars, scientific and business sessions dedicated to young researchers and BioVision.Nxt prize was presented to one of the Fellow, recognizing her research

## Highlights

**The widely noted participation of** the Chinese Health Minister Zhu Chen on systems biology, Nobel laureates Ada Yonath and Jean-Marie Lehn on the theme “Reconstructing life: which biology for the future?”, Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle and Sven Pettersson on nutraceuticals, and Olivier Raynaud on *Healthcare 3.0*

**The launch of the European Institute for Systems Biology during BioVision** in which world leaders in the domain are brought together, notably Zhu Chen and Leroy Hood. The Institute is supported by *Lyonbiopôle* and is led by Charles Auffray. The European Institute for Systems Biology will be located in the Gerland area of Lyons and will open in the upcoming months.

**The presentation of the first BioVision - Lilly award in conjunction with TWAS** (the academy of sciences for the developing world) by Eli Lilly and Company Sr. Vice-President for Corporate Affairs and Communications Bart Peterson on 28<sup>th</sup> March. Four promising young scientists from developing countries were recognised for their outstanding research work in the field of tuberculosis. The 1<sup>st</sup> prize went to Digby Warner (South Africa), the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize to Thomas Scriba (South Africa) and the joint 3<sup>rd</sup> prize was awarded to Joy Sarojini Michael (India) and Dihadenys Lemus Molina (Cuba).

**The presentation of the first BioVision.Nxt award** by Valérie Pécresse, French Minister for Higher Education and Research, to Federica Migliardo, closing event of BioVision on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

Have a look at all the sessions on video at [www.biovision.org](http://www.biovision.org)

### Key figures for BioVision 2011

2,700 attendees

160 speakers

114 BioVision.Nxt students

4 Nobel laureates

4 ministers

25 manufacturing groups from health, environment and nutrition sectors

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