

**For Immediate Release**

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**Keystone Symposia Announces 52 Conferences for its 2010 Season**

SILVERTHORNE, CO – October 13, 2009 – Keystone Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology is featuring 52 conferences in a diverse array of disciplines in its 39<sup>th</sup> meeting season, which runs from October 2009 through June 2010.

The Colorado, USA-based nonprofit organization plans its conferences based on a rigorous peer-review process more than 18 months in advance, tapping into the expertise of a Scientific Advisory Board comprised of more than 60 leading life scientists from around the world and supplemented by the input of Programming Consultants. Some topics such as HIV recur annually, while others are offered every two years. Some meetings are held jointly with another to stimulate a greater cross-fertilization of ideas. Two to four scientists are asked to volunteer as each meeting's program organizers, and there is a deliberate attempt to vary these from one occurrence of the meeting to the next, as well as to include female and underrepresented minority scientists, to encourage diversity and a broader perspective.

Brand new topics in the 2010 series include meetings on *"Antibiotics and Resistance: Challenges and Solutions," "Biomolecular Interaction Networks: Function and Disease," "Cilia, Signaling and Human Disease," "Metabolism and Cancer Progression," "New Directions in Small Molecule Drug Discovery," "RNA Silencing Mechanisms in Plants"* and *"Triglycerides and Triglyceride-Rich Particles in Health and Disease."*

Additionally, a number of new locations will be featured in the line-up, including Arusha, Tanzania (for a Global Health meeting on *"Overcoming the Crisis of TB and AIDS"* in October 2009); Ashmore, Australia (for a meeting on *"Telomere Biology and DNA Repair"* in October 2009); Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland (for a June 2010 meeting on *"Innate Immunity"*); and Kyoto, Japan (for a June 2010 meeting on *"Bioactive Lipids: Biochemistry and Diseases"*).

To catalyze new thinking and approaches, several meetings are being paired together in novel ways for the first time. For instance, the *"HIV Vaccines"* meeting, traditionally paired with the *"HIV Biology and Pathogenesis"* meeting, will instead be paired with a *"Viral Immunity"* meeting in Banff, Canada in March 2010. Since an HIV vaccine is proving to be a particularly recalcitrant problem, the goal is to bring together virologists studying many other diseases and thereby facilitate a wider cross-fertilization of ideas. The HIV Biology and Pathogenesis meeting will instead be a standalone meeting in Santa Fe in January 2010. Another novel pairing is a meeting on *"Advances in Molecular Mechanisms of Atherosclerosis"* to be jointly held with one on *"The Macrophage: Intersection of Pathogenic and Protective Inflammation."*

In addition to the TB and AIDS meeting and the two HIV meetings, additional meetings in this year's Global Health Series include the one on *"Antibiotics and Resistance"* and ones on *"Malaria: New Approaches to Understanding Host-Parasite Interactions"* and *"Molecular Targets for Control of Vector-Borne Diseases: Bridging Lab and Field Research,"* which are concurrent meetings scheduled for Copper Mountain, Colorado in April 2010.

Additional conference topics in 2010 include ones on aging, autism, biochemistry, cancer, cardiovascular disease, development, drug design, diabetes/metabolic disease, genetics/genomics/epigenetics, immunology, stem cells, plant biology and structural biology.

Seven Nobel Prize winners are scheduled to present during the 2010 meeting season, including one of the winners of this year's Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Thomas A. Steitz, who will present at the "*Antibiotics and Resistance*" conference. Additionally, one of the winners of the 2009 Lasker Basic Medical Research Award, Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, will co-organize and speak at the "*Stem Cells Differentiation and Dedifferentiation*" conference, and one of the winners of the Lasker~DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award, Dr. Charles L. Sawyers, will speak at the "*Nuclear Receptors: Signaling, Gene Regulation and Cancer*" conference.

In spite of the recent downturn in the global economy, Keystone Symposia conferences remain popular and well attended. In its 2008-2009 season, the organization set a new record for total attendance with nearly 14,000 participants at 57 symposia. According to James W. Aiken, Ph.D., Keystone Symposia's Chief Executive Officer, "The potential financial consequences to us of the world economic situation reinforced the critical importance of making our conferences the most valuable of the ones scientists might choose to attend."

Keystone Symposia aims to make its conferences open, accessible and affordable to all. Discounted registration fees are offered to students. Rates are the same for attendees from both industry and academia, and discounted lodging packages have been negotiated for most locations. Registration fees include participation in all plenary and poster sessions plus workshops when available, the meeting program/abstract book and a number of meals (typically breakfasts and evening receptions).

Conferences are typically three to four full days in length. Many afternoons are free for unstructured leisure and networking activities. Submission of an abstract is not required but it is encouraged as organizers typically select short talk speakers based on abstract submission. This presents a means for early-career scientists to be featured on the programs along with established experts. Abstracts and posters represent an ideal opportunity to gain exposure for one's research.

Further financial assistance is available to graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and those from less developed countries. In 2010, Keystone Symposia hopes to award a record number of scholarships. In the 2009 meeting series, it awarded 635 scholarships, 46 underrepresented minority scholarships and 260 Global Health Travel Awards. These scholarships and awards make attendance possible for many who would otherwise not be able to attend and are generously supported by corporate, foundation, government and individual donors.

Those interested in attending a Keystone Symposia conference should keep in mind that scholarship application and abstract submission deadlines typically precede a meeting by four months, late-breaking abstract deadlines by three months and early registration deadlines by two months. Signing up by the early registration deadline saves US\$100 on the later registration fee.

### **About Keystone Symposia**

Keystone Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, has been conducting internationally renowned, open scientific conferences since 1972 and has been headquartered in Summit County, Colorado since 1990, when the organization left the University of California at Los Angeles. Annually, Keystone Symposia holds more than 50 meetings involving more than 13,000 scientists from around the world. Registration fees are supplemented by generous monetary support from corporate, foundation, and individual donors as well as government grants.

More information on Keystone Symposia can be found at [www.keystonesymposia.org](http://www.keystonesymposia.org), and full details on the 2010 meeting series can be viewed at [www.keystonesymposia.org/2010meetings](http://www.keystonesymposia.org/2010meetings).