

**For Immediate Release**

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**Keystone Symposia Invites Public to a Free Talk:  
“Making Plants More Resilient to Drought and Climate Change: Are We There Yet?”  
with Professor Julian I. Schroeder, Ph.D.**

SILVERTHORNE, CO –January 14, 2011– Keystone Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology invites the community to attend a free public talk on *“Making Plants More Resilient to Drought and Climate Change: Are We There Yet?”* on Thursday, January 20 from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. This informative and interactive event will take place in the Grays Peak I room at Keystone Conference Center, which is across Highway 6 from Keystone Lodge and Spa.

The presentation will focus on plants’ reactions to environmental (“abiotic”) stresses including drought, salinity stress, elevated CO<sub>2</sub> and heavy metal stress. With climate change, many of these stresses pose a growing threat to global plant growth, biomass production and the need to increase arable land to sustain an expanding world population. By understanding and manipulating the pathways that mediate resistance to these stresses, scientists are studying the feasibility of engineering plants and crops that could be more tolerant and resilient. The talk will be approximately 45 minutes, followed by Q&A.

The featured speaker is Julian I. Schroeder, Ph.D., Novartis Chair and Distinguished Professor in the Division of Biological Sciences at the University of California, San Diego. He is also Director of the Plant Systems Biology UCSD-Salk Graduate Program.

The author of numerous scientific journal papers, Professor Schroeder has also received a variety of awards for his research advances, including the Charles Albert Shull Award from the American Society of Plant Biologists, the Presidential Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation, the DFG Heinz-Maier-Leibnitz Research Prize and the Blasker Award in Environmental Science and Engineering. He was named a Highly Cited Researcher by the Institute for Scientific Information and is a Chinese Academy of Sciences International Professor as well as an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences.

Professor Schroeder will be in Summit County as co-organizer of Keystone Symposia’s scientific conference on *“Plant Abiotic Stress Tolerance Mechanisms, Water and Global Agriculture,”* taking place at Keystone Resort, January 17-22, 2011 and co-organized by Dr. Jacqueline E. Heard of Monsanto Company. From 2006-2009, Professor Schroeder served on Keystone Symposia’s Scientific Advisory Board, a group of illustrious scientists from around the world that helps determine the non-profit’s conference programming.

## **About Keystone Symposia**

Keystone Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology, a 501(c)3 non-profit 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. Each year, Keystone Symposia holds 50-60 meetings involving more than 13,000 scientists from around the world. Most of the meetings are held in the Rocky Mountain U.S. states and Canadian provinces, with a growing number each year overseas. The organization depends greatly on the generous support provided by corporations, foundations and individual donors.

Keystone Symposia is pleased to celebrate its 40th conference season in 2010-2011.

More information can be found at [\*\*www.keystonesymposia.org\*\*](http://www.keystonesymposia.org).

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