

THE PAN AMERICAN CONGRESS On Plants and BioEnergy 2008

Organized by Steve Long, University of Illinois & Nick Carpita, Purdue University

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Sunday, June 22, 2008

7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Welcoming talks

Featured Speaker: Dr. Stephen P. Long, University of Illinois

Monday, June 23, 2008 – Bioenergy, Agriculture, and our Environment

8:30 AM-10:30 AM Opening Forum

Senior governmental officers of Brazil, Mexico and the US speak on cooperative research initiatives for plant and microbial biology related to bioenergy and the implementation of bioenergy crops into the agricultural landscape

Speakers:

Dr. Merle Pierson, USDA Deputy Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics, United States

Dr. Carlos Henrique Brito Cruz, FAPESP, Scientific Director, Brazil

Dr. Diego Arjona, Director General of Research, Ministry of Energy, México

10:30 AM 10:50 AM Break

10:50 AM 11:50 AM Climate Change & the Environment

Talks will evaluate how to mitigate costs to the environment in a new agro-energy age

Dr. Marcos Buckeridge, Instituto de Botanica, Brazil

Dr. Roberto Sanchez, University of California, UC Mexus

11:50 AM 12:50 PM Plants and Bioenergy

Talks will emphasize how vast improvements in biomass quantity and quality are needed to reduce the agronomic footprint of agro-energy production

Speakers:

Dr. Donald Ort, University of Illinois

Dr. Nicholas Carpita, Purdue University

12:50 PM 2:30 PM Networking Lunch

2:30 PM 3:30 PM Energy Balance

Talks will center on optimizing energy output: input for alternative fuels

Speakers:

Dr. Michael Wang, Argonne National Laboratory

[Dr. José Goldemberg, University of São Paulo]

3:30 PM 4:30 PM Beyond Ethanol

Microbiologists will discuss the groundwork for second and third-generation biofuels

Dr. Rodolfo Quintero-Ramirez, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana – Cuajimalpa, México

Dr. Michelle Chang, University of California, Berkeley

4:30 PM 4:50 PM Break

4:50 PM 5:50 PM Policy and Economics

Academicians from Brazil, Mexico and the US discuss the economics of bioenergy, and the governmental policies that will be needed to promote the agro-energy economy

Speakers:

Dr. Wallace Tyner, Purdue University

[Dr. Luís Augusto Barbosa Cortez, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brazil]

5:50 PM 6:50 PM New Industries and Opportunities

Venture capitalists offer their perspectives on how the new agro-energy culture will itself be fueled

Panel includes:

Dr. Paulo Arruda, Scientific Director, Alellyx, Brazil

Dr. Neal Gutterson, CEO, Mendel

Additional participants: TBA

7:30 PM 9:00 PM Conference Dinner

Invited Conference dinner speaker: “Driving the Future of Energy Security”

Dr. Nina Fedoroff, Science and Technology Advisor to the US Secretary of State

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

8:30 AM 9:10 AM Energy Grass Genetics and Genomics: Feeding a Switchgrass Breeding Program

Speaker: Dr. Michael Casler, USDA-ARS, University of Wisconsin

9:10 AM 9:50 AM Designing the Sugarcane Energy Crop

Speaker: Dr. Gláucia Mendes-Souza, University of São Paulo

9:50 AM 10:30 AM Genetic Control of Biomass in Woody Species

Speaker: Dr. Gail Taylor, University of Southampton

10:30 AM 11:00 AM Break

11:00 AM 11:40 AM How C4 Grasses Evolved Enhanced Photosynthetic Capacity

Speaker: Dr. Rowan Sage, University of Toronto

11:40 AM 12:20 PM The Biochemistry of Assimilate Partitioning

Speaker: Dr. Karen Koch, University of Florida

12:20 PM 2:20 PM Networking Lunch

2:20 PM 4:10 PM Minisymposium: Annual Grasses I

Chair: Dr. Maureen McCann, Purdue University

Talks selected from abstracts

2:20 PM 4:10 PM Minisymposium: Oil crops I

Chair: Dr. Christoph Benning, Michigan State University

Talks selected from abstracts

4:10 PM 4:30 PM Break

4:30 PM 6:20 PM Minisymposium: Annual Grasses II

Chair: Dr. Maureen McCann, Purdue University

Talks selected from abstracts

4:30 PM 6:20 PM Minisymposium: Oil Crops II

Chair: Dr. Christoph Benning, Michigan State University

Talks selected from abstracts

6:20 PM 7:30 PM Networking Break

7:30 PM 9:00 PM Poster Session

Wednesday June 25, 2008

8:30 AM 9:10 AM Biosynthesis of the Plant Cell Wall

Speaker: Dr. Ken Keegstra, MSU-DOE Plant Research Laboratory

9:10 AM 9:50 AM Altering lignin biosynthesis for improved biomass conversion

Speaker: Dr. John Ralph, University of Wisconsin

9:50 AM 10:30 AM New Insights Into the Biosynthesis of Lipids

Speaker: Dr. John Ohlrogge, Michigan State University

10:30 AM 11:00 AM Break

11:00 AM 11:40 AM Genetics of Nitrogen Utilization in Bioenergy Crops

Speaker: Dr. Steve Moose, University of Illinois

11:40 AM 12:20 PM Practical Considerations of Designing an Energy Crop

Speaker: Dr. Emily Heaton, Ceres

12:20 PM 2:20 PM Networking Lunch

Wednesday June 25, 2008, Cont.

2:20 PM 4:10 PM Minisymposium: Perennial Grasses I

Co-chairs: Dr. Steve Long, University of Illinois; Federico Sanchez, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Talks selected from the abstracts

2:20 PM 4:10 PM Minisymposium: Woody Plants I

Co-Chairs: Dr. Larry Smart, SUNY; Marcos Buckeridge, University of São Paulo
Talks selected from the abstracts

4:10 PM 4:30 PM Break

4:30 PM 6:20 PM Minisymposium: Perennial Grasses II

Co-chairs: Dr. Steve Long, University of Illinois; Federico Sanchez, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Talks selected from the abstracts

4:30 PM 6:20 PM Minisymposium: Woody Plants II

Co-Chairs: Dr. Larry Smart, SUNY; Marcos Buckeridge, Univ. São Paulo
Talks selected from abstracts

6:20 PM 7:30 PM Networking Break

7:30 PM 9:00 PM Poster Session & Closing Reception