

# Hepatitis B Foundation highlights success stories

Doylestown: The 7th Annual Regional Biotech Conference, "Biotech Success Stories: What Big and Small Companies are Looking For" - was held Friday Nov. 9, at the new Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center in Doylestown.

The conference was sponsored by the Regional Biotechnology Council (RBC), which is a program of the Hepatitis B Foundation and its research affiliate, the Institute for Hepatitis and Virus Research.

State Sen. Chuck McIlhinney (R-10) was the guest speaker at the conference which attracted more than 100 biotech leaders in the region.

"Sen. McIlhinney is an outstanding champion for technology in the area, and a very effective advocate for the life sciences in Harrisburg, which is why we invited him to be our guest speaker at this important conference," said Dr. Timothy Block, president, Hepatitis B Foundation and the Pa. Biotech Center, in his introductory remarks.

"The biotech industry is an important focus of the state to stimulate job creation. The government can't do everything, but it needs to encourage valuable initiatives. We need to look for the new 'highways' to build, which today means technology highways," McIlhinney said.

Local biotech success stories were featured by presentations from Ed Erickson, Immunicon; Dr. Rifat Pamukcu, Cell Pathways; and Dr. Eli Mordechai, Medical Diagnostics Laboratories. Each spoke about what it takes for a biotech start-

up to be successful and offered real world advice.

Senior Merck executive James Self emphasized that pharmaceutical companies are the "champions of innovation" and highlighted what big companies are looking for in small biotech companies as they both seek partnership opportunities.

The 2007 Regional Biotech Award for Outstanding Achievement was presented to Paul Raetsch, retired director of the Philadelphia Regional Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, by Block and Dr.



Mohan Philip, director, Hepatitis B Foundation's Regional Biotech Council and co-founder of Immunotope.

*The Hepatitis B Foundation's Regional Biotech Council presented its annual Biotech Award for Outstanding Achievement to Paul Raetsch at its 7th annual biotech conference. From left are Dr. Rifat Pamukcu, James Self, Timothy Block, state Sen. Chuck McIlhinney, Raetsch, Dr. Anthony Green, Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Southeastern Pa., Dr. Mohan Philip and Ed Erickson.*

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