

March 5th , 2008 Calgary, Alberta

CALLING ALL ARTISTIC SCIENTISTS or SCIENTIFIC ARTISTS

Genome Alberta, Genome Canada, and the 2008 International GE³LS Symposium have launched a digital art contest with a first prize of \$1,000.

The new realities of genomics have come face-to-face with a society that does not always understand the ethical, legal, and environmental considerations of the new biology. Stem cell research and genetically modified foods are highly contentious issues but the same science is sought after to protect us against disease and develop plants better able to withstand drought and help feed the hungry.

With a first prize of \$1000.00, second prize of \$500.00 and a third prize of \$250.00, Genome Alberta and its partners are looking for art that depicts this intersection of science and society. The contest is open to anyone, anywhere, and there is an additional Genome Canada Select prize reserved for a Canadian entry. The public is also being asked to vote on their favourite choices.

GE³LS stands for Genomics: Ethics, Environment, Economics, Legal, and Society and is an important component of all research undertaken by Genome Alberta, Genome Canada and the other 5 regional genome centres in Canada. The digital art contest is open now, and the GE³LS International Symposium is being held in Calgary in late April.

For more details on the contest, Genome Alberta, and the GE³LS Symposium visit our website at www.genomealberta.ca or look for the Genome Alberta group on Facebook.

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For further information please contact:

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BACKGROUND NOTES:

WHAT IS GENOME ALBERTA ?

Genome Alberta is a not-for-profit organization which initiates, funds, and manages research projects in the area of genomics and several of the other 'omics'. It was created in the Fall of 2005 through the partnership of Genome Canada, Industry Canada, and the Province of Alberta. It is the newest of Canada's Regional Genome Centres. Visit Genome Alberta at www.genomealberta.ca

WHAT IS GE³LS?

Genomics research promises many benefits to society while at the same time raising Ethical, Environmental, Economic, Legal and Social challenges (hence GE³LS). Some of these challenges have raised considerable public concern. The nature of these concerns, the regulatory response, and the process for managing genomics issues are the focus of the GE³LS program. All research funded by Genome Alberta has a GE³LS component so the issues can be raised and addressed.

ABOUT THE 2008 INTERNATIONAL GE³LS SYMPOSIUM

The 2008 International GE³LS Symposium is an opportunity for GE³LS and genomic science researchers to reconnect, share their research, and highlight the best in recent GE³LS research. It provides an excellent forum to consider how developments in science, technology and policy bear on GE³LS research priorities and activities. It is being held in Calgary at the Westin Hotel on April 28-30th. For more information visit the Genome Canada website at www.genomecanada.ca

DIGITAL ART CONTEST

Full details are available at www.genomealberta.ca/contestrules.aspx

We welcome submissions of original digital works of art that address the ethical, legal, and social themes related to the human genome, biology in the 21st century, or genetics in society. For the purposes of this contest digital art is defined as art that is created in a digital form. It can be drawn using a computer, created from a source such as a digital photograph, or be entirely computer generated. We will not accept digitized images of oil, acrylic or mixed media paintings.

Deadline for submissions is April 13th, 2008 and voting will close on April 18th.