



**Sanofi Canada BioGENEius Challenge
National Finals
Ottawa – April 9, 2013**

**Speech delivered by Jon Fairest
President and CEO, Sanofi Canada**

On behalf of the Sanofi Group in Canada, it is my pleasure to present the first place award to the winner of the national Sanofi BioGENEius Challenge Canada.

This year we have a special milestone – we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of this wonderful opportunity for young Canadian scientists.

The original competition in 1993 was known as the BIO-Connaught Student Biotechnology Competition and was a side event to the international BIO conference in Toronto. In 2002, it expanded Canada-wide, and is now replicated in Australia and the U.S.

Twenty years ago, when the Sanofi Group began its support of SBCC, we simply saw this as a way to give back to our community.

Today, 20 years later, we are very proud of the fact that over 4,500 youth across Canada have had the opportunity to advance their scientific ideas through the SBCC. Guided by mentors, these young people have tackled some of the world's most urgent challenges and have developed truly innovative solutions. In some cases, their ideas have even resulted in patented, commercialized products.

At Sanofi, we believe that the SBCC helps foster a culture of innovation in Canada. It shows the power of science to accelerate Canadian competitiveness and productivity.

The SBCC also stands as a symbol of collaboration between industry, government and academia. I'm pleased today to see so many people here today from each of these three areas.

However, innovation means nothing unless we can realize value from our ideas. It's really about "bringing ideas into reality".

To make this happen, we need the right talent, funding and intellectual property protection to cultivate the next generation of leaders to shape Canada's future.

Together, we must follow the example of the young people here today and think differently about our future. This will help ensure we have a strong foundation in place to redefine and create a sustainable healthcare system in Canada.

I took up my responsibilities with Sanofi Canada one year ago, so this is the first time I have taken part in the SBCC. As the father of two children just a bit younger than our finalists, I can easily imagine how proud your families must be of you.



I strongly believe that all of you, representing the sharpest and brightest minds in Canada, will help to shape Canada's culture of innovation. Sanofi is proud to support this critical investment in our next generation of innovators.

Before I announce the winner, I would like to acknowledge the national supporters who make the SBCC such a success. In addition to Sanofi Canada and Sanofi Pasteur, we have the National Research Council Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, York University, Genome Canada and the Government of Canada.

The Sanofi BioGENEius Challenge Canada would not be possible without strong partnerships between industry, government, academia and not-for-profit organizations at both the national and regional levels.

I would also like to acknowledge the dedicated students, teachers, mentors and judges whose time, effort and enthusiasm makes the SBCC such an exceptional program.

So, without further delay, it is now my pleasure to present the first place award to Arjun Nair of Webber Academy in Calgary.