The Lake Geneva Innovation Society (LGIS), founded in January 2004, helps innovative science at academic institutions of the Lake Geneva Region to develop into viable commercial undertakings. Its aim is to foster privileged collaborations between academics of the University of Geneva, the EPFL and the University of Lausanne and members of the private sector by promoting closer contacts between academic researchers and Swiss and foreign industrialists.

For the second year, the Lake Geneva Innovation Society will hold an event gathering academics and representatives from the international private sector (industry, venture capitalists, bankers, and other professionals), providing a unique environment for constructive interactions between business leaders and top University scientists.

On the occasion of this event, one of the Society's founding sponsors, Serono, has decided to grant a Serono Young Investigator Award 2005, for the best recent biotechnology discovery/invention.

The academic institutions in the Lake Geneva Region have world class expertise in medicine and biology and fully believe it is important to reward young scientists who dedicate their work and research to therapeutic purposes. The prize will therefore consist of a CHF 10,000 check that will be presented personally to the prize winner on the occasion of the Second Lake Geneva Innovation Society Dinner on Tuesday January 25th, 2004. The award is open to scientists of the following institutions: UNIGE, EPFL, UNIL, HUG, CHUV, ISREC, and the Ludwig Institute.

Should you be interested in applying for this prize, please return the attached application form with a one-page summary including a description of the discovery/invention and its importance for commercial or therapeutic purposes. Please also include your detailed CV (including a list of publications). Please note that the age limit for applicants is 40 years and that the research should focus on the following areas: genomics, proteomics, bio/medical research tools, pharmacology, diagnostics and bioengineering.

All applications will be screened by a jury comprised of Tim Wells, Senior Executive Vice-President, Research, Serono, Didier Trono, Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences, EPFL, Pierre Magistretti, Director of the Neuroscience Psychiatric Center at Cery and Professor at UNIL, UNIGE and the EPFL and Ann Kato, Professor, Dept. Basic Neuroscience, Centre Médical Universitaire and Founder of the LGIS. A letter will be sent to all participants to inform them of the result.

The attached application form should be completed and returned to Ann Kato by fax or by e-mail by January 1st 2005 at the latest.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Professor Ann C. Kato (Ann.Kato@medecine.unige.ch or phone 022 379 54 46 or fax 022 379 54 52). You may also contact the technology transfer office of your institution or Christophe Lamps, from Rochat & Partners. They will be pleased to provide more details about this Young Investigator Award 2005 (clamps@rochat-pr.ch).

We look forward to receiving your application form!

Best regards,

Professor Ann Kato
Founder LGIS

Tim Wells
Senior Executive Vice-President, Research, Serono