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**Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization's iBIO Institute  
Announces 2010 iCON Award Winners**

*Educators from UIC and The Field Museum will be honored at  
iBIO Institute iCON Awards Dinner September 30th*

CHICAGO, August 12, 2010 – The [iBIO Institute](#) today announced the two winners of the fourth annual iBIO Institute iCON Awards, considered by many to be the region's most prestigious honor for life sciences educators and researchers. The iCON Awards celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding science teachers and researchers whose work provides the basis for biotechnology developments worldwide.

The 2010 iCON Innovator Award (University Level) winner is Brenda Russell, Ph.D., Professor of Physiology, Biophysics, Bioengineering and Medicine, and Executive Associate Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Among her many responsibilities are serving as the leader of the Russell Lab in UIC's Department of Physiology and Biophysics. In this role, Dr. Russell has spent several years guiding some of the brightest and most highly motivated research students in the state.

Dr. Russell has chaired several cross-disciplinary task forces at UIC including regenerative medicine with stem cells, environmental science, tobacco-related research (prevention psychology, clinical treatment and more), bioinformatics and structural biology.

"Dr. Russell is not only a noted researcher and scientific innovator," said iBIO Institute Chairperson Nancy Joseph-Ridge, M.D., General Manager of Takeda's Pharmaceutical Development Division, "she is an important contributor to our community-building. She is one of the leaders of the heralded *Chicago Biomedical Consortium*, has lectured in the iBIO Institute's *TalentSparks!* teacher development program and *iBIO IndEx* conferences and lent her talent to Chicago's *Science in the City* community outreach efforts."

Recently, Dr. Russell's new, Evanston-based company, Cell Habitats, Inc., joined the Institute's PROPEL center which supports Illinois entrepreneurs in various life sciences sectors. "She really epitomizes so much of what the iBIO Institute is all about: innovation, education, community and entrepreneurship," added Dr. Joseph-Ridge.

The 2010 iCON Knowledge Builder Award (Grades 6-12) winner is Elizabeth Babcock, Ph.D., Vice President, Education and Library Collections at The Field Museum in Chicago. Dr. Babcock is responsible for the development and implementation of education programs, outreach initiatives and digital programming to over 800,000 adults, families, teachers and students each year. The focus of her work is to improve the public's understanding of natural history and to serve diverse audiences by leveraging the Museum's exhibitions, collections and scientific research. Dr. Babcock's work in the Library focuses on increasing the public's access to and utilization of the Museum's rare book collection, photo and institutional archives, and general collection of over 300,000 items.

"Dr. Babcock is a remarkable educator whose work annually inspires thousands of students, teachers and parents," said David Miller, President & CEO of the iBIO Institute. "She makes science 'come alive' for our children through field trips. She also encourages teachers to teach science using proven inquiry-based methods. People who know her well call Elizabeth Babcock 'a bundle of enthusiasm and energy', and those are qualities we need in abundance as we excite America's students to the wonderful things that can be done with math and science."

For more information or to register for the iCON Awards Dinner on September 30, 2010 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Chicago, please visit [www.ibioinstitute.org](http://www.ibioinstitute.org).

#### **About iBIO Institute**

The mission of the iBIO Institute's Education Center is to provide education, training and research to members of the business and educational communities and to the general public. Our goal is to help create a globally recognized biotechnology center in Chicago, Illinois, and the surrounding Midwest region. Our educational programs support development of healthcare, agricultural and industrial - breakthroughs. To learn more about the iBIO Institute and its programs, visit [www.ibioinstitute.org](http://www.ibioinstitute.org).

#### **About iBIO**

iBIO's mission is to make Illinois and the surrounding Midwest one of the world's top life sciences centers: a great place to do business, and a great place to grow new technology ventures. iBIO advocates for sound public policy, delivers education and training programs, and improves our ability to create, attract, and retain businesses. To learn more about iBIO and its programs, visit [www.ibio.org](http://www.ibio.org).

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