

Press Release

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Future of Global Health Products to Be Assessed at RAPS Annual Conference

Rockville, MD— In a year of notable biotechnological advances and newsworthy health product developments, more than 200 of the world's foremost authorities from industry, regulatory bodies and academia will speak in October at a much-anticipated conference in Baltimore.

The Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society (RAPS) 2006 Annual Conference & Exhibition: *Embracing Tomorrow—Learning and Leading* will take place 15-18 October at the Baltimore Convention Center. The flagship conference, with more than 1500 professionals expected to attend, will feature expert international speakers discussing scientific advances, regulatory environments and the future of industry and the regulatory profession.

“The agenda of this year's annual conference has, without a doubt, the most diverse array of speakers from the international health product community and the global regulatory profession RAPS has ever assembled,” said Sherry L. Keramidas, PhD, RAPS Executive Director.

“This conference is the culmination, in the year of RAPS' 30th anniversary, of RAPS' work as a neutral facilitator of crucial discussions and as a key provider of educational opportunities,” Keramidas added. “RAPS Annual Conference is essential for anyone to understand the complex current and future issues affecting the global health product community.”

Keramidas will present the results of the *2006 North American Scope of Compensation/Salary Survey* at the conference. The bi-annual survey is the most complete view of the evolution and growth of the profession. The 2005 data will provide important updates and new perspectives on the profession among North American-based professionals.

The keynote address at this year's conference will be delivered by Daniel Burrus. Burrus, who has successfully predicted the future of technological change and its direct impact on the business world and documented it in several books including the highly-acclaimed *Technotrends*, will share insights into future opportunities and prepare attendees to capitalize on the next wave of technological change.

Dr. Luanne Freer, who opened the world's highest medical clinic at Mount Everest Base Camp in 2003, is the conference's closing luncheon speaker. Freer will discuss providing medical care in one of the world's coldest and most austere environments and demonstrate how to develop a partnership between profession and passion.

Among other conference highlights, separate sessions with senior staff representatives from FDA's Centers for Biologics, Drugs, and Devices and Radiological Health will provide the latest information on regulatory reforms, functional Center changes and new guidance issuance and initiatives.

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FDA Center session presenters include: Daniel G. Schultz, MD, Director, CDRH; Donna-Bea Tillman, PhD, Director, Office of Device Evaluation, CDRH; Timothy A. Ulatowski, Director, Office of Compliance, CDRH; James Kenimer, PhD, President & CEO, Biologics Consulting Group; Patricia DeSantis, Vice President, Global Regulatory Affairs, Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical R&D Margaret Hurley, MD, President & CEO, Hurley Consulting Associates; John Jenkins, MD, Director, Office of New Drug Review, CDER; and Nancy D. Smith, PhD, Director, Office of Training & Communications, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

Several international sessions will take place at the conference, including presentations and discussions on the EMEA, Japan, India, Latin America and China. Separate preconference workshops on regulatory affairs in the EU, Canada and Japan are scheduled.

Moving the conference to the Baltimore Convention Center from Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel, which hosted last year's conference, enables RAPS to increase conference offerings. An *Effective Medical Writing* preconference workshop and an "executive" session track are new this year. RAPS has expanded the Career Center, Exhibit Hall, Combination Product sessions and e-submission offerings.

The conference will feature extensive opportunities for attendees to make new acquaintances and network with peers. The opening reception will pay tribute to RAPS' 30th Anniversary with 1976-flashback disco.

Go to www.raps.org/ac for more information on RAPS 2006 Annual Conference.

About RAPS

The Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society (RAPS) is the leading worldwide member organization devoted to the health product regulatory profession. With more than 10,000 individual members from industry, government, research, clinical and academic organizations in more than 50 countries, RAPS develops professional standards for knowledge, competency and ethics and is the leading source of information on the scope of practice of regulatory professionals and their critical roles in the health sector.

Founded in 1976, RAPS advances learning and fosters knowledge exchange in regulatory, scientific, business, legal and other areas essential to effective product development and regulation. RAPS administers the only recognized credential for the profession—the Regulatory Affairs Certification (RAC). www.raps.org

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