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Cutting-edge research on male fertility wins Cefic LRI Award

Brussels, 27 June 2008 - The Cefic Long-range Research Initiative (LRI) 'Innovative Science Award' was presented last night in Brussels. This annual €100,000 grant recognises outstanding contributions from early-career scientists from around Europe and supports innovative research to assess the impact of chemicals on health and the environment.

Dr Emma Taylor, a young British scientist from Leicester University won the Award for her research proposal on transgenerational effects. The project will enable further robust assessment on environmental effects potentially inherited from one generation to the next. It will also help understand the inherited effects on male fertility and identify what other biological features parents could pass on to their offspring. The project is titled 'Mechanistically anchored testing for male epigenetic transgenerational chemical toxicity using in vivo and in vitro stem cell based systems'.

The Award is part of industry's efforts and contribution towards creating a competitive and knowledge-based society in Europe, as past winners' projects and career development clearly demonstrate. It reflects the chemical industry's ambition to promote a strong link between innovation and society's expectations.

"Our continued support to young scientists helps broaden our knowledge for developing innovative technologies and products" said Gernot Klotz, Executive Director for Cefic Research & Innovation, "The winner's vision and enthusiasm reaffirms the industry's belief that technology leadership and innovative solutions can help face many challenges of our society today and tomorrow in a responsible way."

Dr Taylor will present her project at the Cefic LRI 10th annual event on 20-21 November in Brussels.

The other finalists were Dr Kirsten Baken from Maastricht University in the Netherlands and Dr Angela Mally from Würzburg University in Germany. This year's competition was run in partnership with EUROTOX (the Association of European Toxicologists and European Societies of Toxicology).

Notes to Editor:

Launched 10 years ago, the Long-range Research Initiative (LRI) aims to identify and fill gaps in our understanding of the hazards posed by chemicals and to improve the methods available for assessing the associated risks. LRI is one of the major voluntary initiatives of the European chemical industry to support its competitiveness and innovation potential. For more information visit www.cefic-lri.org

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