ABBOTT AND MORGAN STANLEY WELCOME THE 14TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY CONVENTION TO CHICAGO FOR ITS MIDWESTERN DEBUT

- Miles D. White, CEO of Abbott, and Earvin "Magic" Johnson Kick Off Opening Plenary -

ABBOTT PARK, Ill., March 31, 2006 – Abbott and Morgan Stanley welcome the Biotechnology Industry Organization's (BIO) 2006 convention to Chicago, April 9-12. This annual international event, showcasing the latest innovations and developments in the biotechnology industry, is being held for the first time in the Midwest.

"The Midwest truly has it all when it comes to biotechnology – including health care, agriculture and energy resources – that together are improving the lives of people worldwide," said Miles D. White, chairman and chief executive officer, Abbott, and BIO 2006 steering committee co-chairman. "Bringing BIO 2006 to Chicago is helping to define the city and Illinois as the Midwest hub of a large, diverse bioscience region."

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"The biotech community is making a meaningful difference in the lives of people throughout the world," said Clinton Gartin, vice chairman, Investment Banking Division, Morgan Stanley, and BIO 2006 steering committee co-chairman. "Chicago is an excellent venue for this event. You will find that Chicago has all of the necessary ingredients: the scientific capabilities, political support, financial backing, technological resources and the brainpower to make it all happen."

"BIO is delighted that Abbott and Morgan Stanley are serving as major sponsors of BIO 2006, and that Miles White and Clinton Gartin are co-chairing the BIO 2006 Steering Committee," said James Greenwood, president and CEO of the Biotechnology Industry Organization. "The leadership of Abbott and Morgan Stanley have helped to make BIO 2006 the largest and most exciting annual international convention yet."

In addition to serving as a major sponsor of the conference, events at which Abbott will be featured include the opening plenary session; health screenings for the general public and meeting attendees; and a number of scientific sessions highlighting advances in life sciences, diagnostics and business development.

**Opening Plenary Session, Monday April 10**

Mr. White will discuss how biotechnology can contribute to solving some of the biggest global challenges such as disease, hunger and environmental stability. He will then introduce NBA legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson.

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Architour Health Screenings

Abbott will provide free health screenings prior to and during BIO 2006 on its Architour truck, an 80-foot-long mobile "lab on wheels" which contains state-of-the art biotechnology-based diagnostics capabilities. The Architour truck appeared in Houston to serve displaced New Orleans residents following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Free blood pressure and blood glucose screenings for the general public will take place at Illinois and Fairbanks (April 7) and The Luck Center (April 10), as well as at the McCormick Center for meeting attendees (April 10-12).

BIO Programming

BIO 2006 will bring together 20,000 biotechnology industry leaders at more than 150 educational sessions. Leaders from Abbott will be featured at the following sessions:

*Chief Scientific Officer Boot Camp*

Saturday, April 8, 2006
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Hyatt Regency Chicago, Grand Ballroom F, East Tower
Sandro Aruffo, Ph.D, vice president, Global Pharmaceutical Development
Running Faster in the Race to Cure Cancer: The Impact of Pharmacogenomics, Biomarkers and New Technologies on Drug Discovery and Development
Monday, April 10, 2006
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
McCormick Place, Room 401BC
Stephen Fesik, Ph.D, divisional vice president, Cancer Research

Lessons Learned from Strategies of Biotech and Pharmaceutical Companies Addressing HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa
Monday, April 10, 2006
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
McCormick Place, Room 403B
Reeta Roy, divisional vice president, Global Citizenship and Policy

Biomarkers in the Discovery and Development Process Toward Value-Added Diagnostics and Therapeutics
Monday, April 10, 2006
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
McCormick Place, Room 402B
Steven Seelig, M.D., Ph.D, divisional vice president, Research, Abbott Molecular

Critical Success Factors in Advancing Research from the Benchtop to the Patient
Tuesday, April 11, 2006
9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
McCormick Place, Room 404D
Suzanne Lebold, divisional vice president, Global Licensing/Business Development

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Systems Biology – Where Do We Stand? Evaluating the Current and Future Impact on Therapeutic Diagnostic Research and Development

Wednesday, April 12, 2006
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
McCormick Place, Room 405B
- John Leonard, M.D., vice president, Global Medical and Scientific Affairs, and board member of BIO
- James Summers, Ph.D., divisional vice president, Advanced Technologies

About Abbott

Abbott is a global, broad-based health care company devoted to the discovery, development, manufacture and marketing of pharmaceuticals and medical products, including nutritionals, devices and diagnostics. The company employs 60,000 people and markets products in more than 130 countries.

Abbott's news releases and other information are available on the company's website at www.abbott.com.

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