



Contact: Joan Bowman  
269-350-1811 (cell)  
269-441-2992 (office)  
[joan.bowman@ifpti.org](mailto:joan.bowman@ifpti.org)

## **STEPHEN BENOIT TO LEAD DIABETES DRUG DEVELOPMENT COMPANY**

### **Founding President of Global Food Protection Institute and International Food Protection Training Institute Will Remain on Boards of Directors**

**BATTLE CREEK, MI** (September 17, 2010) Stephen Benoit, founding President and COO of the Global Food Protection Institute (GFPI) and the International Food Protection Training Institute (IFPTI), has accepted an offer to serve as CEO of a Kalamazoo, MI-based clinical-stage drug development company developing innovative therapeutics to treat metabolic diseases. Mr. Benoit will step down from his current posts effective October 13, 2010, though he will continue to serve on the Board of Directors of GFPI and IFPTI. A national search for Mr. Benoit's replacement will commence in the coming weeks.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to work with Battle Creek Unlimited, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and my colleagues at GFPI and IFPTI in establishing over the past two years what I believe are unparalleled initiatives that will influence the adoption of food protection practices and policies that lead to improved public health", said Benoit. "Going forward, under the Board's leadership and that of Executive Director Jerry Wojtala, I am confident IFPTI will continue to lead in the creation of the training infrastructure for the national integrated food safety system," Benoit added.

Founded in 2009, IFPTI has trained approximately 1,000 food protection professionals from 47 states. Working closely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and in collaboration with a consortium of leading universities, IFPTI's focus is: Developing a national training network to provide technical, management, and leadership training to regulatory and public health officials responsible for assuring food safety; Serving as the hub for the administration of the national food protection training network; Developing and delivering standards-based food protection training programs not currently offered; and Building a national instructor cadre to ensure the availability of highly trained instructors within regulatory and public health agencies across all jurisdictions.

"While we reluctantly accept Steve's resignation, Karl Dehn, President and CEO of Battle Creek Unlimited, and I do so with full recognition of the phenomenal job he has done over the past two years – first as a consultant in the start-up process, and then as Founding President. The solid foundations in place at GFPI and IFPTI are a result of his dedication and commitment for which we are truly grateful," said Rick

Foster, Lead Director of the IFPTI Board of Directors. "We thank Steve for his leadership and wish him continued success in his new role," Foster added.

*About GFPI and IFPTI*

For individuals and organizations actively pursuing a safe, secure, and healthy food supply, the Global Food Protection Institute is a knowledge-exchange and resource-development network positioned at the nexus of the social, political, economic, and environmental driving forces influencing the adoption of food protection policies and practices that lead to improved public health. The Institute's family of global initiatives include: the International Food Protection Training Institute, Emerging Technology Accelerator, and Imagined Food Futures. Start-up funding for GFPI has been generously provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

# # # #