



GenomePrairie

## News Release

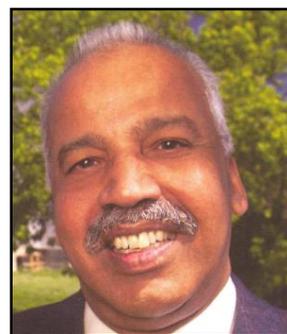
### New Appointments to Genome Prairie's Board of Directors, Terms Renewed for Current Members

**Saskatoon, SK – July 7, 2010** - Board Chair Arnold Naimark has announced the appointment of two new members to the Genome Prairie Board of Directors. Both members have been appointed for three-year terms. The announcement was made recently at Genome Prairie's Annual Meeting of Members.



**John Cross** is the Board Chair of the Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority (SREDA). His wide-spanning career within biotechnology began in 1965, when he worked as a chemical engineer in the Food Research and Development Department at John Labatt Ltd. in London, Ontario. In 1975, he served as a founding director of POS Pilot Plant Corporation in Saskatoon. Beginning in 1980, Cross spent 27 years with Saskatoon-based Philom Bios Inc. as a founding partner, President, CEO and Chairman. Aside from SREDA, John currently sits on a number of many prominent boards, including the Royal University Hospital Foundation, the POS Pilot Plant Corporation and the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC). He has been honored for his numerous achievements, including the Agribusiness Leadership Award from the Saskatoon and District Chamber of Commerce (1998) and the Ag-West Biotech Bioscience Award for Entrepreneurial Leadership and Vision (2003).

**Kutty Kartha** is internationally-recognized for his pioneering work in wheat biotechnology, including the development of methods for the production and evaluation of new genetic lines of wheat. Similarly, he has made seminal contributions in developing techniques for eliminating viral pathogens from a number of crop plants through biotechnology and also in developing methods for the long-term storage of such material (germplasm) in liquid nitrogen. His research attracted a large number of scientists from institutions around the world to come to his laboratory for training. Educated in India, he received his PhD in virology (with a specialization in plant pathology) at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi. In 1973, Kutty came to the National Research Council Plant Biotechnology Institute (NRC-PBI) in Saskatoon as a Visiting Scientist, and has since held several prestigious roles with the organization, including Director General. He is the recipient of numerous awards for his work within the biotechnology field, including the Public Service Award of Excellence on behalf of the Canadian government's Treasury Board (1992) and the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada Gold Medal (2004). Kutty has over 140 published articles and has served on editorial boards for a number of scientific journals, including *Plant Cell Tissue & Organ Culture* and *Plant Science*.



“John and Kutty are innovative leaders and tireless contributors to our regional biotech sector,” said Naimark. “I look forward to working with them on a professional level as the newest board members of Genome Prairie.”

In addition to the new appointments, Arnold Naimark and Digvir Jayas have had their terms renewed for an additional three years. Gerald Brown, Lyle Merrell, Karen Chad, David Gauthier, Grant Pierce, Ian Smith and Dale Patterson continue to serve as members of the Board of Directors.

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### ***About Genome Prairie***

*Genome Prairie leads large-scale genomics and proteomics research projects in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. With its national and international partners, Genome Prairie has supported nearly \$188 million of research activity in plant, animal and human genomics, bioinformatics, instrumentation development and bioethics since 2000. Through network establishment and regional priority consultations, Genome Prairie facilitates research linkages with funding from provincial governments, industry and Genome Canada – a not-for-profit organization implementing a national strategy in genomics and proteomics research to benefit all Canadians. [www.genomeprairie.ca](http://www.genomeprairie.ca)*