



2009 FLC Midwest Region Awards

Excellence in Technology Transfer Award

The Excellence in Technology Transfer Award is presented to an employee or team of employees of a Midwest Region member laboratory in recognition of outstanding work during the transfer of a technology between a federal laboratory and another entity.

Drs. Joseph Laszlo and David Compton of the Agricultural Research Service's National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research (NCAUR), whose research and commercialization efforts have greatly benefited the cosmetic and skin care industry, were presented with an Excellence in Technology Transfer Award at the 2009 FLC Midwest regional meeting in Bloomington, Indiana.

The NCAUR scientists demonstrated the effectiveness of enzymatic-combination of botanical molecules with vegetable oil in protecting skin from the damaging effects of sun and environmental exposure. The process was first demonstrated by combining ferulic acid with soybean oil, collectively referred to as SoyScreen™. The resulting lotion is a strong UV-A and UV-B absorbing material that is ideal for skin care.

The scientists' personal efforts were crucial in bringing about the commercialization of this technology. They were responsible for initiating and cultivating the personal contacts leading to the creation of iSoyTechnologies Corp., the exclusive licensee of the SoyScreen™ technology, and in developing methods of mass production for the technology.

Their approach is now being deployed to convert other botanical ingredients to lipid derivatives for skincare applications. SoyScreen™ is currently being used in a wrinkle-treatment product available at high-end U.S. retailers and in an Elizabeth Arden line sold overseas. Plans are in development for Elizabeth Arden and the makers of the Banana Boat sun care line to market products using SoyScreen™ in Western markets throughout 2009 and 2010.