

PHYTOSPHERIX: Polysaccharide Particles From Crops for Bioproducts Applications

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DATE: Friday, February 22, 2013

TIME: 3:00 PM

PLACE: C2045

We hope to provide the usual refreshments.

ABSTRACT: I will describe our serendipitous discovery of polysaccharide particles, which was made within a multidisciplinary, fundamental research project. The particles have special properties and very promising applications, and I will describe our efforts to transfer this technology from the lab to the marketplace. This has involved developing the technology through various tech transfer grants and setting up a start-up company, Mirexus Biotechnologies. Our efforts have ranged from very detailed characterization of the particles using a variety of state-of-the-art techniques, to chemical modification of the particles to achieve different functionalities, to conducting crop trials to optimize production efficiency, to conducting pilot scale trials of the production process. Our experience illustrates the need to combine high quality science with the willingness to pursue a new range of more applied activities to achieve progress in the commercialization of laboratory discoveries.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!