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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **SBRI RECIEVES 2009 SCIENCE EDUCATION ADVOCATE AWARD**

*Washington State LASER Honors SBRI as a Local "Science Champion"*

**SEATTLE, May 12, 2009** – Seattle Biomedical Research Institute, through its undergraduate and graduate internships, high school science education outreach and community events, aims to not only overcome barriers to today's global health concerns, but also to inform, motivate and train the next generation of global health leaders and scientists. In recognition of SBRI's science education programs, Washington State LASER (Washington State Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform), of which Pacific Science Center is a partner, is honoring the Institute as a 2009 Science Education Advocate Award recipient.

SBRI is one of five organizations and individuals in this premier competition being acknowledged for exhibiting outstanding advocacy for science education. "Awardees are being recognized for their advocacy efforts.... We want to stress how important strong community support and advocacy is to developing science literacy in our sate," said Dennis Schatz, senior vice president for Strategic Programs for Pacific Science Center and co-director for LASER.

Science education is an integral component of SBRI's mission to eliminate the world's most devastating infectious diseases through leadership in scientific discovery. "By inspiring youth, teachers and engaged citizens to think about their role to improve global health, and by providing them with the tools and training to pursue scientific knowledge, SBRI is promoting life sciences in the classroom, workplace and community," explained Ken Stuart, president and director of SBRI. "It's an honor to be recognized for our science outreach and accomplishments by Washington State LASER."

Through SBRI's longstanding affiliation with the University of Washington, dozens of undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral students have had the opportunity to pursue their educational goals at SBRI. But SBRI also believes in inspiring students at a young age. According to SBRI's BioQuest Director Theresa Britschgi, when high school students from "grades 9 to 20" participate in lab internships or SBRI's BioQuest science education outreach program, they become part of a professional science environment committed to pursuing new knowledge and accelerating solutions to improving global health. "We're delighted to be recognized as a key player of our state's efforts to inspire and mentor local teens toward futures in the life sciences," said Britschgi. "With this recognition, LASER is helping SBRI open up more possibilities to increase passion for global health in our leaders of tomorrow."

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SBRI is among five individuals, organizations and/or project teams being recognized for promoting science education among the general public and education system. Other awardees are: Edmund O. Schweitzer, III, Ph.D., president of Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. in Pullman; Kim M. Fowler, senior research engineer at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) in Richland; Spokane Youth Environmental Conference (SYEC); and the Northwest Association for Biomedical Research (NWABR). The awardees receive \$5,000 each, generously provided by the Boeing Company, to be awarded to a not-for-profit organization or public education entity of their choice. SBRI's award will be donated to BioQuest, the high school science outreach program at SBRI.

Recipients will be formally recognized on June 12, 11:30–1:30 p.m. at the Washington Athletic Club in Seattle. For more information regarding the awardees and to register for the awards ceremony, visit <http://www.wastatelaser.org>.

#### **ABOUT SBRI:**

SBRI discoveries advance global health. Our infectious disease research is the foundation for new vaccines, drugs and diagnostics that benefit those who need our help most: the 14 million who will otherwise die each year from infectious diseases. A non-profit organization founded in 1976, SBRI has nearly 300 staff members working in research labs in Seattle and Tanzania. By partnering with key collaborators around the globe, we ensure that our discoveries will save lives sooner. For more information, visit [www.sbri.org](http://www.sbri.org).

#### **ABOUT WASHINGTON STATE LASER:**

Washington State LASER is a private public partnership working with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) as well as with Battelle, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and the Pacific Science Center. Washington State LASER received financial and in-kind support from OSPI, Battelle, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Boeing, Pacific Science Center, Merck Institute for Science Education and other global and local businesses.

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