

APPENDIX A

**Response of the
2009 O. Max Gardner Award Recipient
DR. TODD R. KLAENHAMMER**

Dr. Klaehammer said he was overwhelmed and honored with the Oliver Max Gardner Award. He said that the award was significant particularly with the presence of the Gardner family members. He thanked the Gardner family for attending the event and for their continued support to the University of North Carolina. Dr. Klaehammer referred to the short video that was shown depicting his research work involved with the development of genetic systems in positive lactic and bacteria and the use of genomic approaches to improve cultures for bioprocessing applications in food. He said that good and bad bacteria is present in each person's system. Among these bacteria, most notably "probiotics" is a substance that contains live organisms that when ingested has a beneficial effect on the body's immune system. He reported that scientific evidence is exploding on this fact. His research group has worked on two key missions using the new technology of genomics. First, the group is studying what properties of these bacterias genetically have an impact on our health and well-being. Second, the group is exploiting the bacteria that you can eat at high levels to deliver vaccines to the intestinal system, the strongest immunological organ in the body.

Reflecting on his research work and this award recognition today, Dr. Klaehammer acknowledged the many exceptional research scientists and students who have worked for his group for over 30 years. He also recognized the contributions of his research assistants, Evelyn Durmaz and Rosemary Sanozky-Dawes. He acknowledged Dr. Andrea Azcarate-Peril and Dr. Eric Alterman. He thanked Chancellor Oblinger and Dean Wynne for their long-standing support of the program. He concluded by recognizing his wife, Amy, for her support and their daughter, Ellen. He then thanked President Bowles and the Board of Governors for the award.