

## International Business Forum Announces the First Graduating Class of the Innovator Awards

Palo Alto, CA – [International Business Forum](#) (IBF), a business research group and full-service conference production company, is pleased to formally announce the winners of the inaugural [Innovator Awards](#) (TIA), recognizing the contributions of entrepreneurial and venture capital leaders.

“These awards celebrate men and women who truly are pioneers in innovation. Whether they are entrepreneurs, CEOs or investors, their vision has been recognized by their peers in the industry,” said Craig Simak, President of IBF. “They have set the gold standard for innovation and we are thrilled to celebrate their accomplishments with the first-ever Innovator Awards.”

The following winners were honored earlier this month at The Innovator Awards Dinner:

- *Andrew Mason, Founder, Groupon*, won **The Big Idea Award** for his involvement in developing The Point, an innovative approach to online fundraising that laid the framework for the collective buying technology of Groupon. Groupon recently filed an IPO to raise \$750 million.
- *Julie Corbett, CEO, EcoLogic Brands*, won the **Social Impact Award** for the creation of EcoLogic’s sustainable bottle. Corbett’s recyclable, compostable brainchild uses 70 percent less plastic than regular jugs and is challenging the packaging industry to provide greener solutions.
- *Doug Donzelli, CEO, Apprion, Inc.*, won the **Turnaround of the Year Award** for his work resurrecting Apprion following the departure of the company’s co-founders. In the past year, Donzelli revitalized the team, completed another round of funding and launched new product offerings. Accepting the award on Donzelli’s behalf, Sarah Prinster of Apprion noted that Doug has truly changed the company and managed to excite his staff and constituents in the process.
- *Hank Plain, Partner, Morgenthaler Ventures*, won the **“MVB” - Most Valuable Board Member** for his strategic counsel on the boards of Ardian and Acclarent. Plain presided over two of the largest med-tech transactions in the last year, totaling over \$2 billion.
- *Ifty Ahmed, General Partner, Oak Investment Partners*, won the **Rising Star Award** for his investment work in the technology sector focusing on communications and Internet companies. Under Ahmed’s leadership, Oak was a founding investor in Tikona, which built the world’s largest outdoor Wi-Fi network in less than three years.
- *Jim Healy, Managing General Partner, Sofinnova Ventures*, won the **RiskMaster Award** for his investment in Amarin, a formerly troubled pharmaceutical company which is now on track to be one of Healy’s best investments. Healy was also an active early investor and board member for six portfolio companies that were acquired, five IPOs and one of the recent top PIPE financings.

"I am honored to be selected by my peers to receive this year's IBF RiskMaster award," Healy said. "A story like Amarin proves that there are big opportunities in biotech. The fundamental science was very

compelling, and by working closely with the company we were able to refocus the technology on cardiovascular disease, refinance the programs and target a multi-billion dollar market. Thank you IBF for providing a platform to recognize the hard work that goes into developing game-changing companies."

In its inaugural year, TIA was noted by Tim Draper, Founder of Draper Fisher Jurvetson, as "the Academy Awards for venture capital and entrepreneurship." Given the success of this event, the next iteration will be the Corporate Innovator Awards, scheduled for February 8, 2011 during IBF's [Corporate Venturing & Innovation Partnering Conference](#) at The Island Hotel in Newport Beach, CA.

For more details and videos from the Innovator Awards go to [www.theinnovatorawards.com](http://www.theinnovatorawards.com).

For more information, or to register for the Corporate Venturing & Innovation Partnering Conference, please contact Cathy Fenn 516-765-9005 x 210, [cathy@ibfconferences.com](mailto:cathy@ibfconferences.com).

**About [International Business Forum](#)**

IBF is a business research group and a full-service conference production company with a focus on technology innovation and venture capital investing. Founded in 1989, International Business Forum has been organizing conferences that provide attendees with strategic information, key business contacts and the opportunity to gain access into the highest level of business intelligence from global industry leaders. IBF's ability to facilitate strategic gatherings has resulted in countless business relationships and transactions over the years.

###