

# The Bioscience Brief

A National Bioscience Newsletter

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## Welcome to the Third Edition of the BiMonthly Brief!

We here at the Bioscience Brief wish to inform you about what's happening in bioscience sectors across the country. We understand your concerns about Spam and assure you that our newsletter is not intended to be as such. You have received the Bioscience Brief Newsletter as a result of your RSVP to one of our events that took place in your state and were sponsored by our national partners: the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), the Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), the National Venture Capital Association (NVCA), and the United States Chamber of Commerce. If you wish to no longer receive this newsletter, we have an unsubscribe feature at the bottom.

Thank you,

Bioscience Brief Staff

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## National Partner Spotlight: The US Chamber of Commerce

The United States Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation representing more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions. It includes hundreds of associations, thousands of local chambers, and more than 100 American Chambers of Commerce in 91 countries. The U.S. Chamber's core mission is to fight for business and free enterprise before Congress, the White House, regulatory agencies, the courts, the court of public opinion, and governments around the world.

One of the U.S. Chamber's top priorities is maintaining America's leadership in biotechnology and promoting its applications in food, medicine, agriculture, textiles, and other products.

While biotechnology is dramatically improving our quality of life, it is not universally accepted. Most warmly embrace biotechnological advancements in pharmaceuticals, but many resist its uses in food, especially the Europeans. Critics worry about the safety and allergenicity of genetically modified foods, environmental contamination, loss of biodiversity, and the impact of biotechnology on international trade.

That's why the U.S. Chamber is pleased to partner with the Biotechnology Industry Organization, the Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America, and the National Venture Capital Association on the Biz-Bio program. The Biz-Bio program holds events across the country to educate people about the benefits of biotechnology and how it is improving their lives.

The U.S. Chamber is also working to create a better political and regulatory environment that helps

nurture the growth of biotechnology. It is promoting rigorous, science-based, and nationally uniform federal regulations that ensure environmental protection and a safe food supply.

The U.S. Chamber will continue to facilitate industry efforts to weigh in on these, and other, important issues impacting the biotech sector.

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## Well Known Biotech State Could Do Better

If you're not part of the biotechnology industry in Massachusetts, you probably feel like you're on the outside looking into a utopian life science innovation society where every necessary cog in the wheel perfectly meshes with the others to ensure every patient saving opportunity is fully exploited at a speed which boggles the mind. However, questions arose from those attending and participating in the Business/Bioscience (Biz/Bio) event in Boston this past January.

By now it is well known that the creation of a well-balanced and productive life science innovation industry takes several key components: entrepreneurial university and research institutions, venture capital, well-developed legacy industries, and most importantly, supportive state government policies. Massachusetts has most of these components, yet it can and must smooth the road through the innovation cycle. Greater community communication, an increased willingness to assume risk, and pro-bio industry state policies are key if it is to maintain its top-tier positioning as a biotech innovation state.

This truth was evident in the observations of keynote speaker Cavan Redmond of Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. He stated that Massachusetts has done a very good job keeping Wyeth manufacturing jobs in state, but the state needs reach beyond itself to attract future manufacturing jobs or research and development sites from Wyeth and other companies. Point-in-case, despite the state's educated workforce, its intellectual property rich research institutions, and the robust industry that offers a myriad of acquisition targets, Wyeth still chose to locate a new facility in Ireland instead of Massachusetts.

University of Massachusetts President Jack Wilson and EPIX Pharmaceuticals' CEO Michael Astrue explored failures in the innovation cycle during their panel discussion. They spoke about the need to increase translational research and infrastructure that is lacking due to the growing risk and expense of such efforts in the state.

Concluding the exploration of the state's current business climate for the biopharmaceutical industry was Merrill Matthews of the Institute for Policy Innovation. Mathews urged the policymaker heavy audience to encourage the expansion of a healthy life science industry in the state through pro-active economic development programs and curbing the urge to legislate pricing or access to medical innovations.

Participants in the half-day event went away with a clear sense that Massachusetts has been resting on its laurels, and must be vigilant in its efforts to maintain as a life science innovation leader.

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## **A Legislative Window on CT Biz/Bio**

The inaugural Connecticut Business/Bioscience (Biz/Bio) event, “Connecticut’s Biotechnology Community: Building on the Foundation”, was held in the Connecticut Legislative Office Building on Wednesday, January 21, 2006. Senate President Donald Williams kicked off the event with a speech to the over 60 conference attendees. But his remarks, and those of the rest of the day’s speakers and panelists, reached far beyond those assembled for the morning event.

Working with leading members of the Connecticut legislature, specifically Commerce Committee Co-Chairmen, Senator Gary LeBeau, Representative Jeff Berger and Commerce Committee member Senator Cathy Cook, the Biz/Bio event was broadcast live on the Connecticut Network (CT-N) <http://www.ctn.state.ct.us>. CT-N is Connecticut’s statewide public access network and was an extraordinary medium to educate and engage legislators, elected officials, citizens and statewide activists. The utilization of CT-N allowed speakers to emphasize the importance of state government’s public policy and its effects on the Connecticut’s biopharmaceutical industry. The event was re-broadcast on CT-N seven times between January 22nd and January 26th.

The live broadcast was sent directly to the offices of all state legislators. As the panels discussed current trends in the biotechnology industry and how the state’s government could improve the environment for economic growth in this area, state senators and representatives watching the broadcast in their offices in the Legislative Office Building were drawn to the second floor to watch the proceedings in person and to speak directly with the high powered group of speakers from venture capital firms, biotechnology industry executives, leading academics and state policy leaders.

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### **State Partner Highlight: Omeris: Ohio’s Biotechnology Trade Association**

Omeris is Ohio’s premier statewide association for biotechnology interests. It is designed to build and accelerate bioscience industry, research and education in Ohio. Omeris is the state Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) affiliate; BIO is the national organization representing biotechnology companies in the United States and in 33 nations world wide.

Omeris’s top priority is focusing on networking the bioscience assets of Ohio to promote competitiveness and growth on a regional, national and global level. These assets include medical facilities, research organizations, Fortune 35 companies and top academic institutions. Currently, they are working to provide business assistance support to regional incubators, to both raise money and accelerate growth of emerging bioscience companies as well as marketing and raising the visibility of Ohio’s bioscience assets.

Omeris is a focal point for Ohio’s bioscience community, providing networking and educational events, continually developing web-based resources, addressing public policy, and analyzing resource and funding issues. Recently they partnered with both statewide and national business and trade associations to host a Business Bioscience (Biz/Bio) event aimed at how Ohio’s biopharmaceutical industry can grow

and be a bigger part of Ohio's economic engine. Omeris found the program valuable because it opened dialog between government, bioscience, business and academic leaders in their industry.

The relationship between the bioscience and pharmaceutical industry is vital, yet in some respects remains misunderstood. Such disconnect could be devastating to Ohio's innovation pipeline. Omeris recognizes this and decided a Biz/Bio event, focused on the pharmaceutical industry, could explore topics which concern Ohio's ability to grow the biopharmaceutical industry; while assessing Ohio's strengths in research, development, manufacturing and supply to attract the industry. With these topics and themes, the event featured workshops, panelists and guest speakers addressing them directly.

In their continued effort to address the issues which face Ohio, Omeris will further encourage the sharing of ideas and policies between decision makers and develop the bioscience industry, research and education in Ohio to stimulate and drive economic growth.bioscience industry.

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## Upcoming Events

### **BIO Mid-America VentureForum 2006**

September 25-27, 2006

Intercontinental Hotel, Cleveland, OH

The Midwest's largest annual event showcasing bioscience and medical device product and platform companies from across the country. To request a presentation slot and find more information, please visit <http://bma.bio.org/opencms/bma/2006/index.jsp>

### **Bio InvestorForum 2006**

Showcasing the Leading Growth Companies in Life Sciences

October 18-19, 2006

Palace Hotel, San Francisco

To request a presentation slot and find more information, please visit [investorforum.bio.org](http://investorforum.bio.org)

### **DRUG | DEVICE SUMMIT 2006**

December 4-5, 2006

Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine, San Diego, CA

BIO, in partnership with BIOCUM, Windhover Information, Inc. and Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed), will bring together the key stakeholders in biotechnology, pharmaceutical and medical device companies working to develop combination products and therapies, as well as leading investors in the industry. The conference will showcase up to 40 private and public company presentations to leading North American investors and prospective partners at the intersection of drug

development and medical device technologies.

To register or to apply for a presentation slot, go to: [drugdevice.bio.org/opencms/summit/2006/](http://drugdevice.bio.org/opencms/summit/2006/).

*Mark Your Calendars for*

**BioOhio 2006: Building the Bioscience Workforce**

October 23-24, 2006

Hilton Columbus at Easton Town Center

This fall, BioOhio 2006 will apply focus to the important issue of bioscience workforce development in two ways:

- 1.) devote the first half-day on Oct. 23 to Ohio's first statewide Bioscience Career Fair
- 2.) devote the second day to speakers and panelists from across the bioscience industry spectrum for discussion of workforce challenges, opportunities, collaboration, and ideas.

Organizations with Ohio job/internshi opportunities that are interested in participating in the Career Fair may contact Matt Schutte at Omeris, [mschutte@omeris.org](mailto:mschutte@omeris.org) or 614/675-3686.

Career Fair and general program registration will open in August.

*Look for a Biz/Bio event in your state!*

*Next stops are: Oklahoma, Kentucky, Michigan, and Illinois just to name a few.*

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