

# The Bioscience Brief

A National Bioscience Newsletter

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## Welcome to the Fifth Edition of the BiMonthly BioscienceBrief!

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), the United States Chamber of Commerce and the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM). If you wish to no longer receive this newsletter, we have an unsubscribe feature at the bottom.

Thank you,

Bioscience Brief Staff

## National Partner Spotlight: Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)

*States establish bioscience caucuses to focus on industry development*

State governments have acknowledged the increased competition for developing biosciences industry clusters and are actively working to develop and promote the growth of various sectors within the biosciences. During the 2005-2006 legislative sessions, an unprecedented number of states passed legislation to support the growth of the bioscience industry. From the creation of venture capital fund pools for emerging companies, to increased training initiatives and tax incentives for investing in bioscience companies, state governments are actively engaging in efforts to create high-skill, high wage jobs and generate economic value. Additionally, smaller states that have not traditionally invested in building bioscience industry capacity are beginning to do so now as innovations in agricultural and industrial biotechnology have led to new applications in energy production and industrial manufacturing.

To address the unique and specific needs of the bioscience industry, several state legislatures have formed, or are in the process of forming, dedicated bioscience committees or caucuses. The purpose of these committees/caucuses is to address issues of importance to the bioscience industry - primarily in the area of (but not limited to) economic development policy. California and Illinois have dedicated bioscience committees already in place. Pennsylvania, Minnesota and Massachusetts have established bioscience caucuses. And, a number of states are in the process of, or considering forming committees or caucuses. These include: Arizona, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, New Jersey, North Carolina, Michigan, Virginia and Washington.

In an effort to provide information about state initiatives to promote bioscience industry growth, BIO (the Biotechnology Industry Organization) compiled numerous state legislative initiatives and published the State Legislative Best Practices in Support of Bioscience Industry Development. A copy of this document can be found on the BIO website at <http://www.bio.org/local/industryDev/>.

## **Michigan's Bioscience Community: Building on the Foundation Re-Cap**

Nearly 100 people from the bioscience community attended the Michigan Biz/Bio event held at the Michigan Chamber of Commerce on December 12. The overall message of the day was "Michigan's Biotechnology Community: Building on Foundation." Leaders of the bioscience industry spoke about research and development accomplished by Michigan bioscience companies as well as the importance of improving the life sciences industry in Michigan.

The day began with remarks from Stephen Rapundalo, Executive Director of MichBio and Rich Studley, Executive Vice President of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. Both spoke on the importance of bringing life sciences industry to Michigan and the ability for the life sciences industry to grow in Michigan.

The Keynote speaker of the day was David Canter, Senior Vice President of Pfizer. Canter spoke about the unique opportunities Michigan offers the bioscience industry with its innovative partners - specifically the state and universities. Canter also said there are about 1,000 biotech companies in Michigan, but there should be a lot more.

Following the speakers, the day continued with two panels made up of professionals from the industry as well as the state's two largest universities, the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. Members on the first panel, "The Paths of Innovation," addressed the need for the industry, state and federal government to support university research that provides a pathway to new innovations. The second panel, "Building the Future Today," focused on the importance of encouraging life science research and company creation in Michigan.

The day concluded with a networking reception allowing attendees to talk about the future of Michigan's bioscience industry and what it will take to ensure its growth and continued innovation.

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## **State Partner Highlight: The Virginia Biotechnology Association (VaBIO)**

The Virginia Biotechnology Association (VaBIO) is the 200-member statewide non-profit organization that promotes the scientific and economic impact of the life sciences industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Virginia Biotechnology Association strives to enhance public awareness of the scientific and economic benefits that the industry brings to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Through seminars, educational forums and our publications the Association hopes to expand the knowledge of how discoveries in biotechnology can significantly enhance Virginian's quality of life.

Virginia is home to more than 175 biotechnology, equipment, pharmaceutical and medical device companies. VaBIO helps our members share ideas, resources and collaborate with one another. The Association produces an electronic newsletter, has developed a RSS feed, podcasts and a new "blog" to help our members communicate with one another.

Finding a systematic way ensure that the workforce and training system of today will provide enough qualified workers for Virginia's bioscience industry tomorrow is a major initiative for the Virginia Biotechnology Association. To create a coherent career pipeline, VaBIO is working to design, fund and build a Virginia Biosciences Employability Network – a permanent infrastructure for promoting career development, training and advancement in biosciences

Finally, VaBIO focuses on public policy issues facing the biosciences at the state and federal level. Members work to educate policy makers about the industry and the significant impact it has on Virginia. In addition to VaBIO's active Government Affairs Committee, VaBIO joined with the Maryland Biotechnology Association to create the Mid-Atlantic Bio Conference. The Conference brought together both industry leaders and leaders from both state's legislative and executive branches to talk about the industry's impact through the region.

Founded in 1992, the Virginia Biotechnology Association continues to grow and prosper and be a viable resource for our members and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

## Upcoming Events

### **NVCA's Strategic Communications Group Meeting**

*May 2-3, 2007*

Location: Stanford Park, Menlo Park, CA

For more information, please contact Emily Mendell at [emendell@nvca.org](mailto:emendell@nvca.org)

### **BIO International Convention**

*May 6 – 9, 2007*

Location: Boston, MA

For more information, visit: [www.bio2007.org](http://www.bio2007.org)

### **Annual BIO Convention Venture Event with Duck Boat Tour**

Hosted by Ernst & Young, NVCA, Latham Watkins and Silicon Valley Bank

*May 6, 2007*

Location: Charlestown Navy Yard, Commandant's House

For more information, please contact Roseanne Pinero at [roseanne.pinero@ey.com](mailto:roseanne.pinero@ey.com)

### **NVCA/NEVCA Life Science Venture Networking Reception**

*May 7, 2007*

Location: The Parkman House, 33 Beacon Street

To RSVP or for more information, please contact Nancy Saucier at [nsaucier@nvca.org](mailto:nsaucier@nvca.org)

### **Midwest Venture Capital/Entrepreneur Networking Luncheon**

Featured Speaker: Jack Levin, Kirkland & Ellis LLP

*May 9, 2007*

Chicago, IL

For more information, visit: <http://www.nvca.org/NVCA-5-9-07networking.html>

### **BioEquity Europe 2007**

*May 21–22, 2007*

Location: Glasgow, Scotland

For more information, visit: <http://www.biocentury.com/html/conferences/bee/2007/index.htm>

### **C21 BioVentures**

Hosted by NVCA and Bay BIO

*May 22-24, 2007*

Location: Monterey, CA

For more information, <http://www.techvision.com/c21/>

### **NVCA CleanTech Council Dinner Meeting**

*June 6, 2007*

San Francisco, CA

For more information, contact Stephane Dupont at [sdupont@nvca.org](mailto:sdupont@nvca.org)

### **BIO VentureForum-East 2007**

*June 18–20, 2007*

Location: Montreal, Canada

For more information, visit: <http://bvfeast.bio.org/opencms/bvfeast/2007/index.jsp>

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

*Next stops are: California, Colorado, Massachusetts & New York just to name a few.*

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