



November 29, 2007

Dear Georgia Bio Members,

As 2007 comes to a close, I want to share with you some exciting and historic developments. We could not have achieved them without your support.

This has been the most intense period in Georgia Bio's (GaBio) nearly 20-year history. We adopted a new name and brand, expanded the organization's focus beyond biomedicine to agricultural biotechnology and bioenergy, and launched bold initiatives in bioeconomic development and education.

These activities put GaBio in the strongest position ever to promote your interests and help your organizations succeed. Three initiatives, in particular, move GaBio into new areas of influence.

During the General Assembly session, Georgia Bio's Government Affairs Committee worked with Rep. Charlice Byrd to pass a resolution creating the House Study Committee on Bioeconomic Development. This first-of-a-kind committee includes legislators and Georgia Bio industry experts.

Beginning in August, the committee held four hearings to design a strategy for life sciences industry growth. The goal is to define government's role in supporting translation of university technology into start-up companies, in helping existing companies expand and in bringing new technologies and companies to Georgia.

After hearing recommendations from more than 40 experts in industry, academia and government, Rep. Byrd's committee will hold a summit December 7 at the State Capitol, outlining legislation for 2008. These initiatives will launch Georgia toward a 21st bioeconomy and help accelerate the growth of major industry sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, bioenergy, food processing, industrial production, human and animal healthcare and biodefense. Without a strategy, Georgia will continue losing jobs, talented people and its investments in university research to other states.

An equally urgent and related challenge is improving student achievement in science. Georgia Bio's Education and Workforce Development Committee has taken the lead in helping the Department of Education and school districts integrate biotechnology into K-12 science and math curricula.

With partners at all levels of government and education, Georgia Bio is working to create a seamless career pathway from high schools to technical colleges to universities. This will enable students to compete for the full range of high paying life sciences industry jobs and provide a skilled workforce for your organizations to grow. Proceeds from the annual GaBio Awards Dinner on January 24, 2008, help fund this program. Register for the diner at www.gabio.org.

GEORGIA BIO™

The Life Sciences Partnership

A third initiative is the 2009 Biotechnology Industry Organization's (BIO) International Convention in Atlanta May 17-20, 2009. Preliminary planning is under way. At the conclusion of the 2008 BIO conference in San Diego, Georgia Bio members can participate in the year-long final planning on committees formed by BIO to stage the conference. This is the largest annual biotechnology conference in the world. Whether you're involved in the planning or planning to attend for the first time, this is a unique opportunity to connect with the global biotech community.

GaBio's enters 2008 with the highest profile ever as the champion of the life sciences industry. We could not have achieved this without your support. There's more work to be done and more challenges ahead. Stay tuned for developments that will enhance our value to you and provide you opportunities to become even more involved with GaBio and your life sciences community.

Sincerely,

Charles Craig, President
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