

September 2008

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Middle School, High School Teacher Training on Biotech Courses Begins

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Inaugural BioPharm America Partnering Conference Exceeds Expectations

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The attendees represented more than 258 companies from 24 countries and engaged in more than 900 one-to-one partnering meetings. In addition, there were 11 workshops and panel sessions and 60 presentations by biotech companies. [Keep Reading](#)

GaBio Revamps Website for More User Friendly Access

Check out Georgia Bio's new website at www.gabio.org. The new look is part of a three phase redevelopment that will make the site more user friendly and interactive. Included in the new construction, expected to be complete by the end of this year, will be a members-only intranet for online dissemination and discussion of activities of the various committees.

A new online membership directory also will replace the printed directory. General information will be available to the public, but details of employee contacts and other member-related communications will be restricted to Georgia Bio members.

Upcoming Events

BioBash

October 7, 2008 - 6:00 PM to 08:00 PM
The Globe, Atlanta

Cocktails with Gorillas-ELN 3rd Anniversary Gala

October 10, 2008 - 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Zoo Atlanta

GaBio Breakfast Meeting: Vaccines, Therapeutics: What's the Future of Aids Research?

October 15, 2008 - 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM

Villa Christina

2008 GaBio Life Science Workforce Forum (Free event)

November 17, 2008 - 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Georgia Bio Annual Awards Dinner -More Details Coming Soon-

January 22, 2009 - 6:00 PM

The Property at Villa Christina



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Other featured speakers at the Summit included Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) President and CEO James Greenwood; US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Chief Science Officer Tanja Popovic; Solvay Pharmaceuticals President and CEO Stephen Hill; and Morehouse School of Medicine President Emeritus Louis Sullivan.

A plenary session on neuroscience research advances in understanding the human brain and behavior showcased the work of seven distinguished scientists from Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, Medical College of Georgia and Morehouse School of Medicine.

Eight concurrent breakout sessions examined trends and issues in agricultural biotechnology, bioenergy, collaborations between hospitals and technology companies on new cardiovascular treatments and therapies, medical device innovations, financing and partnering in a tough economic climate, and Georgia's attractiveness as a center of biotech development. Presentations will be posted on the Georgia Bio website (www.gabio.org) as soon as possible. To review the full program, visit www.gabio.org/Summit2008.

The exhibit hall was sold out with 64 companies displaying their latest technologies and services, and 70 scientists entered the poster competition. Five winners were selected and each received a \$500 cash prize. They are Dr. Karyn Cotta, Mercer University; Dr. Lakshmi P. Dasi, Georgia Institute of Technology; Peng-Meng Kou, Georgia Institute of Technology; Sarah Cork, Emory University; and Dr. Abdessamad Zerrouqi, Emory University.

Shaping Infinity, The Georgia Life Sciences Industry Analysis 2008, was released at the Summit and is available online at www.gabio.org. For printed copies contact Maria Thacker at maria.thacker@gabio.org or 404-920-2042.

The 2008 Summit, held at the Georgia World Congress Center, also signaled the countdown to the 2009 BIO International Convention, May 18-21, in Atlanta. Georgia Bio, as the BIO state affiliate, is the local host and will not hold the Life Sciences Summit in 2009. The next Life Sciences Summit will be in 2010.

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The launch of this life sciences instruction is part of the Innovation Crescent program, funded with a \$500,000 Work Ready Region grant from the Governor's Office of Workforce Development. The Innovation Crescent is a 13-county region from Cobb County east to Oglethorpe County. About 80 percent of the state's 300 life sciences companies are located in the Innovation Crescent.

The overall Innovation Crescent effort aims to implement a comprehensive strategy of education and workforce development – involving K-12 schools, technical colleges and universities -- to support existing life sciences companies and recruit new ones to Georgia. Another element of this strategy is cooperation among the local governments and economic development groups to identify the region, anchored on the west and east by Georgia's world class research universities, as a center of excellence for life sciences innovation and industry development.

The teacher-training and piloting of the life sciences curricula in the Innovation Crescent counties are first steps in this comprehensive strategy. The training will be conducted by the national Biotechnology Institute, of Arlington, Va. The objectives are to improve student achievement in science and get students interested in pursuing careers in the life sciences industry.

Georgia Bio's Education and Workforce Development Committee is chaired by Morehouse School of Medicine Dean Eve Higginbotham, M.D., and Solvay Biologicals General Manager Laurence Downey, M.D., and coordinated by Georgia Bio's Director of Education Programs, Cinda Herndon-King, Ph.D.

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The BioPharm America conference, September 9-10, exceeded delegates' expectations in facilitating their ability to meet with numerous potential partners and discuss in- and out-licensing, financing and other collaborative programs. It also gave established and emerging companies in Georgia and across the Southeast an opportunity to connect with potential national and international partners.

Dr. Edwin Ades, Associate Director for Laboratory Science, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, remarked: "BioPharm America was a great experience. This event proved to be an excellent way for me to learn about new science and opportunities for collaboration. I had eight meetings at the conference producing three opportunities that we will follow up on."

Georgia Bio, NCBio, North Carolina Biotechnology Center, Southeast Bio, Georgia Department of Economic Development and Georgia Research Alliance were among supporters of the conference, organized by the EBD Group (www.ebdgroup.com). EBD also partners with the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) to stage BIO-Europe, which will be held Nov. 17-19, 2008, in Germany.

Southeast Bio Chair Phillip Street, said, "Southeast BIO was pleased to support the inaugural BioPharm America conference. We were thrilled to see the high level of participation from companies throughout the Southeast and look forward to the conference returning to the region."