

## **Awards Dinner Honors Achievements, Highlights Education**

### ***GA Tech's Herron, Immucor's Moise to Receive Industry Growth Awards***

The Annual Awards Dinner, 6 pm to 9 pm, January 24, at the Westin Buckhead Atlanta, is an opportunity to celebrate outstanding achievements of individuals, companies and organizations in Georgia's life sciences community. Proceeds from the event also help fund what has become a groundbreaking, statewide program to support K-12 student achievement in science education. [Click here for program information and registration.](#)

The Industry Growth Awards are the top honors bestowed each year. The 2008 recipients are **H. Lee Herron**, DVM, Associate Director of Biosciences for Georgia Institute of Technology's Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC), and **Phil Moise**, Vice President and General Counsel of Immucor Inc. [Click here for the press release on their awards.](#) Sponsorships are still available. Contact Maria Thacker (404-920-2042; [maria.thacker@gabio.org](mailto:maria.thacker@gabio.org)).

Deal of the Year and Georgia Bio Community Awards recipients also will be honored. Visit [www.gabio.org](http://www.gabio.org) in the next several days for a press release on the Deals of the Year winners. The Community Awards, recognizing significant contributions to the life sciences community, will be announced at the dinner, expected to attract 300 attendees.

The January 24 event also has become a key fund-raiser for Georgia Bio's education outreach programs, which are coordinated by the Education and Workforce Development Committee, chaired by Eve Higginbotham, M.D., Dean of Morehouse School of Medicine, and Laurence Downey, M.D., President and CEO of Solvay Pharmaceuticals.

Major elements of the education programs will be highlighted in a video prepared for the dinner and Stephen L. Pruitt, Director of Academic Standards & Instructional Services for the Georgia Department of Education, will deliver a keynote address.

## **Legislative Lunch Provides Peek Under Gold Dome**

### ***Rep. Charlice Byrd to Discuss Bioeconomic Development Efforts***

GaBio's 2008 Legislative Lunch will be held from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm, January 31, in the Empire Room of the James H. (Sloppy) Floyd Building next to the State Capitol.

This is an opportunity for GaBio members to take a peek under Georgia's gold dome and discuss life sciences issues with members of the General Assembly and Gov. Sonny Perdue's administration. Please RSVP for the lunch by emailing Maria Thacker, [maria.thacker@gabio.org](mailto:maria.thacker@gabio.org).

All GaBio members are invited to attend the event, organized by the Government Affairs Committee, chaired by UCB State Government Affairs Director Bill Kitchen. The luncheon provides an opportunity to mix with legislators and key members of Gov. Perdue's administration at the start of the General Assembly session and discuss GaBio's agenda. It's also a chance to tell the elected officials how the life sciences industry impacts the state's economy and improves the health and quality of life of all Georgians.

Key elements of GaBio's agenda are economic development initiatives aimed at growing the life sciences industry and preparations for hosting the 2009 Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) International Convention, which comes to Atlanta May 17-20, 2009.

GaBio worked last fall with Rep. Charlice Byrd and her House Study Committee on Bioeconomic Development to create a strategic plan outlining the state's role in supporting commercialization of life sciences technologies. These technologies are central to the growth of Georgia's healthcare, agriculture and bioenergy sectors.

Rep. Byrd will discuss her proposals for implementing the strategic plan, based on recommendations from more than 40 experts who testified at five hearings held by her Study Committee. [Click here to learn about the Committee and view presentations from the hearings.](#)

The lunch also will enable GaBio members to alert state legislators to the opportunities presented by hosting the 2009 BIO International Convention, the world's largest biotech conference, expected to attract 25,000 professionals from more than 60 nations.

The conference provides a stage to showcase to the world the state's strengths in biomedicine, medical devices, agriculture, bioenergy and environmental management, and to promote Georgia as a leader in life sciences innovation.

## **Genomics Training Comes to Georgia** *Update on Education Programs*

In late November, 22 middle and high school teachers attended a full day of training in “Genome: The Secret of How Life Works”, a new genomics curriculum developed by the Biotechnology Institute under funding from the Pfizer Foundation.

As part of Georgia Bio’s (GaBio) partnership with the Biotechnology Institute and the DeKalb County Schools, 14 teachers from Georgia attended the workshop at no cost, with facilities and transportation provided by the Fernbank Science Center and the DeKalb County School System.

The workshop was held in conjunction with the National Association of Biology Teachers conference in Atlanta, November 28 – December 1. Along with educators from Florida, Iowa, Idaho, Louisiana, and Nevada, teachers and administrators from the Georgia Department of Education, Atlanta Public Schools, Marietta City Schools and Cobb, Columbia, DeKalb, Fayette and Walton Counties received curriculum materials and performed hands-on classroom experiments in inheritance and DNA isolation.

The Biotechnology Institute in Arlington, Virginia, is the national biotechnology education organization founded in 1998 by the biotechnology industry to educate teachers, students and the public about the promise and challenges of biotechnology.

### **Innovation Crescent Workforce Initiative Receives Recognition**

GaBio has been named an “Outstanding Regional Partner” for 2007 by the Atlanta Regional Commission’s Workforce Board.

GaBio has been collaborating with the Atlanta Regional Workforce Board, the Governor’s Office of Workforce Development, and other regional organizations to develop a life science strategy for the region spanning from Atlanta to Athens.

The twelve counties in this area, designated the Innovation Crescent, are exploring ways of collaborating to foster the growth of life sciences industries. The initial focus has been on developing the workforce through career pathways connecting secondary and post-secondary education and training options.