

E-Chronicle

March 2008

HB 1095 and HB 1188 Won't Pass This Year

Georgia Bio applauds the leadership of Rep. Charlice Byrd in introducing House Bill 1095 and HB 1188 this General Assembly Session. [Keep Reading](#)

KPMG LLP Joins GaBio as \$50,000 Champion Sponsor

KPMG LLP, the audit, tax and advisory firm, has joined Georgia Bio as a Champion Sponsor, contributing \$50,000 to support the organization's efforts to grow the life sciences industry and prepare to host the 2009 Biotechnology Industry Organization International Convention. [Keep Reading](#)

Education and Workforce Development Update

Georgia Bio continues to reach out to area schools to infuse current life science content and applications into the classroom. [Keep Reading](#)

ELN's Internship Program (Phase I): Participants Share Their Experiences

Georgia Bio's Emerging Leaders Network launched its Internship Program in 2007 with tremendous success. The ELN Internship Program matches high performing graduate-level students from Georgia's top universities with internship positions in Georgia's life sciences community. [Keep Reading](#)

Upcoming Events & Special Recognition for GaBio & Maria Thacker

Visit [the GaBio Industry Events Page](#)

Maria Thacker Publishes Research Paper in The Journal of Disasters

Georgia Bio's Marketing Director Maria Thacker, MPH was recently published in Disasters: The Journal of Disaster Studies, Policy and Management. The paper analyzed of the National Center for Health Statistics' Compressed Mortality File and showed that between 1979 and 2004, natural events caused 21,491 deaths in the United States. During this 26-year period, there were 10,827 cold-related deaths and 5,279 heat-related deaths. Extreme cold or heat accounted for 75 per cent of the total number of deaths attributed to natural events—more than all of deaths resulting from lightning, storms and foods, and earth movements, such as earthquakes and landslides. Thacker began conducting the study during her fellowship at the CDC, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). The paper is co-authored by Robin Lee, Epidemiologist at the Division of Health Studies, ATSDR, Raquel I. Sabogal, Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects, CDC and Alden Henderson, Branch chief, Division of Health Studies, ATSDR. To receive a copy of the paper [contact Thacker](#) directly.

Georgia Bio to Receive Israeli Chamber Award

Georgia Bio (GaBio) has been selected to receive the 2008 Eagle Star Community Partner Award from the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Region (AICC), for its role in organizing the state's life science industry and for working with AICC to support Israeli medical device and biotech companies. The award will be presented at a dinner May 14. Here is a link to the event site: <http://www.eaglestargala.com/2008/index.html>

"GaBio is honored to receive this recognition from the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce," said GaBio President Charles Craig. "Over the past several years we have worked closely with the AICC's Southeastern chapter to forge numerous collaborations between life sciences companies in Georgia and Israel."

Upcoming Events

[Neurodegenerative Diseases, Genetics & Development: Dr. Stuart Zola, Director, Yerkes National Primate Research Center](#)

March 26, 2008, GTRI - Atlanta, GA

[Network with ELN and New Talent Exchange](#)

March 26, 2008, Gordon Biersch - Atlanta, GA

[BIO-Europe Spring 2008](#)

April 7-9, 2008, Madrid, Spain

[BIO Legislative Day Fly-In](#)

April 15-16, 2008, Washington, DC

[ERBI's 10th Anniversary Celebration BioPartnering Exchange](#)

May 7-9, 2008, Cambridge UK

HB 1095 and HB 1188 Won't Pass This Year

Georgia Bio applauds the leadership of Rep. Charlice Byrd in introducing House Bill 1095 and HB 1188 this General Assembly Session.

HB 1095 is a comprehensive strategy to establish a Georgia Innovation Center “to help make Georgia a national leader in the area of science innovation and a desirable location for innovative educational and business entities to locate and grow.” HB 1188 is a tax incentive package to support life sciences industry growth.

HB 1095 was approved March 4 by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education after Rep. Byrd amended the original bill to address concerns raised by representatives of the University System of Georgia. HB 1188 was heard by a House Ways and Means subcommittee, but could not advance without a fiscal note estimating the cost to the state. Rep. Byrd requested the fiscal note in early February, but had not received it by March 6, the date of the subcommittee hearing.

Neither the substitute HB 1095 nor HB 1188 received full committee hearings in time to reach the House floor before Tuesday's deadline for legislation to crossover to the Senate. [Click here to see the substitute HB 1095, the original HB 1095 and HB 1188.](#)

Rep. Byrd (20th District) of Woodstock said she plans to reintroduce the bills in 2009. Georgia Bio backed her efforts and will continue working with her in reaching out to all stakeholders.

“Rep. Byrd recognizes the life sciences industry is critical to Georgia's economic growth and that the state is falling behind others that are investing significantly more to create start-ups, retain and expand existing companies and recruit new facilities,” said Georgia Bio President Charles Craig. “HB 1095 and 1188 can make Georgia a leader in life sciences industry development and will show the world Georgia is serious about being the gateway for biotechnology innovation in the Southeast.”

Rep. Byrd received about 30 letters of support for HB 1095 from life sciences CEOs and other leaders. These letters were delivered to the House Appropriations Committee and other elected officials. Georgia Bio members who want to show their support for Rep. Byrd's efforts on HB 1095 and HB 1188 can contact her via email at charlice.byrd@house.ga.gov or phone at 404-656-0126.

HB 1095 and HB 1188 are based on recommendations from 50 industry, university and government experts who testified during five hearings last fall before Rep. Byrd's House Bioeconomic Development Study Committee. Three members of Georgia Bio's Board of Directors served on the Study Committee. For more information on the study committee, including the final report and presentations of those who testified, [click here](#).

KPMG LLP Joins GaBio as \$50,000 Champion Sponsor

KPMG LLP, the audit, tax and advisory firm, has joined Georgia Bio as a Champion Sponsor, contributing \$50,000 to support the organization's efforts to grow the life sciences industry and prepare to host the 2009 Biotechnology Industry Organization International Convention.

KPMG joins five other organizations as champion sponsors of GaBio including Alston & Bird, Georgia Allies, Kilpatrick Stockton, King & Spalding and Thompson Hine. These organizations have made multi-year commitments to GaBio's mission of fostering an environment that assists and encourages creation, retention and recruitment of life sciences organizations and enables them to succeed.

"KPMG is pleased to support GaBio, one of the largest state organizations focused on the life sciences. Our firm has a life science team based here in Atlanta and we are delighted to work with GaBio in its efforts to grow this industry," said Bill Hannah, the Principal in Charge of KPMG's Southeast Healthcare Advisory Practice.

"Our family of Champion sponsors has demonstrated its commitment to help Georgia's fast-growing life sciences community of companies and universities achieve its potential as a leader of innovative research and development," said GaBio President Charles Craig. "We welcome KPMG's help as we prepare for the May 2009 BIO International Convention in Atlanta, one of the world's largest biotech conferences."

"KPMG's support, along with the other Champion sponsors, validates the many new programs GaBio has implemented on behalf of the life sciences industry in the areas of advocacy, education, economic development and business development," said Craig.

Education and Workforce Development Update

Georgia Bio continues to reach out to area schools to infuse current life science content and applications into the classroom.

Georgia Bio member Rafael Andino, President and CEO of Biofisica LLC, spoke to students at D.M. Therrell School of Health Science and Research during their Youth Motivation Day. Part of the Atlanta Public Schools' High School Transformation project, this small learning community within the school focuses students with specific career interests in healthcare.

Describing his educational journey from an English language learner immigrating from Cuba as a youth, to his founding of Biofisica in 1999, Mr. Andino captivated the students with his energy, drive and enthusiasm. Georgia Bio thanks Mr. Andino for taking the time to be a role model for these young students.

This month was also the launch of the Georgia Department of Education (GDOE) – Georgia Bio committee to develop hands-on biotechnology tasks aligned to four existing science curricula. Five tasks at each grade level are being developed for the current seventh grade life science, eighth grade physical science, high school biology and high school physical science curricula. The tasks, when complete in May 2008, will be aligned with the Georgia Performance Standards, and will provide teachers complete supporting materials and documentation to conduct the exercises in their classrooms.

These tasks are envisioned as a way to introduce students to biotechnology, building interest in a new set of courses under development by the GDOE. Three new biotechnology courses have been drafted for review by the state for a Biotechnology R&D Career Pathway. This pathway is expected to be launched in fall 2009, providing hands-on coursework for students interested in postsecondary education in biotechnology.

ELN's Internship Program (Phase I): Participants Share their Experiences

Georgia Bio's *Emerging Leaders Network* launched its Internship Program in 2007 with tremendous success. The ELN Internship Program matches high performing graduate-level students from Georgia's top universities with internship positions in Georgia's life sciences community.

Last year (Phase I), over 40 highly qualified graduate-level students applied for the internships that were offered. Two participants, Jill Dunham and Katrin Offe, now share their experiences.

Jill Dunham, a Ph.D. student in Emory University's Molecular and Systems Pharmacology program, chose to participate in the ELN internship program in order to strengthen her resume and make her a competitive candidate for the job market. She spent that time at the **Georgia Department of Economic Development** where she got her feet wet in many different projects.

During the internship, one of the main projects she worked on was a profile for the Georgia Research Alliance (GRA). The profile is a mix of information about the bioscience industry, academics/research, and financing available in the state of Georgia, as well as information about the state itself, and is used as a marketing piece for other bioscience professionals and companies.

She also wrote many "one-pagers" highlighting nanomedicine, biomanufacturing, CROs, vaccine development, and drug discovery going on in the state, which were then translated into PowerPoints. Furthermore, she had a hand in putting together a PowerPoint that was later used to market Georgia to companies and researchers at large conferences by the department representatives. Soon, she will be helping to assemble information for the BIO conference held in San Diego.

"This internship has shown me that I really enjoy [the marketing] side of science," she says. "It's also shown me how much I enjoy writing about science, and reading about all different aspects of science, as opposed to just my specific field."

Katrin Offe, who obtained her Ph.D. degree from Emory University, shortly after participating in the ELN Internship Program, worked with **Erinn Goldman of Guvner Scientific**, a medical writing company.

There, she learned a variety of medical writing skills, including writing needs assessments, summarizing and laying out data from clinical trials as well as editing reviews.

"The internship gave me a better idea of what types of medical writing there are," she says. "I feel like I have a better perspective of what it's like to be a medical writer, which will be very helpful if I decide to pursue this as a career."

Encouraged by the success of Phase I of the Internship Program, ELN has launched Phase II with the goal of generating at least 10 internships from Georgia Bio organizations and companies. Hosting an ELN intern is a great way for a company to advance access to Georgia's emerging young professionals and is an excellent opportunity to develop relationships with the brightest and most motivated students from the best life sciences, engineering, law and business programs that Georgia has to offer.

If your company or organization would like more information on how to become a partner in this exciting experience, please contact internships@gabio.org.