

April 2008

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Georgia Bioscience Technology Institute To Graduate First Class

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Emerging Leaders Network: Embracing Change and Continuing to Grow

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Upcoming Events: *Stay in the know, GaBio [Industry Events Page](#)*

Upcoming Events

Financing Early-Stage Biotech Companies

April 24, 2008

GTRI - Atlanta, GA

Cancer Vaccine Broadcast Event

April 30, 2008

Georgia Public Broadcasting - Atlanta, GA

Selecting the Appropriate Management Team

May 6, 2008

H. Wayne Hodges Connections Room, Centergy Bldg. - Atlanta, GA

Georgia Bio BioBash

May 6, 2008

Atlanta, GA

ERBI's 10th Anniversary Celebration BioPartnering Exchange

May 7-9, 2008

Cambridge UK

2008 BIO Convention

June 17 - 20, 2008

San Diego, CA

BioPharm America

September 9-10 2008

Atlanta, Georgia

Georgia Life Sciences Summit 2008

September 24, 2008

Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, GA

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Nine high school students from Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Florida and North Carolina competed for two finalist titles. The winners were **Noel Arthur Turner** of Satellite High School, Satellite Beach, Fla., and **Mingjuan "Lisa" Zhang** of North Carolina School of Science & Mathematics, Durham, N.C.

Mr. Turner and Miss Zhang will represent the Southeast in the finals of the BioGENEius Challenge, held in San Diego in conjunction with the 2008 Biotechnology Industry Organization's (BIO) International Convention, June 16-18. They will be competing against 13 other regional finalists from the United States, Canada, and Western Australia. The first place winner receives a \$7,500 cash award. Other awards are \$5,000 for second place, \$2,500 for third place, and \$1,000 for fourth place. Each remaining finalist will receive a \$500 Honorable Mention Award.

The BioGENEius competition recognizes high school students who demonstrate an exemplary understanding of biotechnology through research projects. Mr. Turner's project is titled "Bridge Over Troubled Neurons." Ms. Zhang's project is "Characterization of a Synthetic Microbial Pathway for the Production of Bioplastics."

Tonja Popovic, M.D., Ph.D., CDC Chief Science Officer, presented the awards to the finalists. Judging the competition were **Suzanne Cordovado**, Ph.D., CDC Research Microbiologist in the Coordinating Center for Environmental Health and Injury Prevention; **Jamie L. Greene**, Attorney with Kilpatrick Stockton LLP; **Mary R. Henninger**, Ph.D., Attorney with Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner LLP; and **David M. White**, D.V.M., Ph.D., CDC Research Microbiologist in the Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases.

Georgia Bio salutes all the state finalists, who also included:

- **ALABAMA** -- Lauren Nelson, Jefferson County International Baccalaureate School, Irondale, "The Effect of Natural Antioxidants on Malignant Cell Lines"
- **FLORIDA** -- Lucas Ortiz, Seminole Ridge High School, Loxahatchee, "Methodology to Sequence the Histone Protein"
- **GEORGIA** -- Johnny Fells, Northside High School, Warner-Robbins, "Invitro Conservation of *Scutellaria barbata* a Synseed Technology."
- **KENTUCKY** -- Victor Yang, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, Lexington, "Development of Novel Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptor Antagonists for Tobacco Use Cessation"
- **LOUISIANA** -- Insun Chong, Caddo Parish Magnet High School, Shreveport, "The Role of Retinoid Receptors in Suppressing Mitogen Activated Protein Kinase Signaling in Skin Cancer"; and Alexander Mijalis, Caddo Parish Magnet High School, Shreveport, "The Caveolin-1 Regulation of Inflammatory Bowel Disease"
- **NORTH CAROLINA** -- Sarah Deming, EE Waddell High School, Charlotte, "Brilliant Bacteria and Savvy Soil"

Former US Sen. Bob Dole, BIO President James Greenwood Among Headliners for Georgia Life Sciences Summit 2008

Former U.S. Senator and Republican Presidential candidate Bob Dole and Biotechnology Industry Organization President and CEO James Greenwood will be among the featured speakers at the 2008 Georgia Life Sciences Summit September 24 at the Georgia World Congress Center.

The 2008 Summit, whose theme is “Molecules, Materials & Minds ~ Building Georgia’s Innovation Economy,” also will kick-off the excitement surrounding the planning and staging of the 2009 Biotechnology Industry Organization International Convention in Atlanta, May 17-20, 2009.

Summit Chair Tom Callaway, M.D., has assembled an Executive Committee composed of Carol Gallagher, Pharm. D., President and CEO of Metastatix; Bob McNally, Ph.D., President and CEO of GeoVax; and Alexis Pezzullo, KPMG’s Director of Healthcare Advisory Services. Drs. Gallagher and McNally are the Program Committee Co-Chairs and have a team of 20 scientists and senior executives organizing plenary and breakout sessions.

The Georgia Life Sciences Summit has become the premier life sciences industry conference in the Southeast. This is the eighth year for the Summit and attendance is projected to top 800. The exhibit hall is expected to be a sell out as it was last year with more than 60 companies.

The program will include plenary sessions featuring nationally renowned scientists and business executives plus concurrent panel sessions in the morning and afternoon. Discussions will focus on reforming the nation’s health system; clinical research and regulatory issues; public and private partnerships in cardiovascular research; emerging biotech and medical device companies; mergers, acquisitions and collaborations; advances in neuroscience research; agricultural biotechnology; and bioenergy. More than 40 speakers are expected to participate.

This year’s concluding gala will have a casino theme and will be held in the Georgia World Congress Center. Another feature of the Summit is release of Shaping Infinity, The Georgia Life Sciences Industry Analysis 2008. The report, based on company-by-company survey of nearly 300 businesses in Georgia, is produced by Georgia Bio in association with the University of Georgia Selig Center for Economic Growth and the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

For information on registration, sponsorship opportunities and program updates, visit www.gabio.org/summit2008. Early registration ends August 1.

Georgia Bioscience Technology Institute To Graduate First Class



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A critical part of their training is the completion of internships to gain additional experience in the workplace. GBTI and Georgia Bio recognize and thank the organizations which have hosted internship experiences for these students, including **Aderans Research, AviGenics, CIBA Vision, Immucor, University of Georgia Bioexpression and Fermentation Facility, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, and the Yerkes National Primate Research Center.**

If you are interested in more information about this program and its graduates, or are willing to host an intern in the future, please contact Cinda Herndon-King at Georgia Bio at cinda.king@gabio.org.

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The Georgia Bio Award, sponsored by Merial Ltd., recognizes the GSEF project judged to exhibit the most potential to impact society and human well-being through the use of modern biotechnology techniques. The award includes a cash prize and plaque, along with a year-long complimentary admission to Georgia Bio events for students and their science teachers.

Emerging Leaders Network: Embracing Change and Continuing to Grow

Embracing change is important for any organization to grow and flourish and that is exactly what Georgia Bio's Emerging Leaders Network has been doing lately.

The Emerging Leaders Network (ELN) is an organization with over 500 members and at its heart is a dedicated Leadership Team that works diligently to organize networking, social and other group events to promote relationships between emerging and established professionals within Georgia's life sciences community.

Over the past few months the Leadership Team has grown and this has allowed ELN to continue organizing quality events and reaching out to even more young professionals from academic institutions and biotechnology industries across Georgia.

In addition to growing, one key position within ELN's Leadership Team, the academic sector co-chair position, has undergone a change of hands. The position, which was previously held by Chris Lessing of Georgia Tech, has now been handed over to Valarie Truax of Emory University.

One of the main responsibilities of the academic sector co-chair has been to make sure ELN programming is interesting and accessible to members of the academic sector (which includes graduate students in the life sciences, engineering, business, law, policy, post-docs, faculty, and staff of Georgia universities).

As academic sector co-chair, Chris Lessing's accomplishments were numerous. In recognition of his work, Chris received a distinguished service award at the Georgia Bio Annual Awards Dinner in January 2008.

In the summer of 2008, Chris will complete his Ph.D. in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and is looking for a full-time scientist position in industry that will allow him to pursue his interests in medical device, biologics, and regenerative medicine technologies.

"I have truly enjoyed being a part of ELN for the past two and a half years, and I hope I have been able to give to the organization at least as much as it has given me," says Chris.

Valarie has held managerial positions in both life sciences and technology companies. Now she is working towards a joint Ph.D. and MBA degree at Emory University in the Chemistry Department's BioMolecular and Organic Division. Her graduate research is being done in the lab of Dr. Dennis Liotta, Professor, Organic Chemistry, Emory University, and focuses on making new small molecules to inhibit HIV infection of new cells through the CXCR4 receptor.