

Georgia Bio E-Chronicle

Aug/Sept. 2009

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Flu Emergency Preparedness Workshop Scheduled for Life Sciences Employers

Georgia's life science companies will be able to access training in emergency preparedness planning, crisis communications, and employee family preparedness training through a series of workshops beginning Wednesday, September 30, from 9 am to 1 pm at the Busbee Center at Gwinnett Technical College in Lawrenceville.

Detailed agenda and registration information will be available in early September through the Georgia Bio website. Subsequent sessions will focus on more advanced aspects of emergency preparedness policies and planning, regional resources for assistance, and critiques and comparisons of sample plans.

Offered in response to training needs voiced by life science companies in the Innovation Crescent, this workshop will provide an opportunity for regional employers to assess their readiness for conditions which interrupt the normal business operations, including the H1N1 pandemic.

The training will be provided by the Frontline Foundation, an internationally recognized provider of biosafety and emergency preparedness training. Funding for the workshop is provided under a grant from the Governor's Office of Workforce Development's Work Ready Region program to the Innovation Crescent, a thirteen county area between Atlanta and Athens in which the vast majority of Georgia's life sciences companies are located.

Dendreon Chooses Georgia to Manufacture New Prostate Cancer Treatment

Georgia's burgeoning biosciences community welcomed a new member in August when Seattle-based Dendreon, Inc., announced it will locate a \$70 million manufacturing facility in Union City, near Atlanta. Dendreon plans to manufacture PROVENGE® (sipuleucel-T) for patients with advanced prostate cancer. PROVENGE is currently under review by the FDA, and, should it receive approval, the manufacturing plant could generate several hundred new biotechnology jobs in Georgia.

Dendreon plans to lease a 160,000-square-foot facility at the Majestic Airport Center in South Fulton County. Pending FDA approval, the company expects to launch PROVENGE from its existing facility in Morris Plains, N.J., and build manufacturing capacity at its plants in Union City plant and Los Angeles.

The company's decision to locate in Georgia was the result of a multi-pronged collaboration. Among the players were the Georgia Department of Economic Development, the Development Authority of

Fulton County, government leaders of Union City, Jones Lang Lasalle, Ernst & Young, Deloitte, Majestic Realty and Georgia Power.

"We were aware of Dendreon's desire to be near the airport, so that was the focus of the partnership," said Heidi Green, deputy commissioner for Global Commerce, Georgia Department of Economic Development. "Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta airport was critical to the access they wanted to their international markets."

Green also considers Georgia's first-ever hosting of the Biotechnology Industry Organization's International Convention in May 2009 an important piece in Dendreon's decision.

"The Georgia biosciences community really banded together and did an outstanding job of conveying to these companies that we can provide everything they need to be successful: the workforce, the global access, and the means to get it done," Green said. "We're really proud to add Dendreon to the high-profile group of health-related entities like the CDC, Care, Solvay and Merial who are already here."

Dendreon will hold an official ribbon-cutting at its new facility in the fall.

Looking for new strategies for managing your company's cash flow?

Let Georgia Bio and the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) ease your pain with BIO Business Solutions, BIO's cost-savings program, which provides products and services specific to the life sciences industry at discounted prices and other benefits. Participation is free to members of Georgia Bio (GaBio). In many cases, the savings from discounted prices will more than pay for membership in GaBio. See how BIO Business Solutions can help your bottom line. Get more information about the 15 money-saving opportunities [here](#).

There is no fee for Georgia Bio members to utilize any of the programs and BIO membership is not a requirement for Georgia Bio members. Programs include:

- Bedford International/GAIN Services
- BioSurplus Business Wire
- Chubb Group
- Elsevier Business Intelligence
- FreeMind Group Humboldt/United Van Lines
- Lexis Nexis
- Linde
- Monitor Liability Managers
- Nature Publishing Group
- Office Depot Tech Depot
- VWR International
- Wells Fargo Insurance Services
- William Gallagher Associates

[Click here to learn more about BIO Business Solutions.](#)

Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership

You Must be a Member to Stay in the Know

This is a reminder that you have the ability to join and renew your membership online with Georgia Bio (GaBio). Your annual membership in GaBio expires on the date you renewed or joined the previous year. Email and telephone reminders are sent in advance of this date; as well as after you have expired. If you have questions, please call Maria Thacker at 404-920-2042 or maria.thacker@gabio.org. The membership dues are essential to sustain and enhance GaBio's many programs and activities. GaBio has made significant progress in representing its members on multiple

fronts. Below is a short list of these achievements.

- The General Assembly unanimously adopted legislation exempting from sales tax free samples of prescription drugs and biologics and investigational drugs, biologics, medical devices and animal health medicines in clinical trials.
- A coalition with patient advocacy groups, universities and the Innovation Crescent business community prevented passage of legislation that attempted to enact limits on embryonic stem cell research stricter than the federal government.
- GaBio received more than \$400,000 in grants in 2008 and 2009 to support its education outreach programs to k-12 schools, technical colleges and universities to create a life sciences career pathway in Georgia.
- GaBio partnered with the Governor's Office of Workforce Development, Atlanta Regional Commission and the Innovation Crescent business community and local governments to create a Life Sciences Education and Workforce Development Strategy for the Innovation Crescent 13-county region from Atlanta to Athens. The effort received a \$500,000 Work Ready Region grant from the Governor.
- GaBio partnered with the Georgia Department of Education to create biotech courses for high school science credit and biotech lesson plans for integration in existing middle school science classes; and is supporting teacher training in these areas through the Innovation Crescent Work Ready Region grant and a federal grant awarded to GaBio and Georgia State University.

Georgia Bio Submits US Supreme Court Brief in Bilski Patent Case

Georgia Bio (GaBio) has filed an amicus brief in the case of *Bilski v. Doll*, which will be argued before the U.S. Supreme Court during its October Term. The brief urges the Supreme Court to reverse the decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in *In re Bilski*. It was prepared for GaBio on a pro bono basis by Arnall Golden Gregory's **William Kitchens**; **David Huizenga**, PhD; and **Robert Hodges**, PhD., **Scott Taylor** and **Heather Smith Michael**. [Here is a link to the brief.](#)

Although the case does not directly involve biotech patents, the *In re Bilski* decision by the Federal Circuit imposes a rigid test on what business methods are patentable, puts innovations by life sciences companies in question and could reduce the value of patents held by GaBio members and others in the biotech industry. For example, it could make it easier for courts to invalidate claims that are directed to collecting or processing human genetic information.

The case deals with the issue of whether a "process" must be tied to a particular machine or apparatus, or transform a particular article into a different state or thing ("machine-or-transformation" test), to be eligible for patenting and whether the "machine-or-transformation" test for patent eligibility, contradicts Congressional intent that patents protect "methods of doing business."

At stake in the outcome is the most basic question in patent law: what is patentable? GaBio's amicus brief argues that the U.S. Patent Code and the Supreme Court's previous decisions on this question support a broad view of what is patent-eligible, with only limited exceptions. The Federal Circuit's test cuts off significant technologies from patent protection and has already been applied to strike down a broad class of biotechnology and medical inventions. These are inventions that have long been patented, have been specifically considered by Congress to be patentable, have considerable value to the public, and require patent protection to insure their continued development.

Upcoming Industry Events

Ernst & Young Industry Report Presentation

September 16, 6:00-8:00pm

Villa Christina - Atlanta, GA

[More Details & Online Registration](#)

BioPharm America 2009

September 16-18

San Francisco

<http://www.ebdgroup.com/bpa/registration.htm>

2009 World Stem Cell Summit

September 21-23

The Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD

<http://www.worldstemcellsummit.com/>

The Life Sciences Summit 2009

September 23-24

Hyatt Regency Long Island - Hauppauge, New York

<http://www.lifesciencessummit.org/>

Contemporary Issues of Biomedical Informatics

September 29, 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm, Atlanta, GA

Georgia Tech Business Network Healthcare and IT Speaker Event

<http://web.memberclicks.com/mc/page.do?hidOrgID=gtbn>

Panda Party-ELN 4th Anniversary Gala

September 25, 6:00-8:30PM

Zoo Atlanta-Panda Veranda - Atlanta, GA

[More Details & Online Registration](#)