

December 2008 -- Happy Holidays

### **Kick-off New Year with the GaBio Awards Dinner, Legislative Lunch**

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The Awards Dinner gives us an opportunity to honor the accomplishments of people and organizations in Georgia's life sciences community and we have much to celebrate. This year the top award, the Georgia Bio Industry Growth Award, honors Georgia Department of Economic Development **Commissioner Kenneth C. Stewart** (from the public sector) and **Thomas H. Callaway**, M.D., President of Life Science Partner and Managing Director of Georgia Venture Partners (from the private sector). [Keep Reading](#)

### **Public Broadcasting Atlanta Seeks Sponsors for Biotech Series**

Public Broadcasting Atlanta (WABE FM 90.1) will be producing a series of radio reports on Georgia's life science industry as a run-up to the 2009 Biotechnology Industry Organization's (BIO) International Convention, May 18-21 in Atlanta. The station is seeking sponsorship for this series. [Keep Reading](#)

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The Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) is asking Congress to include in its upcoming economic stimulus legislation a provision allowing small companies to receive a one-time refund of their accumulated net operating losses (NOLs) to sustain critical research and development programs during the financial crisis. Georgia Bio has joined with BIO in urging Georgia's Congressional delegation to support the effort in order for Georgia's emerging companies to receive critical funding now in return for giving up these tax benefits in the future. [Keep Reading](#)

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The National Cancer Institute (NCI) Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) has recently announced a new SBIR Phase II Bridge funding opportunity. The Bridge Award is designed to support the next stage of development for previously funded NIH SBIR Phase II projects in areas such as cancer imaging technologies. This award addresses the funding gap between the end of the SBIR Phase II award and the subsequent financing needed to advance a product toward commercialization. [Keep Reading](#)

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## Upcoming Events

### Aggressive Strategies in the Current Market

January 6, 2009 - 4:00 PM  
GTRI Conference Center

### Georgia Bio Annual Awards Dinner

January 22, 2009 - 6:00 PM  
The Property at Villa Christina

### BioBash

February 3, 2009 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
The Lobby at TWELVE, Atlantic  
Station, Atlanta

### SEMDA 2009 Conference

February 10, 2009  
Georgia Aquarium, Atlanta, GA



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The Industry Growth Award recognizes individuals in the public and private sectors who have made extraordinary contributions to the growth of Georgia's life sciences industry. Commissioner Stewart's leadership on life sciences issues has created a close relationship between the Department of Economic Development and Georgia's life sciences community and has resulted in strengthening public-private collaborations in Georgia to benefit the industry. Dr. Callaway is receiving the award for his years of service to Georgia's life sciences community as the founder of a venture fund investing in early-stage life sciences companies and a mentor to industry entrepreneurs. As a community leader he has expanded and strengthened the industry through events such as the Georgia Life Sciences Summit and the Southeast BIO Investor Forum.

Deals of the Year and Community Awards also will be presented at the dinner. The recipients of these awards will be announced in early January. In addition, the event will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Georgia Bio. To register for the Awards Dinner visit [www.gabio.org](http://www.gabio.org).

Georgia Bio's Annual Legislative Luncheon is January 27 in Tull Fellowship Hall at the Central Presbyterian Church, 201 Washington Street SW, Atlanta. The church is across Washington Street from the State Capitol. The luncheon is from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm.

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 encouraged to attend the event, organized by the Government Affairs Committee, chaired by UCB State Government Relations Director Bill Kitchen. The luncheon provides an opportunity to mix with Georgia's elected officials and educate them about the life sciences industry's impact on the state's economy and the health and quality of life of all Georgians.

A key element of GaBio's agenda for 2009 includes proposed legislation exempting sales taxes on free samples of prescription drugs and investigational products in clinical trials. In addition, GaBio will be working with the General Assembly to help legislators participate in the 2009 Biotechnology Industry Organization International Convention. The BIO Convention, May 18-21, in Atlanta is the largest biotech convention in the world and will give elected officials the opportunity to learn the significance of this industry on Georgia's short- and long-term economic growth.

## Public Broadcasting Atlanta Seeks Sponsors for Biotech Series

Public Broadcasting Atlanta (WABE FM 90.1) will be producing a series of radio reports on Georgia's life science industry as a run-up to the 2009 Biotechnology Industry Organization's (BIO) International Convention, May 18-21 in Atlanta. The station is seeking sponsorship for this series.

WABE is planning an eight-part series of three to four minute reports on the industry in Georgia and nationally. These reports will air in the Monday to Friday time slots in WABE's Drive Time, which reaches the station's biggest listening audiences, and includes the popular National Public Radio (NPR) programs, Morning Edition and All Things Considered. The WABE reports will be submitted to National Public Radio for possible broadcast nationwide. A special reporter with the appropriate background knowledge will be hired for the series.

WABE is seeking a total investment of \$60,000 for the biotechnology series. In return the radio station will provide \$60,000 worth of airtime in 15-second promotional spots. WABE is celebrating 60 years of serving Metro Atlanta this year. It is now the 7<sup>th</sup> largest public radio station in the country with more than 407,000 listeners per week. One of WABE's goals in airing the biotech series is to help people outside the local scientific community learn more about Georgia's robust life sciences industry.

Learn more about sponsorship:

[http://www.gabio.org/attachments/3/200800221200GA%20BIO%20PROPOSAL%20FOR%20BIOTECH%20SERIES%20\\_3\\_.pdf](http://www.gabio.org/attachments/3/200800221200GA%20BIO%20PROPOSAL%20FOR%20BIOTECH%20SERIES%20_3_.pdf)

## **GaBio, BIO Urging Congress to Help Emerging Biotech Companies Bridge Economic Crisis**

The Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) is asking Congress to include in its upcoming economic stimulus legislation a provision allowing small companies to receive a one-time refund of their accumulated net operating losses (NOLs) to sustain critical research and development programs during the financial crisis.

Georgia Bio has joined with BIO in urging Georgia's Congressional delegation to support the effort in order for Georgia's emerging companies to receive critical funding now in return for giving up these tax benefits in the future.

The BIO proposal would allow companies to temporarily elect to receive a refund of their accumulated NOLs at a discounted rate in lieu of claiming qualified research expenses for the 2008 tax year. Other features of the proposal include:

- Refunds must be reinvested in investments that would qualify as U.S.-based research expenses.
- Companies would permanently forgo the opportunity to claim all NOLs involved in the computation of the refund.
- The proposal applies only to loss-making companies in the 2008 tax year.
- It is limited to small companies
- The refund is capped at a per company dollar amount.

For more information on this effort, please contact Charles Craig ([charles.craig@gabio.org](mailto:charles.craig@gabio.org))

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The SBIR Phase II Bridge Award more than triples the amount of funding available to applicants through the NCI SBIR Program and incentivizes the development of partnerships between awardees and third-party investors and/or strategic partners. Budgets up to \$1 million in total costs per year and project periods up to three years may be requested from the NCI.

The deadline to apply for the Bridge Award is February 27, 2009. Learn about the Bridge Award and other SBIR funding opportunities at: <http://sbir.cancer.gov/>.

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## **Georgia Bio Convenes Successful Life Science Workforce Forum** *Participants Prioritize Workforce Recommendations*

Georgia Bio's first Life Science Workforce Forum attracted nearly 200 attendees on November 17 for a dialogue about preparing workers to meet the needs of regional bioscience employers. Speakers discussed quantitative and qualitative aspects of the current workforce, and how the educational system is responding. The Forum was held at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Participants compiled recommendations during the session and voted on their top priorities at the close of the Forum. Priority recommendations included the following:

1. Incorporate internships and /or job shadowing into formal education and work with business to ensure meaningful student experiences.
2. Identify effective means of exposing science and technology applications to the "real world" including reaching students at younger ages.
3. Increase public awareness about careers in life sciences.
4. Increase interdisciplinary and inter-institutional collaborations.
5. Merge business and technical knowledge in degree programs.

Copies of presentations from the conference are available upon request, and a video of the various speakers will soon be available. Contact [cinda.king@gabio.org](mailto:cinda.king@gabio.org) for links to these resources.

## **Innovation Crescent Partnership Featured At National Educators Conference**

Georgia Bio and its partners in the Innovation Crescent presented a workshop featuring the project as a model for integrating education into regional workforce development strategies at the annual meeting of the Association for Career and Technical Education on December 4 in Charlotte, NC.

Leading the workshop were Cinda Herndon-King, PhD, Georgia Bio's Director of Education Programs; Jeffrey Rapp, PhD, Biotechnology Program Chair of Athens Technical College and Co-Director of the Georgia Bioscience Technology Institute; and Owen Ogletree, Secondary Science Specialist with the Walton County Public Schools.

The workshop detailed the progress of the coalition of Georgia Bio, the Biotechnology Institute, the Governor's Office of Workforce Development, the Georgia Bioscience Technology Institute, the Georgia Department of Education, and local school districts in launching high school biotechnology courses in fall 2009 and linking secondary, two year and four year educational pipelines.

The workshop also highlighted the establishment of a dual enrollment biotechnology program between the Walton Career Academy and Athens Technical College, available to both high school students and adult students, and the integration of biotechnology into the science curriculum at Walton County schools to increase student interest in bioscience careers and science achievement.