



## Georgia Biomedical Partnership

---

### ***Chronicle E-Newsletter*** January 31, 2006

#### **Awards Dinner Hits 300 Mark in Attendance for Second Consecutive Year**

The Georgia Biomedical Partnership's (GBP) 2006 Awards Dinner topped 300 attendees for the second year in a row, signaling the start of another record setting year.

Dr. Russell M. Medford, president and CEO of AtheroGenics and GBP chair, outlined Georgia industry and GBP accomplishments in 2005 and looked ahead at 2006. During 2005, with the hiring of full-time President Charles Craig, the GBP has created eight new committees -- chaired by industry executives -- that engage in activities to help bioscience companies succeed and make the GBP a stronger, more proactive voice for Georgia's bioscience industry. For copies of Dr. Medford's slide presentation, please email [admin@gabio.org](mailto:admin@gabio.org).

The January 13 event at the Grand Hyatt Atlanta was the eighth annual Awards Dinner. Winners of the Biomedical Industry Growth, Deal of the Year and Biomedical Community Awards were honored. The Biomedical Industry Growth Awards went to [C. Michael Cassidy](#), president and CEO of the Georgia Research Alliance, and [Dr. Medford](#).

Deal of the Year awards went to [Emory University](#), [Altea Therapeutics](#), [Alimera Sciences](#), [CardioMEMS](#) and [Proxima Therapeutics](#). Biomedical Community Award winners were [William Kitchens](#), managing partner of Arnall Golden Gregory, the [American-Israel Chamber of Commerce](#), the [Center for Behavioral Neuroscience](#) and [Georgia Venture Partners](#).

Click [here](#) for photos of all the award winners.

#### **Building a Biotech Company: Considerations and Issues**

As part of its commitment to educating and advancing the careers of young professionals across Georgia, the Emerging Leaders Network of the Georgia Biomedical Partnership (GBP) will host its next event entitled "Building a Biotech Company: Considerations and Issues" on February 2 in Room 119 of the GTRI Conference Center, 250 14th St NW, Atlanta, GA 30318-9108. Go to [www.gabio.org](http://www.gabio.org) to register for the event.

A panel discussion will be lead by Russell Allen, president and CEO of BioSouth. Speaking will be Lee Herron of ATDC, Tony Shuker, president and CEO of Metastatix, Inc., and Megan Dortenzo, partner at Thompson Hine, LLP. All GBP members are invited to attend. Discussion topics will include early- and mid-stage company development, intellectual property and financing. This highly-anticipated program, sponsored by Thompson Hine, LLP, is intended to serve as a catalyst for further discussion of considerations and issues associated with starting a successful biotech business.

#### **ELN Tour Series Stops at Altea Therapeutics**

The Emerging Leaders Network held its first program in the *ELN Industry Tour Series* at Altea Therapeutics on January 20, 2006. This event provided ELN members an opportunity to develop industry contacts and career enhancement through discussions with the company's executives. Yogi Patel, an ELN

member who works in business development at Altea Therapeutics, helped organize the tour for 19 attendees.

Presentations were made by Altea Therapeutics President and CEO Eric Tomlinson, Senior Vice President of Product Research and Development David Enscoe, Vice President of Business Development Steven Damon and Yogi Patel. They discussed Altea Therapeutics and its technology, explained the various departments and how they relate to product development, and reviewed their pipeline of products. Attendees were given a tour of the facilities, including wet lab space and clinical areas, and had lunch with young professionals at Altea. Interest in this event was overwhelming and while attendance was limited, there will be other opportunities to participate in the *Industry Tour Series* soon.

## **ELN Gaining Momentum**

The Georgia Biomedical Partnership's Emerging Leaders Network (ELN) has been gaining momentum since its official launch last July. Designed to meet the needs of young professionals and students in the Georgia life sciences industry, the ELN has succeeded in building a membership base within the state to provide networking opportunities, educational programs and mentoring to facilitate career opportunities for young professionals and students.

A summary of ELN events since the July launch shows that an organization of this caliber is certainly welcome in the state of Georgia.

- September 14, ELN presents: "Martinis and IMAX" - Sponsors: *BioSouth, Inc.* and *Metastatix, Inc.* Attendance: 75
- November 17, "Career Opportunities in the Life Sciences" - Sponsors: *TSG Partners* and *Emory University*, Attendance: 60
- December 8, "ELN Holiday Happy Hour" - Sponsor: *Kilpatrick Stockton LLP*, Attendance: 50
- January 20, "ELN Industry Tour Series: Altea Therapeutics, Inc." - Sponsor: *Altea Therapeutics, Inc.* Attendance: 20 (89 contacted us to attend but space was limited to 20.)

ELN co-chairs and directors are planning more innovative programs in 2006 and will continue marketing the group to young professionals in the state's life sciences community. Information on attending, hosting, or sponsoring ELN events can be found at [www.gabio.org](http://www.gabio.org).

---



## Georgia Biomedical Partnership

---

### ***Chronicle E-Newsletter*** January 31, 2006

#### **GBP Holds First-Ever Georgia Legislative Reception at State Capitol**

The Government Affairs Committee, chaired by Nadine Craig of UCB, held the first-ever GBP legislative reception for General Assembly members January 12. This event will be held annually at the start of each legislative session. The purpose was to introduce the GBP to the lawmakers and begin forming a trusted partnership with them. The Government Affairs Committee also is working with a core group of legislators to form a biotech task force to keep lawmakers informed about the life sciences industry.

The legislators met with GBP board members who outlined the significant economic impact of the life sciences industry and its potential to create more jobs and improve Georgians' health. As a follow-up, Sen. Don Thomas has proposed holding a Health and Human Services Committee meeting to learn more about the impact of the life sciences industry in Georgia.

In addition to Sen. Thomas (R-54th District), chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, other Senators attending were Casey Cagle (R-49th District), chair of the Finance Committee and vice chair of the Science and Technology Committee; George Hooks (D-14th District), member of the Appropriations and Economic Development Committees; and Tommie Williams (R-19th District), vice chair of the Appropriations Committee and vice chair of the Finance Committee.

Click [here](#) to see an informational flyer on bioscience prepared by the Government Affairs Committee.

#### **Governor Perdue Calls Georgia a 'State of Innovation'**

Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue, in his January 11 State of the State address, identified life sciences as a top priority for the state's economic growth and pledged that Georgia will continue to be a leader in innovation.

The governor's proposed FY 2007 budget includes \$5 million for a bioseed fund and \$5 million for a life sciences facilities fund. These initiatives were among recommendations made to Perdue's Commission for a New Georgia by its Life Sciences Advisory Council, many of whose members are part of the GBP Economic Development Committee, chaired by Jeff Strane of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. The \$10 million represents a larger allocation for life sciences industry growth than in previous years. The initiatives are outlined on Page 15 of the governor's [budget](#) under the heading, State of Innovation.

Another Perdue proposal would enable the state's employee pension fund, minus the teachers' portion of the fund, to invest in life sciences companies.

#### **Georgia Life Sciences Industry Report to be Released in October**

The Economic Development Committee is coordinating the first-ever Georgia Life Sciences Industry Report. The report, based on a survey of about 340 companies, will be researched and produced by Jeff Humphries' Selig Center for Economic Growth at the University of Georgia. The companies will receive a survey that includes about 40 questions. Answers will be kept confidential. Data will be reported only in

the aggregate. Surveys will be sent to companies beginning in April.

### **GBP to Revive Georgia SEED Entrepreneurial Education Program**

The Emerging Company Committee, chaired by Lee Herron of Georgia Tech's Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC), is planning to revive the Georgia SEED program initiated by the Metro-Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. SEED stands for Supporting Entrepreneur Education and Development. It involves classroom instruction by business experts for fledgling bioscience CEOs. The next program is tentatively scheduled for March. More information will be available soon.

The Emerging Company Committee also will hold its third in a series of focused dinners for CEOs on February 15. The program will examine entrepreneurial resources available in Georgia.

***Chronicle E-Newsletter*** - January 31, 2006

---

---