



Georgia Biomedical Partnership Newsletter

The GBP E-Chronicle

GBP Annual Awards Dinner Spotlights Bioscience Leaders

Georgia Tech Dean, Altea Therapeutics CEO Receive Top Honors

For the third consecutive year, more than 300 Georgia Biomedical Partnership (GBP) members and guests attended the Annual Awards Dinner to recognize the outstanding achievements of the state's bioscience leaders.

The GBP's top honors, the Biomedical Industry Growth Awards, recognize people from the public and private sectors who have made extraordinary contributions to the growth of Georgia's life sciences industry. The 2007 winners were **Don. P. Giddens**, Ph.D., dean of the College of Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology, from the public sector; and **Eric Tomlinson**, DSc, Ph.D., president and CEO of Altea Therapeutics, from the private sector.

This year marked the introduction of a new award, Emerging Leader of the Year. The award, presented by the GBP's Emerging Leaders Network (ELN), recognizes young professionals for outstanding contributions to the success of the ELN and growth of Georgia's life sciences community. **Melissa Wendt**, Director of Health Sciences of Hood Marketing Solutions, was named the 2007 Emerging Leader of the Year.

Deal of the Year and Biomedical Community awards also were presented at the GBP's 9th Annual GBP Awards Dinner, which was held January 12, 2007, at the Intercontinental Buckhead Hotel. This year's sponsors for the dinner were Choate Construction Company, Chubb Group of Insurance Companies, Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Medical College of Georgia, The University System of Georgia's Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP), and Solvay Pharmaceuticals.

The 2007 Deal of the Year awards reflect a broad range of activity, from university research to vaccine manufacturing, and demonstrate the diversity of Georgia's life sciences industry. Winners were named in four categories and were selected from 11 finalists.

CardioMEMS and **Metastatix** won for Early Stage Financing; **AtheroGenics** and **Solvay Pharmaceuticals**, for Strategic Transaction (Large Company); **GeoVax Labs**, for Strategic Transaction (Small Company); and **Emory University**, **Georgia Institute of Technology**, and **Medical College of Georgia**, for the public sector.

Other finalists were: **Biofisica** and **Insectigen** for Early Stage Financing; **Serologicals** and **UCB** for Strategic Transaction (Large Company); and **Theragenics** for Strategic Transaction (Small Company).

The Biomedical Community Awards recognize individuals, companies and institutions for significant contributions to Georgia's life sciences industry. The 2007 Biomedical Community Awards winners are **Mike Wanner**, CEO of Abeome; the GBP's 2006 **Legislative Response Team**; the Georgia Research Alliance's (GRA) **VentureLab Program**; and the **Emory Vaccine Center**.

For more information on the awards and the honorees, see GBP's press releases at https://www.gabio.org/2007_award_dinner.asp.

GBP, Dekalb Launch Education Partnership

Industry, School System Collaborate to Improve Student Achievement

The 2007 Georgia Biomedical Partnership (GBP) Awards Dinner doubled as a fundraiser to support implementation of the GBP's education program with Dekalb County School System and the Arlington, Va.-based Biotechnology Institute.

The launch of this Partnership to Improve Student Achievement was marked at the Awards Dinner with the signing of a Letter of Intent to Collaborate by the **David Dodd**, Chair of the GBP Advisory Committee for Education and Chair of Stem Cell Sciences plc; **Dr. Crawford Lewis**, Superintendent of the Dekalb County School System; and **Paul Hanle**, President of the Biotechnology Institute.

The Letter states, "The objective is to design a comprehensive framework fully integrated with education, industry, and other stakeholders to enable lifelong education and career development in the biosciences. This work will focus on Dekalb County School System in the early stage as a demonstration site, with the long-term goal of growing this to become a state-wide initiative."

Elements of the program will include life sciences workshops for teachers; materials and lesson plans to enhance existing bioscience curricula; development of industry mentors for teachers and students; industry contributions of laboratory supplies for schools; summer internships for teachers at life sciences companies; and industry participation in life sciences summer camps for teachers and students.

Proceeds from the Awards Dinner will be earmarked each year for the education program. Funds from the 2007 dinner will help sponsor participation by Dekalb County teachers and administrators in the Biotechnology Institute's five-day Teacher-Leader Program at the Biotechnology Industry Organization's BIO 2007 International Convention in Boston, May 2-7.

The Biotechnology Institute conducts its annual Teacher-Leader program and BioGenius international student science fair competition in conjunction with BIO's international conference. The BIO 2009 International Convention will be in Atlanta. During the conference, the GBP, Dekalb County Schools and the Biotechnology Institute will be able to showcase their partnership to the international life sciences community.

Mr. Dodd's committee is made up of Maria Thacker of the GBP; Elliott Albers, director of the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience; Annie Hunt Burriss of Oglethorpe University; Cindy Groff-Vindman of the British Consulate-General; Nina Sawczuk of Zygogen, Ray Schinazi of RFS Pharma and Emory University; Robert Nerem of Georgia Tech; and Paul Ohme of Georgia Tech's Center for Education Integrating Science Math and Computing.

GBP members who are interested in joining Mr. Dodd's committee should contact Maria Thacker (maria.thacker@gabio.org).

GBP Scientific Forum Proves to be Great Success

Company and University Scientists Discuss Commercialization

An impressive mix of more than 70 scientists, industry executives and university students discussed the commercialization of life science research at the inaugural Corporate Research Leaders Forum (CRLF) Scientific Workshop.

The workshop consisted of two panels; one made up of company chief scientific officers and the other, academic researchers. Each panel member gave a brief presentation. The panels were followed by an open discussion, including questions and comments from members of the audience. The event was presented in collaboration with the Georgia Research Alliance.

Company panel participants included **Joseph M. Patti**, M.S.P.H., Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer, Co-Founder and Vice President of Research and Development, Inhibitex, Inc.; **Chuck Kunsch**, Ph.D., Vice President, Biological Research, AtheroGenics, Inc.; **Amy L. Rubinstein**, PhD - Director of Research, Zygogen, LLC; and **Michael Natchus**, Ph.D., Vice President, Research and Development, Metastatix, Inc.

The company panel discussed important issues that impact the ability of scientists to craft research programs into value-creating products, such as the scientists' role in the development and execution of the business plan, the importance of a focused research team, and achieving critical milestones in the research program on time and on budget. Dr. Patti stressed that moving a program from the lab bench to the clinic was an extremely important value creating milestone for the emerging organization and one that could lead to additional rounds of financing.

The academic panel consisted of **Erwin Van Meir**, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, Emory University; **Clifton Baile**, Ph.D., Professor of Animal Science and Foods and Nutrition, Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Agricultural Biotechnology, University of Georgia; and **Mark R. Prausnitz**, Ph.D., Professor, School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology

The purpose of the academic panel was to understand some of the similarities and differences in the objectives of scientists, the benefits versus risks of scientific interactions and the hurdles that must be overcome to establish productive interactions. The panel also touched on the opportunities for scientists in companies and in academia to benefit from professional interactions, as well as the barriers which restrict their communication.

The workshop concluded with a wine and cheese reception. This provided participants with an opportunity to network and discuss the proceedings of the day.

The CRLF, a committee within the GBP, enables scientific executives to network and discuss common issues and challenges such as recruitment and R&D resources. The group also oversees the scientific portion of the annual Georgia Life Sciences Summit program. CRLF is sponsored by the Georgia Research Alliance. For information on participating in the CRLF, contact Maria Thacker at maria.thacker@gabio.org.

GBP Pushes Legislative Agenda at General Assembly Lunch

Outline of Bold Vision for Economic Development Presented

The Georgia Biomedical Partnership (GBP) Government Affairs Committee hosted more than 80 state Senators and Representatives at its 2nd Annual Legislative Lunch in early January.

GBP company executives, university administrators, and GBP board members met with the elected officials to discuss advances in the life sciences industry and public policy issues. The lunch was held in the Blue Room of the Georgia Freight Depot.

Special hosts of the lunch were Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle, Senate Health and Human Services Committee Chair Dr. Don Thomas, House Majority Leader Jerry Keen and House Health and Human Services Committee Chair Sharon Cooper.

The lunch gave the GBP the opportunity to present its bold vision for life sciences economic development. GBP Chair Dr. Russell Medford, president and CEO of AtheroGenics, outlined the program. It involves a \$600 million investment by the state over five years to commercialize life sciences technologies across Georgia in healthcare, agriculture, industrial and energy production, forestry, environmental management and biodefense. This one-time, self-sustaining investment will leverage billions of dollars more in private sector funding to create new companies, expand existing ones, and recruit others to Georgia. The comprehensive plan to encourage venture capital investment, build facilities and attract managerial talent will make Georgia a national leader in moving to a 21st century bioeconomy.

Two other elements of the GBP's agenda are encouraging formation of a life sciences task force at the General Assembly to help educate elected officials about the life sciences industry and issues; and seeking support for hosting the Biotechnology Industry Organization's BIO 2009 International Convention in Atlanta.

For more information on the GBP's legislative agenda, contact Charles Craig (charles.craig@gabio.org).

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