

August 2007 GaBio E-Chronicle

Summit Early Registration Deadline Extended to Sept. 5

The Seventh Annual Georgia Life Sciences Summit, October 3, at the Georgia World Congress Center, is expected to set another record for attendance and program excellence, showcasing the state's best companies and most advanced research.

With a theme of Growing Georgia's Bioeconomy, the 2007 version of the Summit also will be the first to include speakers and discussions on trends and issue in agricultural biotechnology, food nutrition and biofuels as well as the future of biomedicine and medical devices.

More than 40 speakers will participate, including keynote addresses from Rhona Applebaum, Ph.D., Chief Regulatory Officer at The Coca-Cola Company; David Mott, President and CEO of MedImmune; Russell Medford, M.D., Ph.D., President and CEO of AtheroGenics and GBP Chair; and Gerald Steiner, Executive Vice President, Commercial Acceptance, Monsanto.

The Summit has become the premier life sciences industry conference in the Southeast, setting attendance records every year. An estimated 800 professionals from Georgia and across the nation are expected to attend October 3, establishing another milestone.

Online early registration has been extended to **September 5**. Click [here](#) to register, peruse the program and learn about the exciting line-up of expert speakers.

In addition to panel discussions on agricultural biotechnology, nutrigenomics, biofuels, global healthcare, medical devices, emerging life sciences companies and pharma-biotech partnering, an expanded afternoon science program will focus on the latest in cancer research. The conference also includes an exhibit hall, in which universities and companies display their latest technological advances, and a scientific poster competition that attracts entries from academia and industry.

Another feature of the Summit is the release of Shaping Infinity, The Georgia Life Sciences Industry Analysis 2007. The report, produced by the University of Georgia's Selig Center for Economic Growth in cooperation with Georgia Bio, is the only analysis of the state's life sciences industry. It provides data and commentary on all aspects of company performance, from research to product sales. The report also will include articles from university and industry leaders, showcasing the broad scope of life sciences industry development. All Summit attendees will receive a copy of Shaping Infinity.

House Bioeconomic Development Committee Holds First Hearing

A parade of experts told the Georgia House Study Committee on Bioeconomic Development that agriculture is still the state's largest industry and its future is tied to continued development and application of advanced life sciences technologies.

Speakers included:

- Tommy Irvin, Georgia Agriculture Commissioner;
- Dr. James Sutton, Assistant Agriculture Commissioner;
- Michael Cassidy, Georgia Research Alliance President and CEO;
- Dr. Scott Angle, Dean of the University of Georgia's College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences;
- Dr. John Glisson, University of Georgia Director of the Department of Population Health, Department of Avian Medicines, and the Poultry Diagnostic Research Center.
- Dr. Kevin Schultz, Chief Scientific Officer, Merial;
- John Pait, Vice President of Business Development, CellFor;
- Bo Warren, Manager of State & Local Government Affairs, Monsanto.

The study committee, chaired by Rep. Charlice Byrd, was formed in accordance with House Resolution 662, which was passed during the 2007 legislative session. [Here](#) is a link to HR 662.

Its objective is to design a comprehensive life sciences economic development strategy for supporting growth in the biomedical, medical device, agriculture and biofuels industries. The committee's final report will identify existing strengths and weaknesses and will suggest how to utilize current resources and expertise within state government more efficiently. It will suggest legislation that will serve as a road map for moving Georgia into a 21st century bioeconomy.

The next hearing, focused on biofuels, is September 24, from 8 am to 3 pm in the Georgia State Capitol. Two other hearing will focus on biomedicine and manufacturing in October and medical devices in November. In early December, the committee will hold a Summit for all participants to review and endorse a master plan and enabling legislation for the 2008 General Assembly.

In addition to Rep. Byrd, the House members on the committee are: Reps. Karla Drenner, Ph.D.; Larry O'Neal; and Carl Rogers. Three industry experts also were appointed: Clifton A. Baile, Ph.D., Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Agricultural Biotechnology and Distinguished Professor in Animal Science and Foods & Nutrition at the University of Georgia; Fabrice Egros, Ph.D., MBA, President of UCB, Inc., in Smyrna; and Russell M. Medford, M.D., Ph.D., President and CEO of AtheroGenics, Inc. in Alpharetta.

Recordings of the hearings are available. Contact Charles Craig (charles.craig@gabio.org) for information.

DeKalb High School Teachers Focus on Biotechnology

On August 9, high school science teachers from 21 DeKalb County High Schools learned about ways to use biotechnology to enhance student science performance through keynote presentations and hands-on training sessions.

Ongoing professional development for teachers is critical in bringing inquiry-based experiences and opportunities into the classroom. It is a key goal of the partnership to improve student achievement in science developed by the DeKalb schools, Georgia Bio (GaBio) and the national Biotechnology Institute, headquartered in Arlington, Va.

Beginning the day, Johnny Fells III, a junior at Northside High School in Warner Robbins, spoke about the importance of science teaching to young people. Mr. Fells was a national finalist in the BioGENEius Challenge at the Biotechnology Industry Organization's BIO 2007 Annual International Convention May 6-9, 2007, in Boston.

The luncheon keynote was provided by Ellyn Daugherty, who established one of the first high school biotechnology career pathways in the U.S. at San Mateo High School, in San Mateo, California in 1995.

Completing the day was a presentation by Dr. Jeffrey Koplan, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Emory Woodruff Health Science Center, and former Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Recounting his personal career path into science, Dr. Koplan emphasized the science teaching and learning opportunities presented by current events, and encouraged the teachers to relate issues in the real world to the science behind the headlines.

In addition to the presentations, about 75 teachers took part in intensive hands-on training in biotechnology experiments for the classroom. Two of these breakout sessions were presented by DeKalb teachers who attended the BIO 2007 Annual International Convention with support from Georgia Bio, the Biotechnology Institute, and the DeKalb County Office of Economic Development.

These teacher-leaders were Jeremy Peacock of Southwest DeKalb High School, Janetta Greenwood of Dunwoody High School, and Deanna Boyd of McNair Middle School. In addition, Ms. Daugherty from San Mateo High School taught a biotechnology session.

GaBio, Center for Behavioral Neuroscience Seminar Series Begins

Georgia Bio (GaBio) and the Center Behavioral Neuroscience (CBN) Wednesday launched a unique 12-week undergraduate seminar course this fall featuring CEOs and senior executives of pharmaceutical, biotech and medical device companies teaching students the business of bioscience.

The purpose of the seminar series -- offered to undergraduate students at Georgia State University, Georgia Tech, and Morehouse and Spelman Colleges -- is to bring together science and business students to learn how these disciplines merge in companies that commercialize bioscience products. Serving as faculty are senior executives from several of Atlanta's pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device companies.

"The exposure the students will receive to the business issues surrounding biotechnology companies, technology commercialization and regulatory concerns will give them a better understanding of what industry needs, and help guide their choice of curriculum and training going forward in their careers," said Elliott Albers, Director of the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience and a Regents Professor of Biology at Georgia State University. "Furthermore, the internship opportunities resulting from the class will give students the valuable hands on experience which is required by industry as it seeks new workers."

While many institutions around the country have implemented joint business-technology courses at the graduate level, and occasionally at the undergraduate level, this is the first course where colleges, universities and institutions in Atlanta have come together to provide undergraduate students insight into how technologies and inventions reach the marketplace and which skills companies need to commercially develop those inventions.

Visit the [CBN's website](#) for information on the course and faculty presentations.

Upcoming Events

Global Biotech, Local Bioethics?

Roberta M. Berry M.A., Ph.D., J.D., Associate Professor and Director, Law, Science & Technology Program at Georgia Tech

September 12, 2007 7:30AM – 9:00AM

GTRI Conference Center Room 119, 250 14th Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30318

As globalization allows research collaboration and data sharing across geopolitical boundaries, the research practices and ethics in different regions has been placed under close examination. In September, ELN, in conjunction with Georgia Bio, will host a seminar entitled “Global Biotech, Local Bioethics?” Speaker [Roberta M. Berry M.A., Ph.D., J.D.](#) will focus on key bioethical issues, both global and local, that are increasingly relevant as globalization facilitates the ease of sharing information. This event follows closely after previous ELN seminars on globalization and will incorporate different issues created by globalization in the field of biotech nology.

ELN Anniversary Celebration

Martinis & Imax, Fernbank Museum of Natural History

September 21st, 6PM

760 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA 30307

Come help us celebrate the Two Year Anniversary of the Emerging Leaders Network with Martinis and IMAX® at the Fernbank Museum.

Georgia Life Sciences Summit 2007

October 3, 2007 7:30AM Registration Opens

Georgia World Congress Center, 285 International Blvd NW

The Summit has become the premier life sciences conference in the Southeast, and this year the scope of the conference will expand under the theme of *Growing Georgia's Bioeconomy*. The Summit will showcase the most advanced life science research and product development not only in biomedicine, but also in agriculture, food nutrition, bioenergy and industrial production.

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