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GaBio Cancels Gubernatorial Forums As Most Candidates Decline To Discuss Life Sciences Issues

ATLANTA (May 18, 2010) – Georgia Bio late Monday decided to cancel Democratic and Republican gubernatorial forums at Kennesaw State University based on a lack of interest among most of the primary candidates to attend and discuss life sciences related issues.

“We sincerely thank Kennesaw State University officials for agreeing to host these events. However with so few candidates agreeing to participate from both the Democratic and Republican Parties, we felt the expense was too great to justify holding the events,” said Georgia Bio President Charles Craig.

“We commend Democratic primary candidates Attorney General Thurbert Baker, Mayor Carl Camon and General David Poythress, and Republican primary candidates former Congressman Nathan Deal and Otis Putnam for their willingness to attend the forums and discuss issues critical to Georgia’s future.” The Democratic forum was scheduled for May 20, and the Republican forum was scheduled for May 27. Mayor Camon was forced to withdraw from Thursday’s forum because of a car accident Monday afternoon.

The topics for discussion were the significance of life sciences economic development, importance of K-16 science education and the impact of federal health care reform in Georgia. The candidates were sent three questions in advance covering these topics. All 14 candidates who qualified for the Democratic and Republican gubernatorial primary elections were invited.

Georgia Bio has asked all the candidates to submit written answers to the questions by June 4, after which the questions and answers will be posted on Georgia Bio’s website (www.gabio.org) and distributed to the organizations nearly 300 member organizations and thousands of life sciences professionals.

The three questions are:

Life sciences economic development:

What is the role of state government in supporting life sciences economic development?

K-16 science education:

How can Georgia ensure that its students will be able to compete for 21st century advanced technology jobs and that our state will have the skilled work force to support life sciences industry growth?

Federal health care reform

What, if anything, is the most critical need for Georgians when it comes to health care reform?

Georgia Bio (www.gabio.org) is the non-profit association representing pharmaceutical, biotech, medical device and diagnostic companies, healthcare systems, universities, research institutes and other organizations involved in the research and development of life sciences products that improve the health and well-being of people, animals and the environment.

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