



Montana BioScience Alliance Newsletter

December 2006

Happy holidays to our members and supporters!
We're looking forward to working with you in
2007.

Mark your calendars! The Alliance will be hosting quarterly meetings next year. Proposed dates and locations are:

- Tuesday, February 13, 2007 – Meeting and legislative reception in Helena
- June – Annual Meeting in Missoula
- Late September – Regional meeting in Billings
- November - Regional meeting in Bozeman or Great Falls

in this issue

- [Member News](#)
- [Montana News](#)
- [National and Regional News](#)
- [NWREI's 2nd Annual Ideas Montana Medicine Promotes Montana-based Research](#)
- [What's Happening?](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)

Welcome to our newest members:

Sandra King
SMK Plants
Billings, Montana

Ron Zook
Swan Valley Medical, Incorporated
Big Fork, Montana

Doug Coe
Montana Tech of the University of Montana
Butte, Montana

Dr. Don Thorne
ZDYE LLC
Gallatin Gateway, Montana

Jack Velboom
BN Builders, Inc.
Hamilton, Montana

Gary Gustafson
EndoBiologics, Inc.
Missoula, Montana

Laurie Hassell
Coeur D'Alene, Idaho



Member News

Montana State University has made available for license a tolerizing agent for autoimmune, inflammatory and allergic reactions. The fusion protein is effective at extremely low doses to induce antigen-specific host tolerance in oral or nasal applications. A patent is pending and research is ongoing. For additional information, please contact Nick Zelver, MSU Technology Transfer Officer, at 406-994-7706 or nzelver@montana.edu. Companies who are interested should notify MSU in writing by January 31, 2007.

LigoCyte Pharmaceuticals recently announced that Dr. J. Donald deBethizy joined the company's Board of Directors. Dr. deBethizy has served as the president, CEO, and member of the board of directors at Targacept since August 2000 and as president and member of the board since March 1997. In addition to over 25 years of experience in research and development, Dr. deBethizy has been certified as a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology since 1985 and received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Utah State University in Logan, Utah. He currently has adjunct professor appointments at Wake Forest University and Duke University, both in North Carolina. He also serves as a member of the governing body committee for emerging companies in the international BIO trade organization.

The Montana Department of Commerce presented Ravalli County with a \$400,000 check for workforce training on Tuesday, December 19, at Glaxo Smith Kline. The funding is part of the Department's Community Development Block Grant Program, and will be used to train 53 new **Glaxo Smith Kline** employees.



Montana News

The Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology released their Request for Proposals for Research and Commercialization projects on December 8, 2006. The board has about \$2.9 million available to grant in fiscal year 2008 (7/1/07 – 6/30/08) for such

projects. The emphasis of the program is on projects that lead to marketable products or processes. Projects must be matched with non-Montana state government funds at an amount equal to at least 25% of the total project cost.

Eligible applicants are Montana-based research and commercialization centers. Research and commercialization centers are statutorily defined as the campuses of the University of Montana or Montana State University, tribal colleges, colleges of technology, community colleges, agricultural research centers, or private laboratories of research centers.

The submission deadline is March 1, 2007, 5:00 pm at the Helena office. Funding decisions are anticipated for July 2007. Applicants must submit nine copies of the proposal.

For more information or an application contact David Desch or Jane Todd at 406-841-2760/406-841-2759 or access www.businessresources.mt.gov/Includes/RCT/2008_guidelines.pdf

At a recent event at the University of Montana, computer software tycoon and Montana resident Tom Siebel said if he were trying to launch himself in business today, he would bypass the computer world in favor of biotechnology or the energy industries.

Those industries are the areas positioned to offer the greatest opportunities in the coming years, Siebel told students at the University of Montana School of Business.

Siebel was at the university to receive the Lewis and Clark Pioneer in Industry Award. It was given by UM and the Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs.



National and Regional News

There has been a lot of recent interest in the importance of innovation to the US economy. Recently, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano released her 2006-2007 National Governor's Association Chair's Initiative, Innovation America. Its accompanying [report](#), "Why America Must Innovate: A Call to Action" promotes the need for increased science-based education, entrepreneurship, workforce development and continued investment in both basic and applied research and development.

These objectives are also very important to the bioscience industry and Montana as a whole. We are excited about showing the US Montana's successes and continuing to build upon our progress.

Congress provided more funding for medical research, antibioterrorism efforts and Medicare before wrapping up its current two-year term. The NIH also received an increase in research money but is being required to establish a tracking system to allow Congress to monitor its grants. Yesterday, President Bush signed into law legislation that in part establishes the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), which will fund advanced biomedical research. The group will have a \$1.07 billion budget over two years.

The Washington State Health Care Authority in collaboration with the Health Information Infrastructure Advisory Board issued a Final Report and Road Map, dated December 1, 2006. The effort in Washington was led by a broad group of stakeholders, including major businesses. It advocates organizing a statewide health exchange infrastructure around consumer/patient consent, and encourages the adoption of what they call a "health record banking model." The governor has asked for \$8 million to fund this effort. See the full report at this link: <http://www.hca.wa.gov/hit/doc/finalreport.pdf>

NWREI's 2nd Annual Ideas Montana Medicine Promotes Montana-based Research

In its second year, NWREI's **Ideas Montana Medicine** conference on Oct. 5, 2006, once again brought together a number of researchers, biotechnology industry leaders, community leaders and entrepreneurs who share a common bond in the support of medical research and technology as a growing industry in Montana.

Senator Max Baucus and Governor Brian Schweitzer gave opening remarks at the conference emphasizing the importance of the growing Montana industry that generates money for the state, as well as jobs for Montana residents.

Keynote speakers included Nelson Dong, JD for Dorsey & Whitney, LLP in Seattle, Washington, Mary Schweitzer, PhD of North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina, and Kathleen Shino, MBA of the National Institutes of Health Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program in Bethesda, Maryland. Dong and Shino offered ideas and contact information regarding funding for research in the biomedical research from private sources and government programs, respectively. Schweitzer presented her research in Paleontology and the discovery of soft tissue DNA in dinosaur bones found in Montana. Carlos M. G. Duran, MD, PhD, President/CEO of The International Heart Institute of Montana Foundation and Chair of Cardiovascular Sciences at the University of Montana, is pictured above with Marshall Bloom, Associate Director of Rocky Mountain Laboratories. Both were panelists at the 2006 Ideas Montana Medicine conference.

Northwest Research and Education Institute would like to thank those who helped organize the event: The Office of United States Senator Max Baucus, St. Vincent Healthcare Foundation, Montana BioScience Alliance, Big Sky Economic Development Authority, and Montana State University Billings.

For more information on the Ideas Montana Medicine conference or to order a DVD copy of the 2nd Annual Ideas Montana Medicine conference, please call 406.237.5300.

Planning is already underway for the 2007 Ideas Montana Medicine conference. The committee is open to suggestions regarding topics and speakers. If you would like to offer your suggestions, please call 237.5300.



What's Happening?

On November 27-29, Executive Director Sharon Peterson represented the Montana BioScience Alliance at the Council of State Bioscience Associations annual retreat in San Juan, Puerto Rico. At least 30 state bioscience associations were in attendance.

The conference was sponsored by the BIOTECHNOLOGY Industry organization (BIO) and the Puerto Rico Biotechnology Alliance. The conference agenda included many interesting discussions including Best Practices in Association Management, Tapping into the 3rd Wave: State interest in developing "Bio-Based Economies"; Providing Healthcare Benefits to the Uninsured: Will the Massachusetts Model Work Elsewhere?; Best Practices Guide to Biotechnology; and Overview of Innovative Capital Formation Legislation in the States.

The participants heard from the Honorable Anibal Acevedo Vilá, Governor of Puerto Rico and were able to tour Eli Lilly's biologics (HumalogR) manufacturing facility.

Ms. Peterson was able to share the Montana BioScience Alliance Directory with the participants at the retreat and it was well received.



Events Calendar

January 6 - 11, 2007

Keystone Symposia: Immunological Intervention in Human Disease

Big Sky Resort // Big Sky, Montana

For more information, please visit: www.keystonesymposia.org/A2

February 4 - 9, 2007

Keystone Symposia: Ubiquitin and Signaling

Big Sky Resort // Big Sky, Montana

For more information, please visit: www.keystonesymposia.org/B4

February 13, 2007

Noon: Montana Board of Research and Technology Commercialization Poster Display

Helena - Montana State Capitol Rotunda

5 pm: Montana BioScience Alliance Legislative Reception

Helena - Great Northern Hotel

March 1, 2007

Submission deadline for Research and Commercialization Projects, Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology

www.businessresources.mt.gov/Includes/RCT/2008_guidelines.pdf

For more information contact jtodd@mt.gov.

March 20 - 21, 2007

Invest Northwest® CEO and Investor Forum

Seattle, Washington - Bell Harbor International Conference Center

For more information: www.investnorthwest.org

May 6-9, 2007

BIO International Convention

Boston, MA



The
Montana
BioScience
Alliance is
located
on the
Downtown
Campus
of
Montana
State
University
Billings,
through
the
generous
support
of the
University.

Quick Links...

- [More About Us](#)
- [Membership Application](#)
- [Register for the Annual Meeting](#)

email: speterson@msubillings.edu

phone: 406-896-5876

web: <http://www.montanabio.org>

[Forward email](#)

SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to sharonpeterson@bresnan.net, by speterson@msubillings.edu

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe](#)™ | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Montana BioScience Alliance | P.O. Box 1773 | Billings | MT | 59103