

CELEBRATING OUR 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



## BioScience Under the Big Sky Winter Newsletter

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Montana BioScience Alliance's  
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The Montana BioScience Alliance wishes you an abundance of family, friends, fun and happiness this holiday season  
and  
A joyous and prosperous New Year!

Welcome New Member  
Amerinet/HRS  
Seattle, WA

Montana Bio President/Chair,  
David Poulsen, has accepted a position as a Professor in the Neurosurgery Department in the School of Medicine, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY. Dave will also continue his work with Sinapis.

We want to thank Dave for his tireless work and energy on behalf of the Alliance and wish him well on his journey.

### MEMBER NEWS

#### Bacterin

Bacterin introduced its 3Demin™ product family to the 2014 North American Spine Society Meeting

(NASS) in November. Using Bacterin's proprietary process, the 3Demin™ product line maximizes osteoconductivity and the osteoinductive potential of the allograft. They consist of 100% demineralized cortical bone with excellent, malleable handling characteristics, and are distributed as a sterile allograft. Bacterin's 3Demin™ products are easily hydrated with any biocompatible liquid, making them an ideal option for various bone grafting applications.

Bacterin's CEO Dan Goldberger, was quoted in a recent press release stating, "The 3Demin™ product family was strategically designed to address the adult deformity and multi-level spine fusion market segment. These products complement our current DBM product offerings allowing us to offer a more comprehensive product portfolio to new and existing customers. With these product launches, Bacterin has returned to its roots as an innovator in bone allograft and I want to congratulate the entire team on this accomplishment."

Characteristics of the 3Demin product line include:

- 100% human demineralized cortical bone
- Pliable and compressible handling characteristics
- Osteoconductive
- Osteoinductive potential
- Rehydrates in minutes for easy use
- "Wicking" Excellent carrier for BMA
- Sterility assurance level (SAL) 10<sup>-6</sup>
- 5 year shelf life
- Room-temperature storage
- Variable graft sizes for optimal surgical site contact

### **Bacterin Announces 2015 Donate Life Rose Parade Float Floragraph Honoree**

BELGRADE, MT-- December 4, 2014 -- Bacterin International Holdings, Inc., an AATB accredited tissue bank, today announced Jacob Krebs as their 2015 Donate Life Rose Parade Float Floragraph Honoree. Jacob's Floragraph will be proudly displayed on the "Never Ending Story" themed float, which is designed to honor deceased and living donors, as well as organ, eye and tissue recipients. Bacterin is sharing this honor with the UT Health Science Center. - [See more](#)

### **Golden Helix Gives Back - The Winners**

Posted on December 18, 2014 by Andreas Scherer

Last month, I announced our Golden Helix Gives Back Campaign. During times like this, when funding is tight, we wanted to make a statement to our community. We at Golden Helix are committed to empower researchers and practitioners in the life science field. For those hard working people it is nice to catch a break from time to time.

After our announcement, we were surprised at the volume of inquiries, numbering into the hundreds. While we wish we could help everyone, our team of reviewers had a difficult job to select the three researchers that we felt were most deserving. [Read More](#)

### **From the Bozeman Daily Chronicle**

**Lt. Gov. McLean rallies support for budget proposal from Bozeman tech companies**

**Troy Carter, Chronicle Staff Writer**

Posted: Thursday, November 20, 2014 8:00 pm | Updated: 1:55 pm, Fri Nov 21, 2014.

Montana Lt. Gov. Angela McLean met with a group of Bozeman entrepreneurs Thursday to discuss how tax money would help the community create jobs at cutting-edge tech companies.

McLean's office scheduled the meeting to show support for the governor's \$15 million proposal for research grants for the state's universities. It would be the state's first appropriation for research.

"Research is a job creator," McLean said.

Since 2001, Montana taxpayers have spent about \$44 million via the Montana Board of Research and

**Commercialization Technology.** A study by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana said MBRCT-funded projects support an average of 459 jobs a year.

"More than \$315 million in additional income was received by Montana households, measured in inflation-corrected dollars, over this 14-year period due to MBRCT, or an average of \$22.5 million per year," states the report issued in March.

"We are located here in Bozeman specifically because of the Center for BioFilm Engineering at MSU, which as you may know, is the world's leading research institute in this area," said Brett Baker, CEO of the biomedical research company Microbion and host of Thursday's event. [Read More](#)

## **Golden Helix Call for Abstracts!**

**Posted on December 11, 2014 by Cheryl Rogers**

As Andreas Scherer mentioned in his post last Tuesday, we will kick off our 2nd annual Abstract Challenge Monday, December the 15th. Here are the details.

All academic, government, and commercial organizations world-wide working with genetic data (regardless of species) are invited to apply. Your project should be using DNA-Seq, RNA-Seq, SNP, or CNV methodology, as well as testing gene panels or searching for rare variants.

There are three levels of prize winners:

- **First place:** A one-year single-name user (SNU) license of SNP & Variation Suite (SVS) and VarSeq, loaded on a brand new Dell Latitude 14 E5440 Laptop. The first prize winner will also present their research to the Golden Helix community via webcast and blog post, reaching hundreds of people across the world.
- **Second place:** A one-year SNU license of SVS and VarSeq and the opportunity to highlight your research via a webcast and blog post to the Golden Helix community.
- **Third place:** A one-year SNU license of SVS or VarSeq, and the opportunity to highlight your research via a webcast and blog post to the Golden Helix community.

All three winners will be recognized on the Golden Helix blog and website, in a press release, and via email to Golden Helix's mailing list.

Golden Helix will select a winner based on four key elements:

1. The importance of the biological question you are studying and the impact it may have on the entire genetic field.
2. The overall study design and analysis methodology.
3. The application of research and how your project will help move the area forward.
4. How SVS will assist your research.

Applications will be accepted December 15th through January 16, 2015. You can download the application from our website beginning on Monday, the 15th.

We look forward to seeing your abstract!

## **Billings Clinic's Vision on Clinical Transformation**

### **Mark Hagland**

In his iHT2 keynote address, Nicholas Wolter, M.D., CEO of the Billings Clinic, spoke about culture, vision, and mission

In a keynote address on Aug. 19 at the Marriott Seattle Waterfront Hotel, Nicholas Wolter, M.D., CEO of the Billings Clinic, an integrated health system based in Billings, Montana, told his audience at the Health IT Summit in Seattle that culture, vision, and mission are at the core of clinical and organizational transformation and successful IT implementation. Wolter's keynote on Wednesday was delivered based on the theme, "Culture, Safety, and Quality: Strategies to Enable IT." The Health IT Summit in Seattle is sponsored by the Institute for Health Technology Transformation, or iHT2 (since December 2013, Healthcare Informatics has been in partnership with iHT2 through HCI's parent company, the Vendome Group, LLC).

One of the truly pioneering patient care organizations in the United States, the Billings Clinic encompasses

a 290-physician multispecialty medical group (founded in 1917), a 285-bed community hospital, a psychiatric hospital, a long-term care facility, 11 critical-access hospitals, five rural clinics, and other resources caring for patients across a 43-county service area that spans much of central Montana and northwestern Wyoming, and is as wide in geographic area as the distance between Washington, D.C. and Chicago. The organization's annual net revenues amount to about \$550 million. As Dr. Wolter noted, "We've become quite large by Montana standards." [Read More](#)

## UM Spinoff Rivertop Renewables Begins Construction of Commercial Plant

Contract manufacturing agreement with DTI speeds Rivertop's time to market for its novel performance chemicals

MISSOULA, Mont. (December 9, 2014) Rivertop Renewables, a Montana-based specialty chemicals company, has begun construction of its first commercial plant, located at DanChem Technologies, Inc.'s (DTI, [www.danchemtechnology.com](http://www.danchemtechnology.com)) facility in Danville, Virginia. DTI, a custom manufacturer of fine and specialty chemical products, is expected to begin production of Rivertop's sustainable, high performing, cost-competitive, glucaric acid-derived products beginning in the summer of 2015. At full capacity, the plant will produce up to 10 million pounds of product per year.

"Partnering with DTI for contract manufacturing both lowers the cost and speeds time-to-market for our novel performance chemicals," said Mike Knauf, Rivertop's CEO. "The volumes produced will enable us to not only meet the needs of our existing customers, but also enable us to unlock new markets with ample supply for testing and co-development with partners."

Among the products to be produced will be Rivertop's Riose® detergent builder. Designed for the consumer segment of the automatic dishwashing detergent market, the sugar-derived product is an effective detergent builder and enables a lower total cost of formulation. Detergent builders have several functions in detergents, the most visible of which is improving detergent performance by solubilizing hard water chemicals, thus preventing spotting on glassware.

[Read More](#)

### Associated Press - GREAT FALLS



Dr. George Carlson, director of the McLaughlin Research Institute, who focuses his research on Alzheimer's disease, works in his Great Falls lab in June. McLaughlin Research Institute scientists have built reputations studying neurodegenerative brain diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis.

- An illness that strikes family members in their 50s, affecting their behavior and keeping them from sleeping. A disease that strikes sheep and goats, causing them to scrape their bodies against anything they can get near, in an attempt to scratch an itch that exists only in their brains.

Mysterious illnesses baffled doctors and scientists for years, until the early 1980s when their cause was finally discovered. The discovery - that these and other diseases are caused not by genetic mutations or outside pathogens like viruses or bacteria, but by naturally occurring but damaged proteins within the body - turned the scientific community on its head.

They are called prions - misfolded proteins that are infectious and cause fatal neurodegenerative diseases in animals and humans. [Read More](#)

### **MSU receives \$10.7 million to address health disparities in rural Montana**

**December 5, 2014 -- By Evelyn Boswell, MSU News Service**

BOZEMAN - Montana State University has received another major grant from the National Institutes of Health, this one targeting health disparities in rural Montana.

The \$10.7 million, five-year grant will allow MSU to establish a Center for Health Equity Research and research a variety of health issues faced by rural Montanans, said principal investigator Allen Harmsen, a professor in MSU's Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

Living 50 miles from town can make it harder to survive farm and ranch accidents, for example. Crashing on a remote highway can mean long rides to a hospital. Harmsen said living in relative isolation also contributes to higher rates of diabetes, suicide, alcoholism and substance abuse.

"There's a lot of work to be done, and that's what we have to do," he said.

The new COBRE grant will fund four research projects aimed at Native American health issues, then other projects addressing the needs of the general rural population, Harmsen said. COBRE refers to the NIH's Institutional Development Award Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence. [Read More](#)

### **MSU launches program to engage first-year students through research**

**December 12, 2014 -- MSU News Service**

Montana State University is launching a program to engage students through research as part of its efforts to help students stay in school.

The university has designated funds for FYRE, the First Year Research Experience. The program is designed to introduce first-year students to undergraduate research, according to Colin Shaw, MSU assistant research professor of Earth sciences and director of the Undergraduate Scholars Program, which is developing the new initiative.

"There is evidence that early engagement in research increases the likelihood that students will stay in school during the critical early years," Shaw said. "This is accomplished by involving students in the research mission of the university, providing a sense of connection to faculty and peers, and demonstrating the real-world relevance of academic pursuits."

As part of FYRE, students will complete a one-credit course that introduces basic research skills as well as the research culture at MSU. Students will also work as a laboratory or research assistant and receive mentoring, and they will participate in a semi-weekly seminar focused on research concepts and skills. [Read More](#)

**Dec 10, 2014**

**NEW YORK)** - Congress is seeking to increase funding to the National Institutes of Health by \$150 million for a total of \$30.3 billion as part of its fiscal year 2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill released on Tuesday. The bill provides more than \$1.013 trillion in total funding to the federal government for fiscal 2015, which began on Oct. 1 and provides funding for all of the federal agencies and departments, except the Department of Homeland Security, which is being funded under a temporary Continuing Resolution.

The \$30.3 billion to NIH is part of a total of \$156.8 billion in discretionary funding for the US departments of Labor, Health, and Human Services and Education. The \$156.8 billion was \$926 million less than what President Obama requested and is flat with the fiscal 2014 funding level.

Despite the \$150 million funding increase to the NIH, Carrie Wolinetz, president of United for Medical Research, said more is needed.

"Congress has missed a major opportunity to fund advances in science and medicine that improve our nation's health and economic outlook, with nearly flat funding for the National Institutes of Health in its FY15 omnibus bill," she said in a statement. "With millions of deaths annually from disease, millions more receiving devastating diagnoses every day, and a decade of declining funding slowing the progress of scientists in research labs across the country, we call on Congress to renew its effort to fund vital medical research supported by NIH."

UMR is a group comprising a variety of research institutions and organizations, including the American Association for Cancer Research, the American Heart Association, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, and Washington University in St. Louis. Its goal is to increase funding to NIH.

"Sustained increases to the NIH budget are necessary to close our nation's innovation deficit - the widening gap between the current medical research funding levels and the investment required to ensure the US remains the world's innovation leader," Wolinetz added.

The NIH funding will continue basic biomedical research and translational research through programs such as the Clinical and Translational Science Awards and Institutional Development Award, the office of Rep. Hal Rogers (R-Ky), chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said in a statement. It also includes specific increases in funding targeted to Alzheimer's disease, cancer, and brain research.

The NIH amount also includes \$28 million for Ebola-related research. A total of \$2.7 billion in emergency funding for the Ebola crisis is targeted by the bill to Labor-HHS-Education.

Aside from NIH, the Omnibus bill includes \$3.6 billion for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and \$6.9 billion to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including \$30 million to support the Advanced Molecular Detection program to detect and stop deadly infectious disease outbreaks.

## EMPLOYMENT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**The Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology** is accepting proposals for funding. Proposals are due March 2, 2015. The Request for Proposals can be found on the MBRCT website at <http://businessresources.mt.gov/content/MBRCT/2016Guidelines.pdf>.

If you have any questions regarding the RFP, please contact Dave Desch, Executive Director (406) 841-2760.

### **Takeda Job Openings:**

<http://takedajobs.com/bozeman/research-and-development/>

#### **Senior Specialist, GMP Quality Assurance**

<http://takedajobs.com/bozeman/research-and-development/jobid6605318-senior-specialist-gmp-quality-assurance-vaccine-business-unit-jobs>

#### **Scientist III / Senior Scientist I - Formulation**

[http://takedajobs.com/bozeman/operations/jobid5515991-scientist-iii\\_senior-scientist-i-formulation-vaccine-business-unit-\(bozeman-montana\)-jobs](http://takedajobs.com/bozeman/operations/jobid5515991-scientist-iii_senior-scientist-i-formulation-vaccine-business-unit-(bozeman-montana)-jobs)

#### **Research Associate II - Formulation**

[http://takedajobs.com/bozeman/operations/jobid5515990-research-associate-ii-formulation-vaccine-business-unit-\(bozeman-montana\)-jobs](http://takedajobs.com/bozeman/operations/jobid5515990-research-associate-ii-formulation-vaccine-business-unit-(bozeman-montana)-jobs)

### **Careers at Bacterin:**

To apply please visit <http://bacterin.com/contact/career-opportunities/> and fill out an application.

#### **Production and Facilities Support Technician I**

Summary:

Biomedical Company seeking a qualified individual to join our team. Prior biomedical experience is not required.

Job Responsibilities:

- Maintain all structures, internal and external, in an acceptable working condition and in accordance with all applicable regulatory agency requirements.
- Keep maintenance and facility work area organized and clean.
- Maintain grounds and external facilities in professional manner, including yard, outside area maintenance and snow removal.
- Complete facility improvements as directed including facility layout, facility changes, repairs and maintenance.
- Work with in-house and outside engineering and facility-related vendors and contractors as required.

- Must maintain and keep current all facilities and applicable equipment scheduled maintenance, logs, calibration, and documentation as directed.
- Repair and maintain instruments and equipment as scheduled and assigned.
- Organize instrument and equipment spare parts and disposables as needed.
- Must provide scheduled reports to management on all facilities activities.

#### Qualifications:

- Must be able to reason independently and work with minimal guidance.
- Must be able to adapt to quickly changing priorities and schedules.
- Ability to lift 60 lbs. and stand for long periods of time.
- Basic knowledge and experience in building, engineering, janitorial trades including but not limited to basic carpentry, plumbing, electrical, and flooring, roofing, etc. preferred but not required.

#### Educational Requirements:

- High School Diploma or equivalent

Note: This Job Description is not designed to include a detailed listing of the activities, duties or responsibilities that may be required of the employee.

## MBRCT



**Dozens of research grants that are funded every year by a little-known state agency have produced significant economic benefits for Montana, according to a study conducted by the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research.**

The operations of the Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology have produced significant impacts on Montana's economy, including more jobs, higher household incomes and larger tax revenues, according to the report.

Based in Helena, the board is administered by the Montana Department of Commerce. The agency hands out

research grants every year to projects that have the potential to make Montana more competitive in the global marketplace. [Read More](#)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Sharon Peterson represented the Montana BioScience Alliance at the Council of State Bioscience Association meeting in New Orleans December 2 - 4. Representatives were there from 45 states and Puerto Rico. Sessions were held on the value of Medical Innovation, Economic Development Messaging, and the BIO International Convention among others.

**Looking forward to the BIO International Convention June 16-18, 2015 in Philadelphia. Plan to join us.**

**Montana BioScience Alliance members presented to the MMA Physician Leadership Effectiveness Program on November 21 in Bozeman.** Participating were: Rebecca Mahurin, Director Technology Transfer, MSU, Don Beeman, Innovation and Technology Key Industry Network Co-Chair and Michael Mansfield, Product Manager, Bacterin International. Thanks to the Montana Medical Association for the opportunity.

**Poster Session at the Capital on February 10, 2015 promises to be an educational event and a chance to show our Legislators the important research happening in Montana. Plan to join us and network.**

**Governor Bullock Releases Budget That Builds on State's Fiscal Strength While Supporting Job Creation, Educational Opportunities, and Access to Health Care**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR STATE OF MONTANA FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 17, 2014  
CONTACTS:

**Dave Parker, Communications Director, Governor's Office, (406) 444-9844**

**Mike Wessler, Deputy Communications Director, Governor's Office, (406) 444-9725**

**HELENA - Today, Governor Steve Bullock released his budget proposal for the 2017 biennium. The proposal aims to build on and maintain the state's fiscal strength, while making common sense investments that will allow the state's economy to continue to grow. In his proposal, Bullock encourages the Legislature to follow his lead as they construct a budget for consideration, by:**

- 1. Leaving a \$300 million ending fund balance on June 30, 2017, that will ensure that state is prepared to weather any rainy day.**
- 2. Ensuring the state budget is structurally balanced, ensuring we are not spending more than we are taking in.**
- 3. Making fiscally prudent and sustainable investments to benefit Montanans for generations-well beyond the tenure of any given governor or legislator.**

**"The budget is a reflection of the values of our state. Montanans recognize that our state is outperforming the nation, and we can continue this through responsible fiscal management and thoughtful investments in priorities like jobs, education, healthcare and infrastructure," Bullock said. "The budget proposal I've presented to the legislature today provides a steady vision for Montana's future that will ensure our state continues to thrive." □ \$300 million in grants and bonds for infrastructure, including \$45 million in grants.**

**Governor Bullock's budget proposal is available at:  
<http://budget.mt.gov/excbudgets.aspx>**



## EVENT'S CALENDAR

**SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2015**  
**POSTER SESSION with MBRCT and MONTANA BIOSCIENCE**  
**ALLIANCE, Capitol Rotunda - 11:00 am.**  
**Legislative Reception 5:00 pm**  
**Great Northern Hotel, Helena**



[More Information](#)

**LIFE SCIENCE INNOVATION NORTHWEST MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**  
**June 30 & July 1, 2015 | Washington State Convention Center, Seattle**  
**North America's Largest Fully-Integrated Life Science Exposition**

Life Science Innovation Northwest is dedicated to bringing together world-class innovators in biopharma, medical technology, non-profits, research, global health, digital health, biofuels and veterinary medicine. Public and private investors, investment bankers and industry executives focused on business development and partnering opportunities in life sciences find Life Science Innovation Northwest one of the most productive conferences they attend. [Read More](#)



**Arizona \* Colorado \* Montana \* New Mexico \* Utah**  
**Opening Night Reception - September 23**  
**Full Day Conference - September 24**  
**Vail Marriott**

See the future of healthcare-and your role in shaping it-at the 4th Biennial Rocky Mountain Life Science Investor and Partnering Conference. We're bringing together leading investors, emerging companies and senior executives to cultivate partnerships within our industry. [Read More](#)

## CLASSIFIEDS

**BioBusiness Solutions Updates:** New BioBusiness Program - Clean Harbors BIO  
BIO has partnered with Clean Harbors, one of the largest environmental services companies in North America. Clean Harbors manages waste recycling and disposal for almost all waste streams, planned environmental and industrial services as well as Emergency Response Services. Clean Harbors has offices throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. [Read More](#)

BioBusiness Solutions Updates: What's Hot & What's Not in Oncology Licensing  
BIO

This white paper is based on a live web panel, hosted by ShareVault and the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), discussing what's exciting in cancer drug development versus what is not popular in licensing, and why. [Read More](#)

### **BIO Business Solutions - Delivering savings to biotech companies**

Thousands of biotech and related companies nationwide save money every day on essential products and services through an excellent cost-savings program offered by the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), the international organization that represents the biotechnology industry.

Through its partnership with BIO, Montana Bio offers its members the opportunity to take advantage of several of the organization's BIO Business Solutions programs. These include:

- \* Laboratory supplies, equipment and chemicals from VWR
- \* Select shipping services from FedEx
- \* Office supplies, furniture and equipment from Office Depot
- \* News distribution services from Business Wire
- \* [Business insurance](#) (clinical trials, product, property & casualty) from the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies
- \* Packaged (cylinder) mini-bulk and bulk gasses from Linde
- \* Pre-owned laboratory equipment from BioSurplus
- \* Secure document sharing and virtual data from ShareVault
- \* [Moving and relocation](#) services from Humboldt
- \* Publications and Databases from Informa

For more information on these excellent cost-savings programs, please visit <http://www3.bio.org/bbs/montana/>



***The Montana Bioscience Alliance serves as a hub for Montana's biotechnology companies, entrepreneurs, laboratories, hospitals, clinics and universities to commercialize, grow and sustain globally competitive bioscience companies -- ultimately to create high-quality jobs and economic opportunity in Montana.***

Sharon Peterson  
Executive Director  
Montana BioScience Alliance  
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