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HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND WELCOME TO OUR
WINTER NEWSLETTER FROM THE MONTANA
BIOSCIENCE ALLIANCE



Welcome to New Member
Totem Biosciences
Hamilton, Montana

MEMBER NEWS

HELENA - Governor Steve Bullock announced today \$387,845 in grants to help businesses in 10 Montana communities create 46 new jobs and plan for future expansions.

"Montana's economy is strong and we are seeing great opportunities for businesses to grow and expand all across the state," said Governor Bullock. "Continued investment in our growing economy helps businesses in communities across Montana to create more jobs, train new employees, and grow business under the Big Sky." The funds are being awarded through the Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund (BSTF) and Primary Sector Workforce Training Grant (WTG) programs.

Hamilton is one of the 10 communities where BSTF and WTG funds are growing the economy through area businesses.

Totem BioSciences, LLC, received a \$24,840 BSTF Planning grant through Ravalli County Economic Development Authority to assist with a product development plan.

Totem BioSciences develops innovative products for research scientists, veterinarians and the livestock industry. The company has been in business for 32 months and, pending successful operations, it may become a significant job creator for Ravalli County.

The product development plan will help to move Totem BioSciences' new drug for the treatment of bovine scours toward commercialization. As a leading cause of financial loss to U.S. cow/calf producers, scours is a syndrome affecting young calves. [Read More](#)

GeneSearch (Bozeman) has reached an important milestone in the design of its embryo manipulation platform. The company has created a simple, user-friendly version of its device that is targeted for use in ICSI (intra-cytoplasmic sperm injections) procedures in all mammals. The company has found initial partnerships with reproductive specialists in horses but is seeking collaboration with human reproductive experts. Inquiries and introductions can be made through the company's website or to paul@gensearchinc.com.

McLaughlin earns award from science teachers

Special to the Tribune 5:40 p.m. MDT November 3, 2016

McLaughlin Research Institute has received the 2016 award from the Montana Science Teachers Association for distinguished service to Montana science. The award was announced at the association's annual meeting last week in Helena.

"I cannot think of a more worthy recipient of MSTA's award for dedication and support of science education and promoting student careers in science," said Tom Cubbage, president of the Montana Science Teachers Association.

The association gives the award every four years to an institution that has benefited science education.

"We're grateful for this recognition from the Montana Science Teachers," McLaughlin Director George Carlson said. "We've had such a long partnership with the Great Falls Public Schools and with schools around the state, providing research internships for both students and teachers."

Education has been part of the mission of McLaughlin Research Institute since its beginnings in the 1950s. The first student intern was Irv Weissman, who is now the professor of Pathology and Developmental Biology at Stanford University, where he is also the director of the Institute of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine. Since that first student, more than 100 students have spent at least one summer at the institute doing research and learning about research as a career option. Many of these students have later pursued careers in research and in medicine. Weissman has called McLaughlin's education program one of the best in the nation. [Read More](#)

McLaughlin Research Institute Hires New Director

McLaughlin Research Institute has named Mike Kavanaugh, Ph.D, Director of the Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience at the University of Montana, as its new director. Dr. Kavanaugh will replace outgoing director George Carlson in December.

According to longtime member of McLaughlin's Scientific Advisory Committee Dr. Leroy Hood, "Mike Kavanaugh's scientific expertise, energy, and desire will make for a powerful leader of this long-historied Montana science institution."

Dr. Kavanaugh has had a long relationship with MRI. His Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience has worked as a partner with McLaughlin over many years. He attends annual science workshops at MRI and has presented his own research there.

"I've known him for ages" said George Carlson. "I think he'll be excellent." Dr. Carlson explained that Dr. Kavanaugh studies the electrical signals between neurons, which is a very important aspect of any neurological disease. "His work with electrophysiology, which records neuron activity in the brain, brings a new strength to the Institute," he said.

Dr. Kavanaugh's research is focused on expanding the understanding of signaling processes in both healthy and diseased brains, with the goal of providing new approaches to treat neurodegenerative diseases, stroke, and brain injury.

"I see the addition of my work to the Institute as expanding on the research that has been going on there for a long time," Dr. Kavanaugh said.

"I want to say how happy I am to be joining the McLaughlin Research Institute as director," he said, "and how grateful I am to George Carlson for his stewardship over the past 28 years. He set a high standard of scientific rigor at MRI, and maintaining that is my top priority for the future. Next is making sure that the very talented scientists and staff of the Institute have the resources necessary to fulfill our research mission. This is an extraordinary time in the history of brain research - advances in neurophysiology, imaging, and genetics are providing scientists and physicians with exciting new tools and approaches to understand and cure neurological diseases." [Read More](#)



October 4, 2016 Andreas Scherer: Transforming Thoughts into Reality

Running a business is a complex endeavor. For a company to succeed, a lot of things have to come together. And a CEO is responsible to put all the parts in the right place at the right time. The right product

mix, market message, sales execution and should be maintain an excellent grip on cash flow are just a few of the complexities.

Insight Magazine Article Golden Helix [Read More](#)

News from the Montana Health Care Foundation

MHCF, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, and the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, partnered to support a new project that will provide earlier diagnosis and treatment of substance misuse in Montana youth and adults. Called "Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment," or "SBIRT," the approach helps primary care doctors and other providers identify and begin addressing risky alcohol and drug use early-on. [Read More](#)

UNIVERSITY NEWS

MSU and Crow Nation partner to address chronic illness using cultural strengths

November 21, 2016 -- By Michael Becker for the MSU News Service

BOZEMAN - A 20-year partnership between Montana State University and members of the Crow Nation recently received a grant to improve chronic illness management.

The five-year grant from the [National Institutes of Health](#) will fund the Báa nnilah Project, which is a collaboration between MSU and the nonprofit Messengers for Health in Crow Agency. The project will work with members of the Apsáalooke (Crow) Nation in southeast Montana.

"In Montana, there's a 15-year mean life expectancy difference between whites and Native Americans," said [Suzanne Held](#), community health professor in the [College of Education, Health and Human Development](#) and the MSU lead on the project.

That means Native Americans with heart or kidney disease, diabetes or cardiovascular disease, for example, die younger than whites with the same maladies. [Read More](#)

New biotech company forms at University of Montana business incubator

DAVID ERICKSON david.erickson@missoulian.com

Updated Nov 4, 2016

Two dozen good-paying scientific research jobs almost left western Montana for Maryland last year - but they ended up here in Missoula thanks to an innovative partnership with the University of Montana.

GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines, a giant pharmaceutical company with an office in Hamilton, announced in February 2015 that it was consolidating its research and development operations to Maryland. Employees were faced with the choice of retiring, applying for new jobs on the East Coast, or figuring out a different option. None of them wanted to uproot their families and leave. So, they reached out to UM and chose to stay here, and the result is the formation of a new biotechnology company in Missoula called Inimmune Corp. that currently employs 22 workers in high-wage jobs, with plans to hire three more by year's end.

The University of Montana played a crucial role in allowing them to stay because it could provide the necessary laboratory space and infrastructure capable of supporting a large multidisciplinary research program.

There was also a big dangling carrot: The scientists from the Bitterroot already had more than \$20 million in scientific equipment and research contracts from the National Institutes of Health that they could transfer to UM. It was a win-win situation.

Through the public/private partnership, UM hired 15 employees from the GSK-Hamilton research team, including five new faculty members. The company is now housed at the Montana Technology Enterprise Center on East Broadway, with plans to expand to the main campus next spring. Now, the company is expanding and one of its immuno-oncology drugs is scheduled to go to clinical trials soon.

On Tuesday, officials from Inimmune met with Gov. Steve Bullock and UM President Royce Engstrom for a tour of the facility and a discussion about how the state's economy is affected by connections between UM researchers and entrepreneurs.

Jay Evans, the president and CEO of Inimmune, said it took a year of discussions and negotiations to put the agreements in place for UM to hire the researchers.

[Read More](#)

October 24, 2016

MISSOULA - The University of Montana hosted an officer from the United States Public Health Service and a leader in systems biology development on Monday, Oct. 31, and Tuesday, Nov. 1, in the University Center Theater.

Helena Mishoe, assistant surgeon general and rear admiral in the PHS Commissioned Corps, presented her seminar "Biomedical Research and Innovation: Improves Lives and Changes Policy" from noon to 1 p.m. Monday.

Leroy Hood, president and co-founder of the Institute for Systems Biology, presented his community lecture "Scientific Wellness Will Transform Healthcare: A Personal Journey" at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday. Earlier that day, and led a seminar, "Systems Medicine and Proactive P4 Medicine: Technologies and Systems Drive Strategies Enabling Data Driven Medicine," from 1 to 1:50 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 106. [Read More](#)

Helena Mishoe



UM Faculty Member Publishes, Receives Grant for Biomedical Research November 09, 2016

MISSOULA - Kasper Hansen, an assistant professor in the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Montana, recently received a five-year, \$1.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for his research. Hansen is a Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence investigator in UM's Center for Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics. His research focuses on N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptors in the central nervous system, which are critically involved in neuronal development, sensory processing, memory and learning.

Aberrant activity of these receptors is strongly associated with numerous neurological and psychiatric disorders, including depression, schizophrenia, epilepsy and traumatic brain injury, as well as Parkinson's, Huntington's and Alzheimer's diseases. [Read More](#)

Industry News

IniSUAREY

President Obama Signs 21st Century Cures Act Into Law Wednesday, December 21, 2016

On December 13, 2016, President Barack Obama signed H.R. 34, the *21st Century Cures Act (the Act)*, into law. This sweeping healthcare law addresses the discovery, development and delivery of new drugs and medical treatments; it also includes substantial mental health reforms and assorted Medicare- and Medicaid-related provisions.

The law is a product of the bipartisan 21st Century Cures Initiative, spearheaded by US House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO). The Initiative held various events and authored policy papers on topics such as innovating public health agencies, incorporating patient perspectives into the regulatory process, and improving medicine and medical product regulation. The House passed a first version of the bill in July 2015.

[Read More](#)



Ensuring the 21st Century Cures Act Ends Alzheimer's

The Hill By Ann Lam, Ph.D., and Kristie Sullivan, M.P.H. - 12/19/16 01:00 PM EST

We are now one step closer to ... [unlocking cures for diseases like Alzheimer's](#)," President Barack Obama said of the 21st Century Cures Act, which he signed into law this week. But to unlock a cure for Alzheimer's disease, we first have to take steps to avoid recent failures like [Eli Lilly's anti-amyloid Alzheimer's disease treatment](#) , solanezumab, an all-to-common disappointment to the medical, scientific, and patient community who follow Alzheimer's drug development.
[Read More](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, Dec. 9, 2016

MEDIA AVAILABILITY

NIH Scientists Develop New Mouse Model to Study Salmonella Meningitis

WHAT:

National Institutes of Health (NIH) scientists have established in mice a way to study potentially life-threatening meningitis caused by *Salmonella*. Bacterial meningitis happens when bacteria infect the central nervous system (CNS), causing a serious disease that can be life-threatening and difficult to diagnose and treat. Patients who survive often have permanent brain damage.

This fluorescent micrograph shows detection of *Salmonella* (red) in macrophages (green) and other immune cells in the ventricles of the brain of a mouse orally fed *Salmonella*. *Salmonella*-infected areas were associated with an increase of cells (blue nucleus) in the ventricles and meninges of the brain, a hallmark of bacterial meningitis.

Credit: NIAID

Salmonella Typhimurium is one of the most common causes of food-borne disease in the United States and often causes a self-limiting gastrointestinal (GI) infection. However, in people with impaired immune responses, *Salmonella* Typhimurium can cause severe systemic infections, spreading through the blood to other organs. In some cases, the bacteria spread to the CNS, causing meningitis. People at risk include the very young and the elderly, people with advanced HIV/AIDS, and those with sickle cell disease. *Salmonella* meningitis, which was rare globally, is now one of the most common forms of bacterial meningitis in parts of Africa and has a high case fatality rate. Researchers at NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) infected mice orally with *Salmonella* Typhimurium to mimic food-borne infection. They found that *Salmonella* moved from the GI tract to the blood and then to the brain, resulting in meningitis. Damage observed in the brains of *Salmonella*-infected mice resembled that observed with human meningitis, providing a new model for investigators to study human disease.

Collaborators include *Salmonella* and neuroimmunology experts at NIAID's Rocky Mountain Laboratories and biologists at the University of Colorado. They plan to use the model to determine how *Salmonella* Typhimurium infects and causes damage in the brain, including which immune cells are involved. They also will use the model to study potential treatments to prevent *Salmonella* from gaining access to the CNS or limiting the damage during meningitis.

Employment and Funding Opportunities

The Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology is accepting proposals for funding. Proposals are due March 1, 2017. The Request for Proposals can be found on the MBRCT website at <http://businessresources.mt.gov/Portals/94/shared/MBRCT/docs/RequestforProposal.pdf>.

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

Golden Helix is hiring a Sales Area Director
[Golden Helix Sales Area Director Opportunity](#)

Montana Healthcare Foundation is growing and we are **hiring for two new positions!** Click on the links below to view job descriptions and applicant qualifications:

1. [Program Associate](#)
2. [Office Administrator](#)

3. If you or someone you know is interested in applying, please contact Ted Madden at ted.madden@mthcf.org.

Announcing the ITHS Network Navigator Opportunity
[Network Navigator Program ITHS](#)

The Translational Research Scholars Program (formerly known as the Rising Stars Program) is a faculty career-development program that provides promising early stage investigators from the WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, **Montana**, and Idaho) region with a high-quality, targeted and structured career development package for one year. The package includes components such as research funding up to \$10,000, mentoring, peer-to-peer feedback and expert review services.

Application Opens: December 7, 2016 Application Deadline: February 17, 2017 @ 11:59pm
[Information Here](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The Montana BioScience Alliance along with Bioindustry Associations from across the Rocky Mountain and Southwest Region came together to present an opportunity for Angels, Venture Capitalists and Strategic Investors to connect with the best biotech and healthcare investment opportunities from across the Rocky Mountain & Southwest states at **White Hat Investors 2016** in Phoenix, Arizona on September 21 & 22, 2016. Andreas Scherer from Golden Helix, Bozeman, participated and presented at the conference. Arizona Governor, Doug Ducey, spoke at the awards banquet.

Sharon Peterson attended the Cavendish Global Conference in Phoenix prior to the White Hat Investor Conference. <http://cavendishglobal.com/2016-phoenix>

Sharon Peterson represented Montana at the Council of State Bioscience Associations in Nashville Tennessee on Nov. 29, 30 and December 1. Discussion at the meeting celebrated the passing of the 21st Century Cures Act and how that would affect the Biotechnology Industry. Sharon has been appointed to the CSBA board representing the western area.

Members of the Montana BioScience Alliance and U of M faculty attended the LeRoy Hood , president and co-founder of the Institute for Systems Biology, community lecture "Scientific Wellness Will Transform Healthcare: A Personal Journey" on November 1. And a seminar, "Systems Medicine and Proactive P4 Medicine: Technologies and Systems Drive Strategies Enabling Data Driven Medicine. As usual Dr. Hood was fascinating and we hope to hear him more in the future.

Ron Zook participated in the Montana University System Research Tour - September 2016 The tour featured the projects that were funded by the 2015 Legislature. More about the projects: [Read more](#)

We are looking forward to meeting in Helena on February 7th, the BIO International Convention in June and other events.

We are most grateful to John Rogers, Governor's Office of Economic Development for his years of support and encouragement as he leaves the office. We wish John well in future endeavors.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Cell Plasticity within the Tumor Microenvironment (A1)

Scientific Organizers: Sergei Grivennikov, Florian R. Greten and Mikala Egeblad
January 8-12, 2017

Big Sky Resort, Big Sky, Montana, USA
Sponsored by Journal of Molecular Cell Biology (JMCB) and Roche
[More Information](#)

**Save the Date - February 7th 2017 - Montana BioScience Alliance Capital for a day -
Helena, Mt.
More information TBA**

**Plan Now to join the Montana BioScience Alliance at BIO 2017
Montana BioScience Alliance will have a booth**



BIO Returns to the Birthplace of Biotechnology in 2017 Save the Dates: June 19-22, 2017 | San Diego, CA

Location: San Diego Convention Center; 111 W Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 92101

The Golden State is the home of many firsts for the life sciences sector - the first biotechnology company, the first biotechnology public offering, the first biotechnology drug approved by the FDA, the first companion diagnostic company and the first agricultural biotechnology company - just to name a few.

[More Information](#)

**Save the Date as the Rocky Mountain Life Science Investor & Partnering
Conference returns in 2017 to Vail, CO!**

October 2 - Conference Arrival and Opening Reception

October 3 - All Day Conference and Partnering

**Registration and Presenting company applications open early 2017 - stay tuned for more details.
We're bringing together leading investors, emerging companies and senior executives to cultivate
partnerships within our industry.**

The Rocky Mountain region is the largest and most advanced area between both coasts

[More information](#)

CLASSIFIEDS



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 BioScience Alliance offers its members the opportunity to take advantage of several of the organization's BIO Business Solutions programs. These include:

* [Business insurance](#) (clinical trials, product, property & casualty) from the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies

* [Packaged & Bulk Gases from AIRGAS](#)

* [Secure Document](#) sharing and virtual data from ShareVault

* [Moving and relocation](#) services from Humboldt

* [Laboratory Supplies, Equipment and Chemicals](#) from VWR

* [Risk Solutions, Executive Liability Insurance](#) from AON

* [Office Supplies, Furniture, Equipment and Technology Products/Design, Print and Ship Services](#) from Office Depot

* [Environmental Services](#) Environmental Services from Clean Harbors

* [Shipping Services and Deep Frozen Shipping Solutions from FedEx](#)

* [Workwear Services from UniFirst](#)

- * [Cleanroom Services from UniClean](#)
- * [News and Business Information](#) and Multi Media Distribution from Business Wire
- * [Nikon Research Grade Microscope Systems](#)

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



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
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