

BioScience
Under
the
Big Sky
Fall Newsletter



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NEW MEMBERS

Welcome

**Cynthia Tsai
Healthquest
Helena, MT**

**Sheri Nelson
PhRMA
Olympia, WA**



Montana BioScience Alliance's
2017 Directory,
[Click Here!](#)

MEMBER NEWS

Set for growth: UM-based biotech firm looks to slow age-related skin diseases

By Martin Kidston November 15, 2017

Cofounders of DermaXon, Fanny Astruc-Diaz, left, and Philippe Diaz, have submitted a state grant to grow their upstart biotech company.



An upstart biotech company with ties to the University of Montana got a boost Wednesday from Missoula County, with commissioners approving a state grant application to fund seven new jobs, including the company's first CEO.

DermaXon, based in Missoula, looks to slow the biological mechanisms behind aging and prevent the onset of age-related skin disease. It's research at UM includes the biology of skin and diseases associated with aging.

"They developed a new treatment, especially for acne, and they're almost ready to start clinical trials," said Nicole Rush, grants manager at the Missoula Economic Partnership. "They recently secured a contract with Rodan + Fields for the Proactiv Solution treatment. They have some exciting prospects." [Read More](#)

MICROBION CORPORATION

Quark Venture and GF Securities Invest US \$25 Million in Microbion to Advance a New Class of Drugs that Combat Antibiotic-Resistant Infections

Vancouver, British Columbia and Bozeman, Montana, January 5, 2017 - Today Quark Venture Inc., a Vancouver-based health sciences venture capital company and GF Securities, a leading investment bank in Hong Kong, announced a US\$25 million investment in Microbion Corporation through its Global Health Sciences Venture Fund. Microbion, co-located in Vancouver, BC and Bozeman, MT, is a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company specializing in the treatment of hard to treat and antibiotic-resistant infections. Microbion's lead compound, MBN-101, is the first in a new class of products to treat infections by attacking both bacteria and related microbial biofilms.

[Read More](#)

SITEONE THERAPEUTICS

U.S. Department of Defense Awards Grant to SiteOne Therapeutics, Supporting Research and Development of Selective Small Molecule NaV1.7 Inhibitors as Acute and Chronic Pain Therapeutics.

\$1 Million Research Grant Helps Advance Existing Research and Development Partnership with

Amgen.

BOZEMAN, MT - November 7, 2017

The U.S. Dept. of Defense is supporting SiteOne Therapeutics in the effort to develop the company's proprietary, highly selective small molecule Nav1.7 inhibitors for the treatment of acute and chronic pain. [Read More](#)

MONTANA MOLECULAR

A mystery about hormone regulation in pancreatic islet cells is solved with cADDIs! Researchers at University of Miami made good use of Montana Molecular's cADDIs assay for cAMP to study how islet cells respond to glucose.

This elegant article in Cell Reports authored by Joana Almaça and her colleagues at the University of Miami describes how cAMP signals were captured in live human pancreatic islet cells using cADDIs, one of Montana Molecular's suite of fluorescent biosensor assays for cell signaling. A key feature of fluorescent biosensors is that they can be easily deployed in live primary cultures of cells, such as human pancreatic islets, providing insight into the hidden mechanisms of disease. [Read More](#)

NANOVALENT PHARMACEUTICALS

Announces Exclusive Global Licensing Agreement with Children's Hospital Los Angeles and Completion of First Wave of Financing - NanoValent Pharmaceuticals and Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) Sign Exclusive Licensing Agreement --- Initial Wave of Financing Places Company in Position to Initiate Investigational New Drug (IND) and Biologics Licensing Application (BLA) Studies.

Los Angeles, CA (PRWEB) October 10, 2017

NanoValent Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a development-stage cancer-focused pharmaceutical company advancing targeted antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) therapeutics, today confirmed licensing rights that give it exclusive global access to all uses of targeted HPLN (Hybrid Polymerized Liposomal Nanoparticle), a technology developed in collaboration with Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA). Additionally, an initial wave of financing from management and angel investors has placed the company in position to engage commercial manufacturers in preparation for Investigational New Drug (IND) / Biologics Licensing Application (BLA) preclinical studies. [Read More](#)

Xtant Medical Announces Consolidation of Fixation Operations to Montana and Closure of Dayton Facility-Expected approximate \$2 million savings when implemented

BELGRADE, Mont., Oct. 06, 2017 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – Xtant Medical Holdings, Inc. (NYSE American:XTNT), a leader in the development of regenerative medicine products and medical devices, today announced the closure of its Dayton, Ohio facility and the transitioning of its fixation operations to the Company's headquarters in Belgrade, Montana. This decision will allow the Company to align operations with the current and future needs of its customers, and recognize cost-savings by consolidating facilities and reducing duplicative resources. [Read More](#)

Xtant Medical Enters into a Distribution Agreement with curasan, Inc. Bringing Matriform™ to Market

BELGRADE, Mont., Nov. 01, 2017 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – Xtant Medical Holdings, Inc. (NYSE American:XTNT), a leader in the development of regenerative medicine products and medical devices, today announced it has entered into a distribution agreement with curasan, Inc. adding a premium line of synthetic scaffolds to its biologics portfolio.

MONTANA / UNIVERSITY NEWS

Montana Tech Holding Bone Marrow Drive

The Student Nurses Association and Pre Professional Health Club will be holding their first Bone Marrow Drive on Friday, November 17th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Student Union Building on campus. They have partnered with DKMS to help register donors and save lives by deleting blood cancer and 70 other serious illnesses of the blood. Registration takes only a few minutes, along with swabbing your cheek.

An eligible donor must be between the ages of 18-55. If you are an active part of the military, please sign up through the Department of Defense. Homemade treats will be provided to those who register, so come sign up and become a hero today! For further information please visit. [Read More](#)

UM Lands \$1.8 M Grant to Integrate Behavioral Health Services into Primary Care September 25, 2017

MISSOULA

A team of collaborators from the University of Montana and Montana State University recently were awarded a \$1.8 million grant, which will be used over four years, to enhance the ability of agencies throughout western Montana to meet the behavioral health needs of their clients, while simultaneously developing a workforce of providers trained in interdisciplinary settings. [Read More](#)

Kopriva lecture on interactions between bacterial biofilms and human macrophages set for Nov. 9



BOZEMAN – A free public lecture about the metabolic dysregulation of macrophage immune cells and the impacts on human health was given on Thursday, Nov. 9, at Montana State University.

Amanda Fuchs, a doctoral candidate in MSU's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry in the College of Letters and Science and the recipient of a Kopriva Graduate Fellowship, will present "Metabolic

Reprogramming of Human Macrophages upon Exposure to *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Biofilms" at 3:10 p.m. in the Byker Auditorium in MSU's Chemistry and Biochemistry Building. A reception will follow.

Fuchs investigates the interactions between bacterial biofilms and human macrophages, a type of white blood cell found in most bodily tissues. Bacterial biofilms consist of densely packed communities of microbial cells that grow on living or inert surfaces. Biofilms are more resistant to antibiotic treatment and are known to evade the immune system.

[Read More](#)

MSU researchers help EPA with first ever biofilm product standards.

by Marshall Swearingen, MSU News Service November 8, 2017



Albert Parker, biostatistician with the Center for Biofilm Engineering at Montana State University, left, and Darla Goeres, assistant professor of chemical and biological engineering at MSU, have collaborated with the Environmental Protection Agency to develop the first antimicrobial testing standards specifically for biofilm bacteria. MSU Photo by Adrian Sanchez-Gonzalez.

BOZEMAN - More than a decade of work by Montana State University researchers will soon help hospitals and other consumers select disinfectants that are effective against a wider range of

bacteria. The Center for Biofilm Engineering performed collaborative research with the EPA to develop biofilm-specific disinfectant testing procedures that will aid hospitals and other consumers. [Read More](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

AMGEN

Thousand Oaks, Calif., Oct. 5, 2017 /PRNewswire/ – Amgen (NASDAQ:AMGN) today announced that the Journal of Clinical Oncology has published positive results from the IMLYGIC® (talimogene laherparepvec) Phase 2 '264 study.

Melanoma is one of the most dangerous types of skin cancers, especially when it spreads to other parts of the body. The study showed that responses occurred in both injected and uninjected lesions, including visceral lesions, demonstrating a systemic anti-tumor response. Thirty-one (32 percent) and 22 (22 percent) of the patients were shown to have visceral disease at baseline in the combination and ipilimumab arms, respectively. [Read More](#)

Shodairs Children's Hospital

Genetics News

Here is a great article about the needs for genetic counselors:

Erika Stallings' mom was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 28. When it came back in her early 40s, her physicians started looking for clues.

"That's when the doctors realized there may be something genetic going on, and that's when she was tested, and found out she was a carrier for BRCA2," says Stallings.

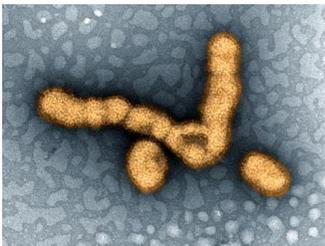
BRCA1 and BRCA2 are genes. Carrying a mutated BRCA gene increases a person's risk for developing certain cancers, including breast and ovarian cancer.

[Read More](#)



Experts Outline Pathway to a Universal Influenza Vaccine NIH-Led Meeting Identifies Knowledge Gaps, Development goals

October 17, 2017



Scientists and clinicians from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, and the California Institute of Technology discuss key considerations for developing a universal influenza vaccine in a meeting report appearing in the October 17 issue of *Immunity*. The report summarizes discussions from a workshop NIAID held June 28-29, 2017, in Rockville,

Maryland, entitled, "Pathway to a Universal Influenza Vaccine." The workshop brought together U.S. and international experts from academia, industry and government to identify knowledge gaps in influenza research and to set goals to fill these knowledge gaps. NIAID will use the report to develop a strategic plan and research agenda aimed at the development of a universal influenza vaccine.

[Read More](#)

Shingrix approved in the US for prevention of shingles in adults aged 50 and over

Pooled clinical trial results showed > 90 percent efficacy across all age groups

Issued: London UK



GlaxoSmithKline plc [LSE/NYSE: GSK] today announced that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Shingrix (Zoster Vaccine Recombinant, Adjuvanted) for the prevention of shingles (herpes zoster) in adults aged 50 years and older. Shingrix is a non-live, recombinant subunit vaccine given intramuscularly in two doses.

Dr. Thomas Breuer, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of GSK Vaccines said: "Shingrix represents a significant scientific advancement in the field of vaccinology. The vaccine has shown over 90% efficacy across all age groups in the prevention of shingles, a painful and potentially serious disease that affects 1 in 3 people in the United States.¹ The risk and severity of shingles increases with age as the immune system loses the ability to mount a strong and effective response to infection. Shingrix was developed specifically to overcome the age-related decline in immunity." [Read More](#)

EMPLOYMENT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Technology Transfer Office (TTO)

The Technology Transfer Office (TTO) at Montana State University, directed by Daniel Juliano, is actively engaged in licensing MSU technologies, developing collaborations and sponsored research with companies, and assisting in start-up developments. With the breadth of biotechnology reaching across all scientific and engineering disciplines at MSU, it is no surprise that more than 80% of current MSU technology licenses are related to biotechnology including diagnostics, therapies, antibodies, medical devices, research tools, agricultural varieties, and biopesticides. The TTO recently moved to the Montana State University Business Foundry located at 2310 University Way, Building 2-2, adjacent to campus. The Business Foundry also houses Defense Techlink, Montana Manufacturing Extension Center (MMEC), the MSU Small Business Development Center (SBDC), and the Bozeman Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), positioning TTO among a wealth of MSU technology and economic development organizations under the Vice President of Research and Economic Development and the College of Engineering.

The TTO strives to be at the forefront of moving MSU technologies to commercialization in Montana. Recently, Juliano and Becky Mahurin, Special Projects Manager for the Division of Health Sciences and former director of TTO, helped CRISPR scientist Blake Wiedenheft establish a start-up company, SurGene, to develop alternatives to the dominant CAS9 CRISPR complex. SurGene exemplifies how MSU is embracing flexible new models for spinning out MSU technologies. Another program to assist start-ups and Montana small biotech companies seeking collaboration with MSU faculty is a partnership with TechLink to facilitate writing successful SBIR grant proposals. The TTO is a key player in making such entrepreneurial connections and building an ecosystem of technologies, helping MSU faculty and Montana businesses to advance biotechnology in the state. The TTO welcomes inquiries and can be reached at 406-994-7868 or found at <http://tto.montana.edu>.

SIX New Grant Opportunities have been added to MSU Extension Community Health Resources website at <http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html>



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Montana BIO started October with an incredible experience in Beaver Creek, CO. The Rocky Mountain Investor and Partnering Conference was a huge success, and the positive feedback received was great. Twenty nine regional life science companies presented to 40 investors from across the U.S. It was a remarkable two days of connections, inspirations, and growth for all who attended. Montana BioScience was a partner in the conference and Sharon Peterson introduced and served as moderator for one of the sessions. It was great to see Rob Goodwin, Kim Gillan, Cynthia Tsai, Steven Eror and Neil Berkley at the conference.

In mid October, the Montana BIO strategic planning committee met in Missoula and toured the Montana Technology Enterprise Center. Many thanks to Jay Evans, Inimmune, Joe Fanguy, University of Montana and MonTec for their hospitality and insight.

Sharon Peterson attended the Galien Forum, October 26 at the Alexandria Center for Life Science in New York City. Sessions were held on "Addressing Unmet Needs with Early-stage Life Science Venture Capital, and Preparing for the Next Pandemic: Development and Delivery of New Wave Innovation in Vaccines", among others. The Keynote, "Drug Pricing and access in the Trump Administration: Consensus or Confrontation", was very interesting. For more, [GO TO](#).

EVENT'S CALENDAR

Save the Date!

Regulated Export Training & Foreign Military Sales Panel

December 15th, 2017

Missoula

The Dos and Don'ts of export licensing and compliance. Does my product need a license for export?



Save the Date

Regulated Export Training & Foreign Military Sales Panel

Does my product need a license for export? What's considered "dual use?" Is my conversation with a prospective foreign buyer considered a "deemed export"?

Montana World Trade Center's *Tech Export Team* member, Justin Cook, covers the dos and don'ts of export licensing and compliance. Learn about export control policies, regulations, and compliance programs *before* you engage in export. And if you're already engaged, make sure your business development and management team are up to speed on the basics.

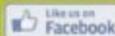
Morning training will be followed by lunch and a panel on the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program, the U.S. Government's program for transferring defense articles, services, and training to international partners and organizations. Though the FMS has been around for decades, many Montana firms that could benefit from the program don't know about it. Hear from Montanans who have navigated the program successfully for years.

****Remote attendance options available**

Friday, December 15
School of Extended and Lifelong Learning
Todd Building Room 203
32 Campus Dr. Missoula, MT 58012

More information coming soon

WWW.MWTC.ORG



Gallagher Business Building, Ste. 257
Missoula, MT 59812
Tel: 406.243.6982
info@mwtc.org



**Join us for THE kick-off event of the JPMorgan Week!
Montana BioScience Alliance and Friends Wine Reception at JPMorgan Conference
January 7, 2018**



San Francisco

In 2014, a small group of state bioscience associations banded together to sponsor a reception on the Sunday evening before the start of the annual JPM Conference. Since then, the event has grown from just 150 attendees to over 800 registrants, and is now arguably the most visible and best attended kick-off reception of the JPM week!

Due to large crowds, PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED! Be sure to register!

[Details](#)



With less than two months remaining until the J.P. Morgan Healthcare Conference (JPM), now is the prime time to arrange meetings, curate your pitch, and identify meeting space for one of the busiest weeks of the year.

January 7-11, 2018

The hectic process of sending meeting invitations and scheduling will reach a fever pitch in the coming weeks, and then there is the questions of which receptions & events to attend during JPM week. BIO has a solution to it all:

BIO One-on-One Partnering + Meeting space + A comprehensive JPM week event guide

- Save time on meetings: You can access the BIO One-on-One Partnering system-the same system used at all BIO partnering events-for free to help you identify potential partners and manage your JPM week meetings. Cut down on back-and-forth emails, phone calls, and spreadsheets with meeting information. Apply for partnering [HERE](#) .
- Reserve convenient meeting space: Finding meeting space in downtown San Francisco is a challenge that comes at a steep premium, with hotels even charging for lobby space. BIO has affordable meeting space only blocks from Union Square that you can reserve in just minutes online (and BIO members receive an hour of complimentary space)! Slots will begin to fill up soon, so we suggest scheduling meetings in the partnering system or [requesting meeting space with our online form](#) as soon as possible.
- Organize your time easily: There are numerous receptions, conferences, and events happening during JPM week. How to decide which to attend? BIO and Big3Bio are creating the most comprehensive event list available to help you make the most of every minute. Stay posted to bio.org/JPM for details on our events & receptions webinar in early December!

JPM week is a hectic but critical time during which to advance your investment and business development goals, and BIO can help you efficiently plan your meetings and maximize your time in San Francisco.

Montana BioScience Alliance @ BIO International Convention 2018

June 4-7, 2018

Boston

[Details](#)



Through its partnership with the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), the international organization that represents the biotechnology industry, MBA offers its members the opportunity to take advantage of several of the BIO Business Solutions® programs, as listed below. Click on the company name to learn more about an individual program. There is no fee for MBA members to utilize any of the programs and BIO membership is not a requirement for MBA members.

[Illumina](#)-Gene Sequencing Solutions

[UPS](#)-Shipping Services

[American Laboratory Trading, Inc. \(ALT\)](#)

Premium Refurbished Laboratory Equipment and Asset Management Services

[VWR International](#)

Laboratory Supplies, Equipment & Chemicals

[Chubb](#)

Property and Casualty Insurance, Clinical Trials Liability Insurance, Errors and Omissions Liability Insurance, Professional Liability Insurance, Products Liability Insurance

[Office Depot](#)

Office Supplies, Furniture, Equipment and Technology Products/Design, Print, and Ship Services

[Business Wire](#)

News & Multimedia Distribution, Social Media Monitoring, Financial Disclosure Services

[Aon Risk Solutions](#)

Executive Liability Insurance

[UniFirst](#)

Workwear Services

[UniClean](#)

Cleanroom Services

[Clean Harbors](#)

Environmental Services

[ShareVault](#)

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Moving and Storage

[Nikon Instruments](#)

Nikon Research Grade Microscope Systems

[VWR International - Med Device](#)

Controlled Environment, Production, & Safety Portfolio



www.montanabio.org

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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.