

MassBioEd
Job Shadow
Day, pages 6-7



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MassBio news

MASSACHUSETTS BIOTECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

BIOPHARM IS BACK

Large-scale biotech partnering event returns to Boston

In collaboration with EBD Group, MassBio will be bringing one of the largest and most productive partnering events in North America back to Boston this fall.

BioPharm America™—which drew more than 900 people to Boston in 2010—will be held Sept. 7-9 at the Westin Waterfront.

The event provides attendees with the opportunity to meet face-to-face with biotech and pharma executives from

around the world to identify and enter strategic relationships. This year, the conference will kick off with a keynote by Shire CEO Angus Russell. Russell is leading one of the most successful and admired global specialty biopharmaceutical companies in the world. He will share his insights and experience at the event.

Organized by the EBD Group and hosted by MassBio for the second

See **BIOPHARM** Page 7

Shire CEO Angus Russell will be the keynote speaker at the 2011 BioPharm America™ event, to be held at the Westin Waterfront in Boston Sept. 7-9.



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MassBio looking forward to productive summer



ROBERT K. COUGHLIN

Welcome to the summer edition of *MassBio News*. We at MassBio remain dedicated to serving you, our member institutions, and highlighting the strength and reach of the life sciences and the people who work to improve the lives of patients every day.

Inside, you will read about one of those patients, Sylvan Menezes, who is living with ALS and urgently hoping that the research and development now taking

place will bring a cure to this debilitating disease.

You will also be introduced to some of our MassBioEd students, who are on track to become the next generations of scientists, doctors and biotechnologists. This month, 650 students visited local biotech companies during the second annual Biotechnology Job Shadow Day. I extend my deepest thanks to the 18 companies who hosted our future science

and business leaders. I know the day was very rewarding and inspiring to all who participated. To further support the efforts of MassBioEd, I hope each of you can attend this year's Golf Classic, which raises critical funds for the foundation. The event will be held on Sept. 9 at The Pinehills Golf Club in Plymouth.

We are currently gearing up for another exciting fall event, BioPharm America™, which will be held Sept. 7-9 at the Westin

Waterfront. It promises to be one of the largest and most productive partnering events in North America and we are fortunate to have Shire CEO Angus Russell serving as the keynote speaker. I urge you to register soon to take advantage of the MassBio membership discounts.

Robert K. Coughlin is President & CEO of MassBio.

MassBio news

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New member benefit: MassBio HRonline

We are pleased to announce our newest membership benefit: access to timely and relevant human resources information through MassBio HRonline.

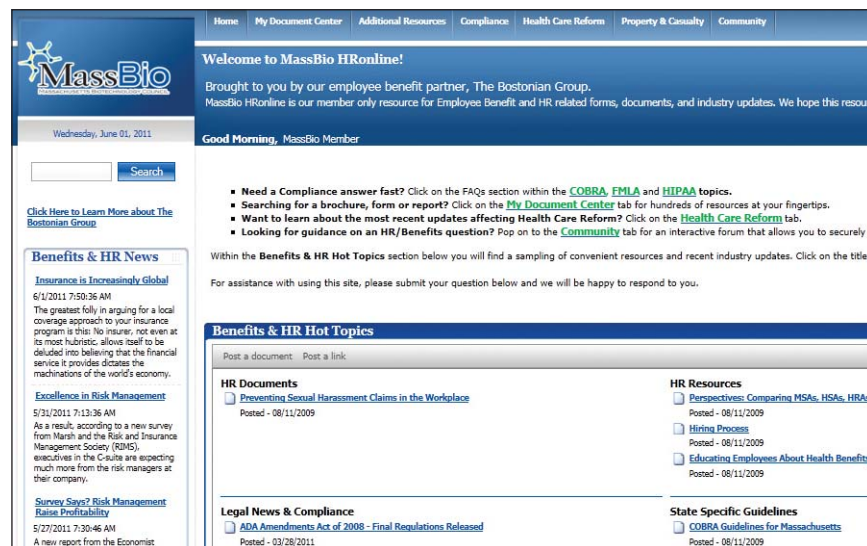
We know that even a relatively simple human resources question can require intensive research, and that many of our member organizations may not have dedicated HR staff. Save time and energy by using MassBio HRonline, a "one-stop shop" for your human resources and benefits needs. Available only to MassBio members and free of charge, MassBio HRonline offers:

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Special thanks to Bostonian Group: a Marsh & McLennan Agency Company, a leader in HR services and support, and our partner in making this happen.

To access MassBio HRonline, just login to MassBio.org and visit your Member Portal. (Don't have an account on MassBio.org yet? Visit www.massbio.org/members/create_account to set one up. It is free of charge and available to every employee of MassBio member companies.)

At MassBio HRonline, you can immediately search by keyword, or you



A screenshot of the MassBio HRonline homepage.

can take a peek at the Benefits and HR Hot Topics homepage which provides you with a snapshot of the most commonly requested resources. If you're looking to do a more comprehensive search, head to the My Document Center for a library of hundreds of resources including templates, checklists, downloadable articles, and ready-to-print documents. You can even pose a question to your Human Resources peers by posting in the Community Forum.

With all this and much more, MassBio HRonline has something for everyone. See how MassBio HRonline can save you time today.

NEW MASSBIO MEMBERS

- | | | |
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| Anoixis Corporation | EpigenDx | NeuroPhage Pharmaceuticals |
| Asaman | First Light Biosciences | North Star Management |
| Athena Diagnostics | Fletcher Spaght | Onsite Therapeutics |
| Bedford Stem Cell Research Foundation | Gefused | Organix |
| Blueprint Medicines | ideaPoint | Permeon Biologics |
| CE3, Inc. | Medicon Valley Alliance | Porzio Pharmaceutical Services |
| Christopher's Haven | Microbia | Prism Ideas |
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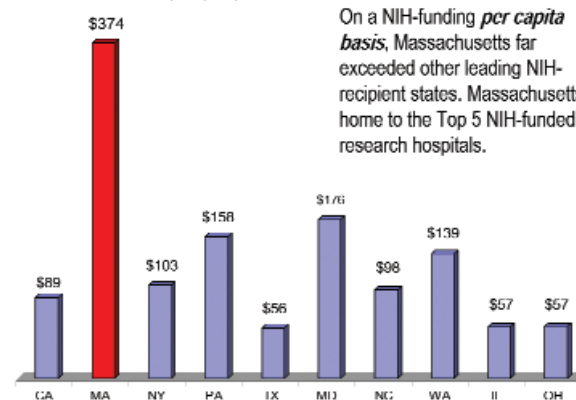
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2010 NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH) FUNDING

CALIFORNIA	\$3,332,378,004
MASSACHUSETTS	\$2,447,323,040
NEW YORK	\$2,001,047,954
PENNSYLVANIA	\$1,405,917,085
TEXAS	\$1,078,078,997
MARYLAND	\$1,018,825,272
NORTH CAROLINA	\$931,973,222
WASHINGTON	\$846,526,930
ILLINOIS	\$732,681,496
OHIO	\$662,354,991

NIH basic research funding increased slightly to \$21.8 billion nationwide. Excluding the federal stimulus funding of 2009, NIH funding has remained stagnant since 2003.

On a NIH-funding *per capita* basis, Massachusetts far exceeded other leading NIH-recipient states. Massachusetts is home to the Top 5 NIH-funded research hospitals.



Sources: National Institutes of Health, U.S. Census Bureau.

Q & A

with

SUE HAGER AND MICHAEL RAAB

Co-chairs of MassBio's Green Bio Task Force

Q What is Green Bio and what is its importance to the Massachusetts economy and sustainability initiatives?

A “Green Bio” is a sustainable, competitive industrial biotechnology sector that is rapidly emerging in the United States and throughout the world. Unlike the more traditional focus of the biotechnology industry on medical innovations, Green Bio is focused on utilizing renewable, sustainable resources for the production of fuels, chemicals, materials and other industrial products that are used in making consumer products on a commercial scale. Green Bio has an agricultural basis therefore the “input” or feedstocks are often non-food based agricultural sources, like

grasses and canes, which are more sustainable and environmentally-friendly as compared with the current petroleum and fossil basis from which these products



MICHAEL RAAB

are currently derived. While still in its infancy, many companies in the Green Bio industry have advanced, evolved and matured their technologies to the point of commercial-readiness. These technological advances are significant as Green Bio has the potential to replace large segments of the fuel and chemical industries with agriculturally derived products that would lower greenhouse gas emissions, chemical emissions, chemical use, and strengthen domestic manufacturing, economies, and energy security.

Q What are the top three priorities in the Green Bio space in 2011-2012?

A Key priorities for companies in the Green Bio space are focused on enacting consistent, enduring and forward-looking federal policy that supports and accelerates the commercialization of renewable fuels and chemicals and allows second-generation “renewable” companies to compete in an open and competitive market with its petroleum-based brethren. Specifically:

- ◆ Continue to support the existing Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and legislation that levels the playing field for biofuels and chemicals to compete against a highly subsidized oil industry.
- ◆ Continue to foster legislative support for biofuels, chemicals, and agriculture in the government.
- ◆ Increase support for first market launches of economically successful products from the Green Bio space.

Q We've made some great progress with the biotechnology industry in 2007 with the Life Sciences Initiative. Are there similar steps we can take to better position the future of Green Bio in Massachusetts?

A Massachusetts is at the epicenter of innovation and we're fortunate to have the opportunity to foster and cultivate the tremendous discoveries that occur within both the prestigious public and private academic institutions across the state. While some of these innovations have blossomed to become today's global leaders in the broadly defined renewable industry, many remain at a research stage and are limited by resources and funding. To truly grow the Green Bio industry in Massachusetts and establish state leadership on a national and international scale, the industry (and therefore the companies) requires the same level of support that the pharma and biotech industry enjoys. For example, initiatives like the MA Life Sciences Initiative, or similar, would help to support companies in the Green Bio sector and would contribute strongly to getting those companies to profitability and to a sustainable business operation.

Further, we need to aggressively “market” the innovation that occurs in the state while simultaneously enacting favorable policies and regulatory standards that attract the large, multi-national corporations with the requisite balance sheets to step-up and make the much-needed

strategic investments in the sector. When this occurs, everyone wins: innovation flourishes, jobs are created and Green Bio will become a leading sector alongside the life sciences industry.

Sue Hager, Vice President of Corporate Communications and Government Affairs at QTEROS, and Michael Raab, Founder & President of Agrivida, are co-chairs of MassBio's Green Bio Task Force.

For more information, contact Peter Abair at 617-674-5100 or peter.abair@massbio.org.



SUE HAGER

POLICY UPDATE: HEALTH CARE LAW PUTS SENIORS AT RISK

This opinion piece was written by MassBio President & CEO Robert K. Coughlin and first appeared in The Boston Globe on May 31, 2011.

The one million citizens of Massachusetts enrolled in Medicare may be in for a rude surprise as a result of last year's health-care reform legislation. One of its provisions, if allowed to stand, could impinge on seniors' access to quality care.

The health reform law established the Independent Payment Advisory Board, or IPAB, which is charged with developing proposals to keep the cost of Medicare down. The panel consists of 15 presidential appointees. Any year Medicare is projected to exceed target spending amounts, IPAB is charged with instituting program changes that will bring overall costs down.

Proponents tout IPAB as health-care reform's solution to rising costs. It isn't.

A real solution would spell out proposed changes so that seniors understand them and have a chance to make their voices heard, especially through members of Congress voting on reforms. That's what the democratic process is all about. But instead of spelling out proposed reforms, last year's legislation covered them up by vesting in IPAB vast power to order changes in care.

When the board makes its “recommendations” for reducing costs, federal legislators have four months either to accept them, find equivalent cost-savings in Medicare, or block them with a supermajority vote. The system also denies patients and doctors the option of challenging its decisions in court. In effect, the creation of IPAB takes our elected officials out of the decision-making process. Medicare enrollees and providers will have little means to make their voices heard.

Supposedly as a protection, IPAB is limited in the changes it can

mandate. It's not allowed to impose taxes or increase premiums. It's not allowed to cut payment rates to hospitals until 2020. But Medicare reimbursements to doctors are on the chopping block from the beginning, as are payments for Medicare drug benefits. What this means for seniors is that IPAB will be able to “control costs” by offering doctors and other Medicare providers only cents on the dollar for their services caring for Medicare patients.

The harsh truth is that if IPAB decides to cut payments to physicians to save money, many doctors will no longer accept Medicare patients.

“It's creating an environment that's not conducive for physicians to survive in terms of practicing medicine with predominantly Medicare patients,” said Alice Coombs, president of the Massachusetts Medical Society. “Doctors want to take care of all patients, but it becomes increasingly difficult for them to have an

operational budget to do that.”

According to an American Medical Association survey of 9,000 doctors nationwide, current reimbursement rates have already led 17 percent of all doctors, including 31 percent of primary care physicians, to restrict the number of Medicare patients in their practices. IPAB will only make this serious problem worse.

Something similar will happen with prescription drug coverage. IPAB is empowered to cut reimbursement rates to providers under Medicare Part D. If and when it does, providers will likely respond with more restrictive drug formularies, ceasing their coverage for more expensive medicines. Seniors will lose access to life-saving treatment options.

Reducing reimbursements will also impact investments in research and development at the nation's pharmaceutical and biotechnology firms — those companies that are on

the frontlines looking for the medical miracles of tomorrow. Developing a successful new drug can take decades and cost billions. Many initially promising avenues of research turn out to be dead ends. These are expenses companies will be unwilling to make if they are concerned, quite rightly, that an all-powerful and unaccountable board will ultimately decide whether and how much they will be paid.

Before we cut health-care products and services, let's first eliminate more of the fraud, mismanagement, and high administrative costs. And let's make sure the process of finding ways to economize is not a closed system, but one open to the input of seniors and their doctors, as well as accountable to the public. Handing discretionary power over to IPAB will end up hurting the Americans who need our help the most. IPAB is not the prescription for what ails Medicare.



Cubist Pharmaceuticals is a strong supporter of MassBioEd Job Shadow Day.



High school students were able to spend a day in the shoes of Formatech employees.



Airgas educated students through hands-on experiments.

OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO

MassBioEd provides students greater understanding of career options

June 8 was no ordinary day for hundreds of high school students and biotechnology professionals, who came together for the second annual Statewide Biotechnology Job Shadow Day aimed at building interest in science careers. And according to early feedback, it worked.

"The job shadow tour definitely sparked my level of interest in the sciences," said Rebecca B. Araujo, a freshman at Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School told the Worcester Telegram & Gazette. Rebecca spent the day at Abbott in Worcester, where students got a company tour and hands-on experience when mentors showcased equipment and experiments.

She was one of 650 students from 18 BioTeach schools who had the opportunity to explore potential

career opportunities in the biotech industry through shadowing life science professionals at 19 local companies and research laboratories. Job Shadow Day is one more way MassBioEd's BioTeach program is increasing knowledge and skills and inspiring life science career interest among students and teachers.

For many biotechnology companies, the event is important to building their future workforce.

"Cubist is a strong supporter of STEM education and the Job Shadow Day affords us with another opportunity to provide students with a glimpse into the career options within the life science industry," said Debbie Durso-Bumpus, Director of Talent Acquisition for the Lexington-based company. "The Cubist mentors that volunteered were thrilled to have the opportunity

to share their passion for what they do every day and the impact it has on patients' lives. Some of these students will be looking at companies like Cubist for internships/co-ops in just a few years and for full-time positions soon after that. We want them to be interested in the industry and to think of Cubist when those decision points come."

Lance Hartford, Executive Director of MassBioEd, described the day as "the integration of corporate employees sharing their knowledge and career experience with the aspiring scientists of tomorrow."

"We at MassBioEd are proud to be the sponsor of the second annual Massachusetts Biotechnology Job Shadow Day," said Suzanne Grillo, Director of Corporate and Community Relations at the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation. "This is a tremendous

collaboration of industry and education coming together to teach tomorrow's future workforce about biotechnology—an industry that is out to solve unmet medical needs, an industry that saves lives, changes lives and contributes to a better society. Everyone wins: the students, the teachers, the mentors and the companies."

It was truly impressive to see such a display of support for high school biotechnology education from the corporate and academic sectors. The foundation thanks Abbott, Airgas, Amgen, Avecia, AstraZeneca, Biogen Idec, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Caliper Life Sciences, Cubist Pharmaceuticals, EMD Millipore, EMD Serono, Formatech, Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Microtest, Millennium, Shire, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, The Whitehead Institute, and Wolfe Laboratories for

their participation in this innovative event.

Each visit began with opening remarks, followed by a panel presentation on biotechnology careers. The students had the opportunity to go on a company tour and have one-on-one meetings with industry professionals. They also had lunch at the site, allowing for further discussion and networking opportunities.

Job Shadow Day aims to promote STEM education through identifying the breadth of career options available within the life science industry. Surveys show it was a resounding success: students found it to be highly informative and inspiring, and teachers were amazed by the amount of interaction between students and their biotechnology mentors.

"The students and teachers learn first hand about the important work done by these companies, which will help to deepen their awareness of the critical contributions being made by biotechnology companies and to expand their awareness of the varied careers available," said Grillo. "The mentors get to make a difference in the life of a student by educating them about their career path and the excitement and passion that they feel coming to work every day. The companies get to expose students to their products, services and corporate culture. It's a fantastic day all around."

BioTeach schools or companies interested in participating in MassBioEd Job Shadow Days should contact Suzanne Grillo at 617-674-5100 or Suzanne.grillo@massbio.org.



MassBio President & CEO Robert K. Coughlin, left, with 2010 winners Sherwood Butler, Bill Whooley, Raj Bhangoon and Ryan Whooley.

SAVE THE DATE: GOLF CLASSIC

MassBio will host its 17th Annual Golf Classic on Sept. 9 at the prestigious Pinehills Golf Club in Plymouth, Mass. The club features two 18-hole championship courses, spectacularly set on more than 300 acres of rolling hills and punctuated by dramatic, glacially carved kettles and kames.

Tournament proceeds help support the MassBioEd Foundation—the thought leader, advocate and invaluable resource

for preparing Massachusetts' biotechnology workforce. MassBioEd strives to provide Massachusetts high school teachers with the skills and equipment necessary to teach biotechnology. To date, the foundation has worked with 177 high schools and trained more than 500 teachers.

For more information on the event or sponsorship opportunities please contact Lauren Perna at lauren.perna@massbio.org.

17th ANNUAL MassBioEd GOLF CLASSIC September 9, 2011 Pinehills Golf Club Plymouth, MA

To register visit www.massbio.org or call 617.674.5100.



Students looked and acted the part at the second annual Statewide Biotechnology Job Shadow Day. Visits, from left to right, Shire HGT in Lexington, EMD Serono in Billerica and the Whitehead Institute in Cambridge helped to inspire students to think about careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

INNOVATION 2011 VENDOR EXPO

100 companies, countless connections

Approximately 180 attendees, representing 100 life sciences companies, came out for the Innovation 2011 Vendor Expo, co-hosted by MassBio and Fisher Scientific. The event, which linked MassBio members with the latest and greatest technologies, equipment, supplies and services, featured 60 exhibiting vendors. It also featured high-level, application-based seminars focused on the technical and cutting-edge topics most important to MassBio members. The seminars included presentations by Millipore, Promega, Thermo Fisher Genomics and Thermo Fisher Chromatography.



COMMITTEE CONNECT: MEET THE PRESS

On May 5, Carolyn Johnson of *The Boston Globe*, Debbie Kim of WBZ and Carey Goldberg of WBUR's CommonHealth blog temporarily hung up their reporting caps to sit in the hot seat.

The panel members answered questions, shared their pitch pet-peeves and tips to telling science and business stories and discussed how social media and blogging have changed the way we access and share news, as part of the Marketing & Communication Committee's annual Meet the Press event. The event is organized to give MassBio members the inside track on pitching relevant news sources.

Goldberg, former Boston bureau chief of *The New York Times*, Moscow correspondent for *The Los Angeles Times* and health/science reporter for *The Boston Globe*, discussed the angles that appeal to her, citing a special report she wrote on Vertex's experimental drug VX-770. Her 3,200-word narrative, which can be found at <http://commonhealth.wbur.org/tag/vertex>, describes the scientific road to VX-770, which has been shown to successfully attack the underlying defect in cystic fibrosis.

"I found myself compelled by this story," said Goldberg. "Something that I really believe in and that's also been diminished by the crisis in journalism is science journalism – being able to tell the story of the scientist."

She emphasized the impact of such stories, in contrast to the short, eye-catching pieces, and discussed how the Web is often the best venue for in-depth coverage.

"Because the overhead is so low on the Web, it can be up the next day and there's no editor saying, 'no, this can only be 1,500 words,'" she said. "These stories are the ones that have legs and get passed around in social media."

Kim, who serves as the medical and health producer at WBZ, agreed the average reader or viewer is drawn in by human drama and wants to get a deeper look into what makes people tick.

"I'm always interested in why people do things," she said. "My mom was really, really sick as a child in Korea and almost died. She became a doctor as a result of that. I always ask why, and it's usually because they have a family member or friend or personal connection that compelled them to do the work that they're doing."

For more information on MassBio's committee programming, visit www.massbio.org.



BIO Fly-In

Each year as part of the BIO Fly-In Legislative program in Washington, D.C., MassBio hosts a panel for Congressional staff designed to highlight the stories of patients whose lives were changed by biologic therapies developed in Massachusetts. This year, patients, from left, Monique Griffin, Una Lucey, Lisa Hamilton and Frances Turbok joined MassBio President & CEO Robert K. Coughlin for the panel.

ON THE MOVE

United States Biological to relocate and expand

By MEAGHAN CASEY

Because of Massachusetts' identity as the unsurpassed leader in the global biotechnology industry, many of its cities and towns have been adopting local policies that greatly ease the pathway for renovation or new construction of biotech laboratory and manufacturing facilities.

United States Biological Corporation (USBio) can attest to the appeal of such increasingly supportive public policies.

The Marblehead-based life sciences company, which had outgrown its current 15,000-square-foot facility, broke ground in January on its new 50,000-square-foot manufacturing and office headquarters on Technology Way in Salem. The move, spurred by the city's tax increment financing (TIF) approval and a \$2.33 million bond issued by the state's finance and development agency MassDevelopment, will allow USBio to expand its operations and workforce.

"We're quadrupling our lab space, doubling our manufacturing space and adding extra meeting rooms, lobby space and larger conference rooms with integrated dining facilities in order to accommodate lectures, tutorials and distributor workshops," said USBio President Warren Shore. "We have over 30 distributors worldwide and need to develop stronger relationships with them. Maybe sales meetings during Halloween in Salem would be a treat for our overseas colleagues."

"And we'll hopefully be fulfilling our promise to add more jobs on the North Shore," he continued.

The company, which has modestly grown from one employee to 30 in the past 15 years, has been based in Marblehead for 12

years. When Shore, a Massachusetts native, originally founded USBio, he subcontracted the manufacturing and shipping operations to a company in Texas.

"We quickly outgrew that and moved the manufacturing up here," said Shore. "It became too cumbersome to do it remotely."

Today, USBio produces and distributes biochemicals, antibodies, recombinant proteins, cell culture media and molecular biology kits that are used in virtually all scientific applications and settings, including genomic research,



A rendering of the future USBio headquarters, to be located in Salem.

biotechnology, pharmaceutical development and the diagnosis of disease.

The increased space of the new Salem facility will allow the company to delve deeper into the biodiagnostics field. Shore also hopes to create a minimum of five new jobs, as well as a co-op program with Salem State University.

When Shore began thinking about expanding, he knew he

wanted to stay local, since a majority of his employees live on the North Shore. He met with Peter Abair, MassBio director of economic development, for assistance and to learn more about the business incentives available in Massachusetts.

"We went to MassBio for direction, discussing our options for building or relocating," said Shore. "They had a very strong team who helped us get our TIF, brokered the meetings in Salem, and laid the blueprint for us to make this move."

USBio worked with MassBio member New Landmark Group to maximize available incentives.

In July of last year, at Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll's urging, the City Council approved USBio's TIF request and granted the company \$167,209 in tax abatements over 13 years. The TIF also allows the company to seek thousands of dollars in additional tax incentives through the state's Economic Assistance Coordinating Council.

"It was a combination of the tax incentives and a strong cooperation with the local government that made this the perfect move for us," said Shore. "Salem has a good reputation for supporting its businesses."

Helping to fast-track the project, MassDevelopment issued USBio the \$2.33 million bond in January. The bond is coupled with a \$1 million conventional loan from the National Grand Bank of Marblehead.

Shore hopes to be able to move into the new facility in November.

For help accessing incentives or other resources for growth, contact Peter Abair at 617-674-5100 or peter.abair@massbio.org.

BioPharm returns to Boston in fall

From **BIOPHARM** Page 1

consecutive year, BioPharm America continues its growth as the unrivaled business exchange in North America for the global life science industry, specifically designed to help companies raise capital, form in- or out-licensing agreements and enter co-development deals.

"We are proud to host this unique, high powered business exchange that so effectively brings together the international biotech partnering and financial communities here in Boston in 2011," said MassBio President & CEO Robert K. Coughlin. "With Massachusetts' strength in innovation and early stage

research, active venture capital and finance community and participation from all the major pharma companies, the stage is set for BioPharm America 2011 to be the premier conference on the East Coast."

The three-day event will pull together participants from the international and Massachusetts-based life science community, including representatives from venture capital, institutional and private equity investor communities; top level industry executives in business development, corporate development and strategic alliances; biotech and pharmaceutical executives; health care leaders; academic leaders; and representatives from disease foundations and government organizations offering financing opportunities. The event also features a top-notch program that includes the *Defined Health Therapeutic Insight* track, a finance/investment track, a personalized medicine track and dozens of company presentations.

Working together, these powerful elements will create a unique platform through which companies can efficiently identify and meet with potential partners from across the life sciences industry, and gain the intelligence needed to make better deals.

Additionally, BioPharm America 2011 will feature partneringONE®, the industry's most advanced web-based networking system. With partneringONE, attendees can connect with their conference community at all times, manage their conference activities in personal agenda files and search and bookmark companies of interest for easy follow-up.

"Partnering is essential to continued innovation in the life science industry," said Carola Schropp, President of EBD Group. "That is why we are bringing our leading partnering platform back to Boston, the premier hub of life science innovation. Partnering at BioPharm America will enable emerging biotech innovators and large pharmaceutical firms to accelerate their strategic plans."

For more information or to register, visit <http://www.ebdgroup.com/bpa>.

Propel Careers, MassBio, and the MassBioEd Foundation have launched a series of programs raising awareness of career paths in the life sciences for individuals with advanced degrees. The Futures in Life Sciences program brings together post-doctoral and medical school students with experts across a wide range of disciplines. Sessions on careers in R&D, Product Commercialization, and Clinical Development and Medical Affairs have been successful. Future sessions include: Bio-Informatics, Market Access and Outcomes Research, and Finance, Legal and Operations roles.

At right, Kevin Sprott of Verastem shared his advice on career paths.



Sunovion Pharmaceuticals Inc. hosted a breakfast reception to honor the achievements of individuals living with mental illness. The reception was hosted in partnership with Employment Options, a Marlborough-based nonprofit that provides comprehensive services to people recovering from mental illness. Tony Magnetti, Sunovion VP of Government Affairs, State Rep. Steven Levy, Toni Wolf, Employment Options Executive Director, State Sen. Karen Spilka, State Sen. Jamie Eldridge, Mark Iwicki, Sunovion President & COO, Katrina Iserman, Sunovion Director of Government Affairs, and Saburo Hamanaka, Sunovion Chairman & CEO.



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PATIENT
PROFILE



Menezes is a frequent supporter of the annual ALSTDI "A Cure is Coming" awareness walk.

ALS patient sees hope in research efforts

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive disease that affects approximately 5 out of every 100,000 people worldwide.

It attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control voluntary muscle movement, eventually leading to muscle weakening, twitching and an inability to move the arms, legs and body. There is no known cure or effective treatment path.

For Beverly, Mass. resident Sylvan Menezes, it is a disease that has disabled him from working, driving and completing routine tasks such as going up steps or getting out of a chair. It has also taken away his ability to pursue his passions, such as gardening, photography, sailing, hiking and skiing.

"ALS is a disease of losses," said Menezes. "I've been relatively lucky that the losses have occurred over years and months and not weeks and days, but my biggest struggle is the loss of my independence."

Menezes has relied on the day-to-day support of his family – his wife, Karen, and their daughters, Maya and Maxanne. Last year, they were able to build an addition to their house that included a first-floor bedroom and handicapped-accessible bathroom.

"My family gives me strength," he said. "Their support, and the support of my friends, has made this a tolerable experience. My outlook has been to do as much as possible while I am still able. My wife and I were able to travel extensively and make many memories over the last few years. I try to maintain a positive attitude and take each day as it comes."

A New Bedford native and a former teacher, social

worker, business owner and marine mechanic, Menezes was diagnosed with ALS in 2004 after noticing weakness in his left hand. The disease has since affected his upper body, weakening his neck muscles, arms and tongue and limiting his ability to breathe.

Quarterly, he visits the ALS Clinic at Lahey Clinic in Burlington to meet with physical therapists, respiratory specialists, social workers and nutritionists in an effort to maximize his muscle function and general health. He also meets with an ALS support group at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and is a member of the online social network PatientsLikeMe, co-founded in 2004 by three MIT engineers – brothers Benjamin and James Heywood and longtime friend Jeff Cole, after the Heywoods' brother Stephen was diagnosed with ALS at the age of 29.

Menezes has also become involved with the ALS Therapy Development Institute (ALS TDI), a Cambridge-based research institute dedicated to developing effective therapeutics that treat ALS. Built by and for patients, ALS TDI is the world's largest ALS research center and the only nonprofit biotechnology company with more than 30 professional scientists focused on a single disease indication.

Five years ago, Menezes attended the ALS TDI Leadership Summit, an annual forum for the exploration of the past, present and future of research towards an effective treatment for ALS.

"I was very impressed with the work of their scientists and how it was impacting ALS research," he said.

He has attended every other summit since and has supported the annual ALS TDI "A Cure is Coming" awareness walk. He also attended ALS Association's Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C., where ALS TDI was

recognized for its research.

"It has always been a positive experience talking and listening to researchers in the field," said Menezes. "I learn something new every time, and I know that we are making positive progress to find a treatment or cure faster than we would have without ALS TDI."

"It's also a great opportunity to connect with other ALS patients and for us to put a face on ALS," he continued. "The research is less abstract when you meet the people whose lives have been affected by this disease. I believe it gives a sense of urgency to those working to find a treatment or cure."

The 2011 ALS TDI Leadership Summit will be held Nov. 4. For more information, visit www.als.net.



Sylvan Menezes and his wife, Karen.