

KC Life Sciences Institute at a Glance

March 2004

www.kclifesciences.org

The Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute provides this news brief for civic, corporate, political and scientific leaders to update you on the progress of the life sciences initiative in the Kansas City area. To unsubscribe, please contact Terri Bogina at 816-753-7700.

- Kansas House passes biosciences legislation
- Duncan testifies on Missouri SB 1180 – Life Sciences Reinvestment Act
- Kansas City mentioned in article on top bioscience markets
- JRH Biosciences Inc. announces \$13.5 million expansion
- Holden announces life science student loan forgiveness program in Missouri
- KU pharmaceutical professor receives national award
- CYDEX, Inc. announces agreements with Gilead, Array Biopharma, Inc.
- LabOne purchases Utah lab assets
- KU names KC Cancer Institute after Masonic Foundation
- MRI Hosts Missouri Life Sciences Week 2004 events
- Bio Mid-America set for May 3-5 in St. Louis
- Life Sciences Institute's Annual Dinner/Research Day June 3-4

Kansas House passes Bioscience Authority Act

In late February, the Kansas House passed the Bioscience Authority Act 119-6. Under the bill, a Kansas Bioscience Authority would work with public universities to recruit star scholars and support research and research infrastructure. The Act would generate close to \$500 million. The bill is now in the Kansas Senate. Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute President Bill Duncan and numerous other supporters had testified in favor of the bill. Visit <http://www.kslegislature.org/cgi-bin/fulltext/bills.cgi>.

Life Sciences Reinvestment Act

In February, Bill Duncan, Ph.D., president, Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute, and UMKC Chancellor Martha Gilliland, a Life Sciences Institute board member, testified before the Missouri Senate Economic Development, Tourism and Local Government Committee in support of SB1180 – the Life Sciences Reinvestment Act. The act creates six regional life sciences reinvestment districts across Missouri. A board of commissioners for each district would submit life sciences projects to a statewide research board for approval. Both the commissions and board would be required to have members familiar with the life sciences. The districts would be funded similarly to a TIF in that new sales, income and property tax revenue generated by life sciences companies would be used to fund development in the district. To view a summary or the full text of the bill visit <http://www.senate.state.mo.us/04INFO/bills/SB1180.htm>.

Area Development Magazine includes KC in article on top life science markets

Kansas City is one of 16 markets listed in a January/February article in Area Development Magazine – “Making biotech an engine for growth.” The magazine writes that, “Greater Kansas City’s dream of building itself into one of America’s top-10 areas for life-sciences R&D may soon become a reality thanks to the efforts of the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute.” The article cites research expenditures at key stakeholder institutions having doubled in three years to \$201 million and the more than \$1 billion in life sciences related construction and equipment purchases in Kansas City. According to the Brookings Institution, the top nine bioscience markets are Boston-Worcester, Lawrence, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, San Diego, Raleigh Durham-Chapel Hill, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, Philadelphia-Washington-Atlantic City, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, Washington, D.C.-Baltimore. Visit <http://www.area-development.com/>.

JRH Biosciences announces expansion

JRH Biosciences Inc. of Lenexa has announced a \$13.5 million, 52,000-square-foot expansion to be completed in June, 2005. The company will add 60 technical employees upon completing the expansion. JRH Biosciences currently employs 120. The expansion will allow the company to manufacture dry powder cell culture media.

Holden launches life sciences loan forgiveness program

As part of his Jobs Now program, Missouri Gov. Bob Holden has announced a program to forgive student loans for students who go to work for life sciences companies in Missouri. Dubbed "The Missouri Advantage Repayment Incentive Option," the plan forgives up to \$10,000 in loans for students who graduate with degrees in math or science and go to work for a Missouri life science-related company. The program will be funded through interest earned from the Governor's portion of bond funding to the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority.

<http://kansascity.bizjournals.com/kansascity/stories/2004/02/09/daily34.html>.

KU pharmaceutical professor receives Marconi Science Award

Valentine J. Stella, distinguished professor of pharmaceutical chemistry at the University of Kansas has received the 2004 UNISCO National Marconi Science Award. UNISCO was founded in 1922 to support the charitable, educational, scientific and literary projects of individuals of Italian heritage. An Italian native who moved to America in 1968 and became a citizen in 1994, Stella co-invented two drugs – Cerebyx for the treatment of epilepsy and Viread for the treatment of AIDS. His inventions helped found three companies: CyDex, Crititech and ProQuest Pharmaceuticals, all based in the Lawrence-Kansas City area.

<http://www.ur.ku.edu/News/04N/MarNews/Mar12/stella.html>

CYDEX, Inc. announces agreements for use of Captisol®

CyDex, Inc. of Lenexa, an innovator in drug delivery technologies, has announced agreements to allow Gilead Sciences and Array Biopharma, Inc. to use CyDex's advanced formulation system CAPTISOL® in two separate studies. CAPTISOL® enables the safe, effective delivery of medications by improving the solubility, stability and bioavailability of drug compounds. The CAPTISOL® drug delivery system arises from technology originally synthesized and patented by scientists at the University of Kansas' Higuchi Biosciences Center for Drug Delivery Research.

Visit www.cydexinc.com.

LabOne purchases Utah lab's assets

Lenexa based LabOne has completed purchasing the assets of Northwest Toxicology of Salt Lake City, the drug-testing division of NWT. LabOne estimates that the purchase will add \$11 million to its annual revenue. LabOne provides risk assessment services for insurance companies and diagnostic testing for physicians, managed care organizations and employers.

<http://kansascity.bizjournals.com/kansascity/stories/2004/03/01/daily16.html>

KU names KC Cancer Institute after Masonic Foundation

In honor of the Kansas Masonic Foundation's \$20 million donation for cancer research, the Kansas Cancer Institute has been renamed the Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute.

The institute was founded in 1996 as the cancer research arm of the University of Kansas School of Medicine. <http://kansascity.bizjournals.com/kansascity/stories/2004/03/01/daily57.html>

MRI to host Missouri Life Sciences Week events

Midwest Research Institute is a participating host site for Missouri Life Sciences Week events, April 5-9. MRI events include an April 5 presentation by Webster Cavanee of the University of California – San Diego. Cavanee is a Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute Scientific Advisory Committee member. His 1:30 p.m. seminar, "The tumor-associated FKHR transcription factor regulates vascular development," will be carried live at several other participating sites. At 3 p.m. Sharon Dunwoody, chair of mass communications at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a national science journalist will present a video lecture on "Science in the Media."

At 1:30 p.m. on April 6, MRI will air a satellite broadcast of a speech by the newly announced Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry. Peter Agre will present "Aquaporin Water Channels: From Atomic Structure to Clinical Medicine."

<http://lifesciencesweek.missouri.edu/>

April 5 – Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute “Out of the Lab” at Midwest Research Institute, Mag Auditorium – 5 p.m. registration

The March Out of the Lab follows Sharon Dunwoody's 3 p.m. satellite video presentation on "Science and the Media." RSVP to Terri Bogina, (816) 753-7700 or tbogina@kclifesciences.org.
<http://www.kclifesciences.org/content/Calendar/LabCalendar.asp>

May 3-5 -- Bio Mid-America set in St. Louis

Bio Mid-America, the only biotech-focused venture capital forum in the Midwest, is set for May 3-5 at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel in St. Louis. The collaboration between 10 states and the biotechnology industry helps create funding and investment opportunities for start-up biotech entrepreneurs and seed stage investors in the Midwest life sciences arena.

<http://www.bio.org/midamerica/>.

Mark Your Calendar:

June 3-4 – Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute Annual Dinner and Life Sciences Research Day

The Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute's Annual Dinner is set for June 3 at the Fairmont Hotel on the Plaza. An expanded Life Sciences Research Day featuring prominent national and local speakers is set for June 4 at the Overland Park Convention Center. For more information or to register, visit www.kclifesciencesday.org.

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