

Biotechnology Medical Breakthroughs

California Biotechnology: Fast Facts

At a time when cancer and heart disease are the world's top killers, [recent data](#) shows that California's biotech companies are developing 243 of the 1,186 medicines in development for those life-threatening diseases.

California Congresswoman Introduces Bill to Spur Biotech and Medical Device Development

Congresswoman Susan Davis (D-San Diego) recently introduced legislation to spark innovation within San Diego's biotech and medical device industry. The Therapeutic Tax Credit Act would provide federal assistance through tax credits and grants to develop promising new lifesaving medications or medical devices.

[Read more.](#)

Medtronic and Lilly Will Develop Drug-delivery Tool for Parkinson's

Medtronic will partner with Eli Lilly & Co. to develop an implantable system that can directly deliver drugs to the brains of patients with Parkinson's disease. The companies hope the system, which consists of a drug pump and a catheter, will be able to cross the blood-brain barrier, which blocks entry of certain substances, including most drugs, to the brain. [Read more.](#)

First Stem-cell Patient Reports Feeling in Legs

The first patient to receive a human embryonic stem-cell treatment developed by UC Irvine researchers for paralysis from a spinal-cord injury says he has regained some feeling in his legs. [Read more.](#)

California Researchers Have Converted Human Skin Cells Directly Into Functioning Brain Cells

The scientists manipulated the process by which DNA is transcribed within foetal skin cells to create cells which behaved like neurons. The technique had previously been demonstrated in mice. It could be used for neurological research, and could be used to create brain cells for transplant. [Read more.](#)

Oral Cancer Drugs Deserve Parity

A study linking the size of copayments to patient abandonment of oral cancer drugs released in May of this year put a spotlight on the uncomfortable truth. Among the many findings: 25% of patients didn't purchase their prescription medication when they learned copayments or cost-sharing would require them to pay more than \$500. [Read more.](#)

Appeals Court Overturns Ruling on Embryonic Stem Cell Research

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia reversed a judge's decision to ban federal funding for studies involving embryonic stem cells. [Read more.](#)

Biotechnology Economic Contributions

California Biotechnology: Fast Facts

Venture capital investments in California's biotechnology companies totaled \$4.8 billion between 2009 - 2010. Source: *2011 California Biomedical Industry Report*

A Glimpse at the Competition

Florida Biotech Industry Outpaces Nation

While the biotechnology industry has weakened across the U.S., Florida has seen a 21 percent jump in the number of biotech companies since 2008 and a surge in investment, according to the University of Florida. [Read more.](#)

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Massachusetts Biotech Sector Offers Job Opportunities for Entry-level Workers

Biotech companies in Massachusetts are providing research laboratory and manufacturing jobs to people without advanced degrees. In an effort to boost employment and raise awareness about biotech programs, the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council in 2010 certified eight community colleges that offer certificate and associate degree programs. [Read more.](#)

Biotechnology Workforce Development

California Biotechnology: Fast Facts

268,000 Californians were employed by California's biotechnology industry in 2009. Source: *2011 California Biomedical Industry Report*

California Biotech Companies Help Low-performing Schools Teach Science

Local biotechnology companies want to help educational institutions from middle schools to community colleges teach science because they worry about finding qualified workers such as research associates and lab technicians.

[Read more.](#)

New Stem Cell PhD Program at Stanford University

Stanford University has set up a doctoral program that will train students in stem cell biology and regenerative medicine. The university will start accepting applications for the program this fall. [Read more.](#)

Member Spotlight

Pfizer Inc., California

California is home to several of Pfizer's Worldwide Research and Development facilities where researchers are developing new medicines to treat and prevent many forms of cancer, eye diseases and central nervous system conditions. In fact, more than 100 Pfizer-led clinical trials are now underway in California. Pfizer La Jolla Laboratories, one of Pfizer's biggest research and development sites in the world, developed Sutent, a cancer medicine for renal cell carcinoma and gastrointestinal stromal tumors. Pfizer's San Diego-based Agouron Pharmaceuticals, discovered Viracept, one of the first medications to treat HIV. CovX, also located in San Diego, uses breakthrough technology to develop tailor-made treatments for cancer and metabolic disease. And, researchers at South San Francisco's Rinat, use the latest scientific approaches to discover new ways of treating disease.

Pfizer employs about 2,000 Californians which helps support another 3,624 jobs in the California economy. On average, Pfizer pays approximately \$29 million annually in state and local taxes and makes more than \$600,000,000 in corporate statewide purchases. Additionally, Pfizer invests considerable resources in California-based partnerships and research efforts. Nearly 170 ongoing partnerships have been established, including a five-year, \$100 million research collaboration with the Scripps Research Institute and the establishment of the Centers for Therapeutic Innovation (CTI) which works to reduce the time and cost of drug discovery and development. UC San Francisco was named as the first CTI participant - valued up to \$85 million.

Pfizer is one of the largest corporate donors in the nation. The Pfizer Foundation and Pfizer employees have donated over \$1.5 million to nonprofit organizations in California and an additional \$467,000 through their ConnectHIV initiative. Over the past five years, Pfizer Helpful Answers helped nearly 6 million uninsured and underinsured patients without prescription coverage obtain \$5.7 billion worth of medicines for free or at a savings. In 2009, more than 113,500 uninsured and underinsured Californians received \$106.3 million worth of medicines at a discount or no cost.

Pfizer employees enthusiastically give back to their communities by participating in events like Rady Children's Hospital Celebration of Champions, Network of Strength Walk to Empower, Foundation Fighting Blindness Dining in the Dark, Cycling for Sight, the University of California San Diego Moore's Cancer Center Luau and Longboard Invitational and the Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure. Additionally, Pfizer's scientists are involved in numerous K-12 education outreach programs in California including a speaker's bureau to assist science teachers in their classrooms. For more information about Pfizer, Inc. visit: www.pfizer.com.

California Biotechnology Social Media Program

Social Media Recommendations

Below is a list of platforms to consider utilizing for regular industry facts, news and medical breakthroughs:

Life Technologies on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/LifeTechnologies>

Life Technologies Corporation is a global biotechnology company dedicated to improving the human condition. Their systems, consumables and services enable researchers to accelerate scientific and medical advancements that make life even better.

Lybba Foundation's award winning YouTube Channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/LybbaVideo>

Features video from accomplished filmmaker and founder of Lybba, Jesse Dylan. Lybba is a nonprofit product and service organization helping to give life to the open source healthcare movement. Jesse received the California Biomedical Research Association's 2011 *Biomedical Research Outreach and Education Award* for connecting the public to medical science with inspiring, succinct videos of the latest medical research, and advancing more efficient scientific research and drug development by fostering collaboration among patients, clinicians, and researchers.

San Francisco Business Times - Ron Leuty's tweets: [@rleuty_biotech](#)

This Twitter accounts provides regular industry trends and news from the San Francisco Business Times' biotech reporter, Ron Leuty.

BIOCOM's LinkedIn:

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1668837&mostPopular=&trk=tyah>

BIOCOM is the largest regional life science association in the world, representing more than 550 member companies in Southern California. Join the association's LinkedIn group to connect with over 3,700 industry leaders and scientists to discuss medical advances, industry challenges and identify employment opportunities.

Calendar

August 5, 2011 - California Latino Legislative Caucus Health Summit

The California Latino Legislative Caucus is hosting a Health Summit to discuss federal healthcare reform implementation, healthcare workforce diversity & development, state budgetary impacts on access to care and illness and health issues disproportionately impacting Latinos. The Summit will be held at LAC + USC Medical Center located at 1200 N. State St. in Los Angeles. For more information please email ca.latinocaucus@gmail.com or call Armando Chavez at (510) 882-6415.

October 3 - 5, 2011 - 2011 World Stem Cell Summit

The annual World Stem Cell Summit is the flagship international event uniting the stem cell community by bringing together scientists, patients, advocates, business people, investors, educators, ethicists, policy makers, government representatives, and others to network and learn from each other. The Summit will be held at the Pasadena Convention Center and will attract more than 2,000 attendees from 30 nations, 60 exhibitors and more than 200 endorsing organizations and media partners. For more information visit:

<http://www.worldstemcellsummit.com/>.

Thank You

Thank you for reading this edition of the *California Biotechnology News Update*. Be sure to check out the CBF website at www.cabiotech.org for the latest news and information regarding California's biotechnology industry.

Sincerely,
Patty Cooper
California Biotechnology Foundation