



NEWS UPDATE

News & Information from California's Biotechnology Leaders

Biotechnology Medical Breakthroughs

Onyx Pharmaceuticals cancer treatment one step closer to market

South San Francisco-based Onyx Pharmaceuticals turned in its application to start selling a new treatment for multiple myeloma, a deadly cancer of the bone marrow. The company asked the FDA for an expedited six-month regulatory review, which the agency sometimes grants to treatments with lifesaving potential. [Read more.](#)

Sequenom unveils blood test for Down syndrome

San Diego-based biotech company, Sequenom, has introduced its blood test for Down syndrome which is 99.1 percent accurate. The non-invasive test can detect and map unborn babies' DNA in maternal blood samples and determine whether they contain genetic codes that point to Down syndrome. [Read more.](#)

FDA expands approval of Amgen's bone drug Prolia

Thousand Oaks-based biotechnology company, Amgen Inc., received Food and Drug Administration approval of its osteoporosis treatment Prolia to prevent bone fractures in breast and prostate cancer patients who have had chemotherapy. [Read more.](#)

Biotechnology Economic Contributions

Report says 12 industries drive East Bay economy

A study by the East Bay Economic Development Alliance identifies the fields that bring the most wealth and investment into the region. The findings can also help students and career-changers pick industries with futures. [Read more.](#)

J & J launches incubator for biotechs in San Diego

Johnson and Johnson recently turned a wing of its La Jolla drug research center into an incubator for startup drug development and medical device companies. J & J plans to recruit as many as 20 small companies to occupy 35,000 square feet of space. [Read more.](#)

Pfizer to add positions at Synbiotics manufacturing plant in San Diego

Pfizer will soon relocate their Synbiotics manufacturing plant from Lyon, France and transfer production of the diagnostic devices to a facility in San Diego. The transfer will result in a \$3 million capital investment to the San Diego site. [Read more.](#)

Isis Pharmaceuticals opens 176,000 square foot research and development facility in Carlsbad, California

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Isis Pharmaceuticals opened a state-of-the-art complex in September to consolidate the majority of their operations into a single facility and allow more efficient development of pipeline drugs to treat a wide variety of diseases with an emphasis on cardiovascular, metabolic and severe and rare/neurodegenerative diseases, and cancer. [Read more.](#)

World-renowned scientist to launch a \$35 million research institute at UC San Diego

J. Craig Venter, one of the world's top geneticists, will open a 45,000-square-foot genomics research facility on the UCSD campus to study human genetics and help find ways to derive energy from microbes. [Read more.](#)

Experts: Stem cell therapies can help reduce health care costs

Experts at the World Stem Cell Summit convened in Pasadena October 3-5, said that stem cell therapies for stroke, heart attack and other diseases affecting baby boomers could help the U.S. health care system save money. [Read more.](#)

Biotechnology Workforce Development

Sacramento initiative to offer healthcare training for high school students and build new DNA lab at UC Davis

The WayUp Sacramento project would bring medical screenings to thousands of children, would encourage students to consider careers in the medical field by funding new healthcare academies at the high schools, build hundreds of community gardens, create jobs and help people buy homes. [Read more.](#)

Chancellor wants to turn USCF into a health sciences innovator

As the chancellor of the University of California, San Francisco, Dr. Susan Desmond-Hellmann says she wants to transform the university into "the world's pre-eminent health sciences innovator" that can quickly translate research into treatments, provide patients with "unparalleled" care and retain first-rate faculty and staff. Desmond-Hellmann, who served as president of product development at Genentech, said she hoped the university would boost its partnerships with biotech firms in the Bay Area to generate more money in addition to grants, tuition and patient fees being collected by the university. [Read more.](#)

AARP names Scripps best employer for workers over 50

Scripps Health was named the number one company on the 2011 AARP Best Employers for Workers 50 and Older, and the first California-based employer to be selected as the top employer in the decade-long program. [Read more.](#)

This Month's Digital Media Picks

- TEDMED's YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/tedmed>
- PhRMA's The Catalyst Blog: <http://www.phrma.org/catalyst>
- LA Times Health News Twitter account: @[LATimeshealth](#)

Educational Material

California Biotechnology Foundation Workforce Guide

[Click here](#) to view the CBF Workforce Guide or go to www.cabiotech.org.

Calendar

December 13, 2011 - Council for American Medical Innovation (CAMI) Symposium

Join more than 300 leaders in the fields of health, education, biotech and politics as they examine challenges facing our economy and healthcare system during *Innovate California* on December 13, 2011 in La Jolla, California. The Council for American Medical Innovation (CAMI)-sponsored symposium aims to preserve and underline the importance of continued medical innovation and its contribution to job growth in California.

National Commentator and Political Strategist, Paul Begala, will emcee the summit and Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom will provide a keynote speech on California's leadership role in medical innovation. Also featured are two dynamic panel discussions among federal and state leaders to discuss the role biopharmaceuticals and life sciences play in the national and state economy.

A central piece of the program is the presentation of the [The Milken Institute's new study: The Global Biomedical Industry: Preserving U.S. Leadership](#). This study takes a global view of the United States' rise to world leadership in the sector over the past 30 years, and the current trends emerging across Europe, Japan, China, India and Singapore that should cause us to reexamine our place, and our current policy environment.

Historically, the United States has played a strong role in the national and international biomedical industry. Today, efforts such as *Innovate California* exist to explore ways to overcome current challenges and capitalize on opportunities for American job growth. The event will be held at Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines, La Jolla, CA. <http://innovatecalifornia.org/>.

January 23-24, 2012 - Personalized Medicine World Conference (PMWC)

Launched by Silicon Valley entrepreneurs in 2009, PMWC gathers thought-leaders of business, government, healthcare-delivery, research and technology into one information-rich, two-day conference. This year's PMWC 2012, themed "The Journey to Commercialization," will provide entrepreneurs and companies with pragmatic insight into Personalized Medicine in cooperation with the FDA, Big Biopharma and Payers. The conference will be held at the Computer History Museum, Mountain View, CA. <http://www.pmwc2012.com> or magali@silicomventures.com.

February 1-2, 2012 - BIOCOM Global Life Science Partnering Conference

BIOCOM's second annual Global Life Science Partnering Conference is an exclusive global partnering and networking forum that brings together senior executives and business development professions from leading pharmaceutical and life science companies. The conference will be held at the Lodge at Torrey Pines, La Jolla, CA.

aberry@biocom.org or
http://www.biocom.org/event/index/Partnering_Conf_2012/

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