



DECEMBER BIO NEBRASKA E-LETTER

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Letter from the Executive Director:

Dear Members,

As I recently looked over the preliminary results of our market research, I was once again reminded of the diversity of our membership. Our state bioscience industry embraces a wide-ranging group of partners, from agricultural-focused organizations to drug, pharmaceuticals and medical device companies to organizations involved in research and testing. And, in addition to the diversity of sectors, we have members ranging from small startups to large multinational organizations.

Collectively, we are charged with feeding the hungry, curing disease and improving the environment — all very noble missions — and I am proud to be involved with such an organization. It has been a pleasure for me to come on board this year.

We are wrapping up a successful year for the bioscience industry in the state of Nebraska. The end of the year is always a great time to look back at our accomplishments, and we have quite a few to celebrate. To highlight a few:

- We have had significant legislation approved by our Legislature to assist Nebraska businesses. (The Talent & Innovation Initiative is one example.)
- We continue to see private sector job growth in Nebraska's bioscience industry outpace much of the country.
- The University of Nebraska continues to add resources to enhance partnership opportunities with the private sector.
- "Forging Nebraska's Future" is an exciting new initiative led by Richard Baier, former state economic development director, which will put the spotlight on our state's business climate and seek ways to improve our economic competitiveness.

Independently, these actions have a positive impact on the state, but collectively, they are powerful forces to move our state forward and continue to make our state and our industry competitive.

On another subject, I want to thank all of you who participated in the membership survey calls. We received great feedback and are finalizing



the report, which will be available on our website in 2012. The results clearly show that networking and collaborating are important areas to our members, and I hope we can provide more opportunities in these areas in 2012. I look forward to meeting more members next year and partnering with you as we strive to create an ecosystem for the biosciences. To that end, be sure to mark your calendar for the Bio Nebraska Life Sciences Association Annual Meeting scheduled for Monday, April 16. More information will be forthcoming.

Finally, I want to continue to encourage you to put Bio Nebraska on your news distribution list so that we can assist you in the promotion of your company news.

I wish all of you a healthy and prosperous new year.



Phil Kozera
Executive Director

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Science Café

Bio Nebraska partners with UNMC to bring you the Science Cafés.

"Radiation: Facts, Fantasies and Phobias"

Mark your calendars for the next Omaha Science Café, which will be held at The Slowdown (729 North 14 St., Omaha) on January 10, 2012, from 7-8 p.m. David Crouse, Ph.D., will talk about radiation facts, fantasies and phobias.

For more information on upcoming speakers and topics, visit www.unmc.edu/sciencecafe.

Entrepreneurship focus of February 24 conference

The Nebraska Summit on Entrepreneurship will be held Friday, February 24, in Embassy Suites Omaha-La Vista Hotel and Conference Center in La Vista, Nebraska. This all-day event will feature guest speakers, breakout sessions, lunch and networking. It is sponsored by the Nebraska Business-Higher Education Forum, Gallup Organization and the University of Nebraska. [Visit Bio Nebraska's website for more information about this event.](#)

Are you interested in hosting a Bio Nebraska meeting? Please contact [Phil Kozera](#) today.

Member News and Events

Novozymes signs biotech agreement with MorphoSys

Novozymes has entered a nonexclusive licensing and technology transfer deal to use MorphoSys' Slonomics protein engineering technology in the development of industrial biotech applications. Terms were not disclosed. [Read the article in *Pharmaceutical Business Review Online*.](#)

Industry News

Researchers reach biofuels milestone

Researchers hoping to replace gasoline, diesel and jet fuels with a cleaner, greener alternative have reached a milestone. Researchers have engineered the first strains of bacteria that can digest switchgrass biomass and synthesize its sugars into those fuels. As an added plus, this can be done without added enzymes. [Read](#)

[the article from the *Western Farm Press*.](#)

U.K. PM announces changes in the life science industry

Britain outlined plans to make reforms intended to spur growth in the life sciences. In part, it would give "extremely sick" patients access to new drugs prior to final licensing. It also would put the National Health Service at the core of the drug development process by making NHS data available for research, Prime Minister David Cameron said. The initiative would provide universities and small and medium-sized enterprises with about \$281 million in research funding. [Article is available from *The Wall Street Journal/Dow Jones Newswires*.](#)

Biotechnology can help meet future food needs, says U.S. senator

The use of biotechnology in farming, together with good government policies, is necessary to meet future global demand, said Sen. Dick Lugar, R-Ind., one of few farmers serving now in the U.S. Senate. "We must use all the technology in our toolbox, including bioengineered seeds," he said. He also asked European governments to stop resisting the use of biotechnology and lift bans on biotech plants. [See the article at *Agri-Pulse.com*.](#)

Are you taking full advantage of your membership?

BIO's cost-savings program, BIO Business Solutions, is saving 2,700 companies nationwide on the cost of essential products and services. Members of BIO and 43 state and regional biotech associations are eligible to receive preferential pricing and other benefits at no additional cost beyond their membership dues. VWR International, FedEx, Office Depot, Business Wire are just a few of the industry-leading providers that offer special pricing through this members only program. Learn more or enroll [here](#).

Scientists develop microneedle sensors

Biomedical engineers have inserted electrochemical sensors into microneedles to detect and report the presence of certain molecules in the human body. A wearable device, such as a wristwatch, could have the sensor arrays attached, researchers said. Such a device could detect in real time the glucose levels in a diabetic, for example. [View the *CNET* article.](#)

Americans favor federal support of bio industry

Most American voters (53 percent) support federal funding support of the biotechnology industry, according to a poll conducted on behalf of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO). When told that the biotech industry is working to cure diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and diabetes, 76 percent said they support federal funding of the industry. [Read more about this poll.](#)

Stay Connected

Bio Nebraska membership is open to all employees of an organization. Please inform your associates that they are welcome to attend events, sign up for our E-letter, follow us on [Twitter](#), subscribe to our [RSS Feed](#), or join our [LinkedIn group](#).

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or information to feature in the {Information} E-Letter, please email me at pkozera@bionebraska.org. Thank you.