

CBSA NEWS IN REVIEW



A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF COLORADO'S MEDICAL DEVICE AND BIOPHARMA INDUSTRIES

21 February – 27 February

COMPANY SPOTLIGHT

- **Accera Inc.** (Broomfield) launched Axona for the treatment of Alzheimer's Disease (AD) in the United States. Axona, a medical food, represents a novel approach to the treatment of AD and is designed to address a key nutritional deficiency associated with the disease. The brains of AD patients are unable to properly use glucose, essentially leading to the starvation on neurons. Axona provides these neurons with an alternative energy source, ketone bodies, which are produced when Axona is metabolized by liver. In a double-blind, randomized, placebo controlled study, patients taking Axona showed a significant cognitive improvement (as measured by the ADAS-cog score) after 45 days and a slight improvement after 90 days compared to patients on placebo who showed a cognitive decline.
- **Ceragenix Pharmaceuticals, Inc** (Denver) reported that its lead Ceragenin, CSA-13, was shown to have potent bactericidal activity against all 23 strains of oral bacteria tested (all isolates of the *Streptococcus mutans* and *Poryphyromonas* species) in a recent study. The research conducted at the Health Sciences University of Hokkaido in Japan suggests potential for CSA-13 in the prevention and treatment of dental caries and periodontal disease. CSA-13 is the same antimicrobial compound recently shown to be effective against *E. coli* as part of the company's CeraShield technology.

PEOPLE

- **Merck & Co., Inc.** announced that Dr. Thomas R. Cech has been elected to join its board of directors effective May 27. Cech currently serves as the president of Howard Hughes Medical Institute but will step down and return to his faculty position at the University of Colorado, Boulder at the end of March. Cech, the recipient of the 1989 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, co-founded Ribozyme Pharmaceuticals, a company that later became Sirna Therapeutics, Inc. which Merck & Co., Inc. acquired in December of 2006.

SQUARE PEGS

- A summary of the CBSA Investor Relations seminar held last Tuesday is available [here](#).
- An interview with John Collar about his first months as CBSA's Executive Director can be found [here](#).
- **Avigen, Inc.** (Alameda, California), a biopharmaceutical company, announced today that two preclinical reports with glial attenuator AV411 (ibudilast) support the pharmacological effect of the drug on enhancing the pain-killing effect of opioids while reducing the addiction properties of commonly used opioids such as morphine and oxycodone. Both studies were led by researchers at CU Boulder including Dr. Linda Watkins and Dr. Mark Hutchison, both of whom were instrumental in the early research into AV411's activity.
- A profile of **Sharklet Technologies**, which is currently developing a unique approach to bacterial control, is available [here](#).
- The February 25 episode of *Studio 12* on Channel 12 focused on the topic "How will new medical biotechnologies change the process of diagnosis, treatment and health care system efficiency?" Panelists for the discussion were Fred Mitchell, CEO of Beacon Biotechnology; David Howson, president of Accelr8 Technology

Corp.; and Mark Spiecker, vice president at Sharklet Technologies. The program is available on-demand at the KBDI [website](#).

- Nominations are now being accepted for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2009 Awards in the Rocky Mountain Region. More information is available [here](#).
- CBSA provides a variety of ways for members to stay connected online. Links to several of these opportunities are provided below:
 - [LinkedIn Group](#)
 - [Facebook Group](#)
 - [Twitter – @cobioscience](#)
 - [RockyRadar.com](#)
- The University of Denver WIRED Good Manufacturing Practices/Good Laboratory Practices Certification class is holding a career fair for the graduates of this course. They are looking for local companies to attend and wish to hire and network with these students after they have completed the course with their new found knowledge. They are also seeking any speakers who wish to talk about any specific experiences they have had regarding GMP/GLP regulations and would like to pass on their wisdom. The event will be held on March 19, from 6-9PM with a reception for companies prior to the event. Please contact Mike Savoie at Michael.Savoie@du.edu if you or your company is interested.
- Looking for new strategies for managing your company's cash flow during this economic lull? Now is the time to check out [BIO Business Solutions](#), BIO's cost-savings program. With 15 money-saving opportunities with leading providers in the biotech industry, saving your company money is made easier with BIO Business Solutions. Participation is free to members of BIO and 38 state/regional biotech associations. Get a complete list of the products and services available to you [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- A seminar entitled “Hong Kong: Turning China Into Opportunity” will take place on March 10 at 7:30 am at the Grand Hyatt Denver. More information and registration information are available [here](#).
- March’s Innovation after Hours will focus on Bioscience in Larimer County celebrating its five year anniversary. The event is on March 12 at 4 pm at the Stonehouse Grille in Fort Collins. Click [here](#) for more information.
- The Anschutz Medical Campus will host the Visibly Human symposium, dedication and reception for the new Humanescence art sculpture in the Health Sciences Library. The symposium will take place on March 6 in Education 2 South, Room 1102 beginning at 2 pm.
- A two-day work shop on Writing Successful SBIR/STTR Grant Applications for NIH, DOD and NSF will be hosted at Colorado Science + Technology Park at Fitzsimons on March 24 and 25. More information on how to register is available [here](#).
- BioNetwork East 2009 is just around the corner, and as a CBSA member you can receive a 25% discount on your attendance. The conference is on March 16-18th and the website is www.wbresearch.com/bionetworkusa. For more information on the discount price please contact Leah Kientz at Lkientz@cobioscience.com for more information.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- CBSA’s lobbying team, have provided this week's legislative report.