

CBSA FOCUS



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FOUNDATION

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Letter from the President

By Holli Baumunk

Dear Friends of CBSA,

It is truly an honor to take leadership of the association as President and CEO. Having worked closely with the Colorado business community for 18 years, I have had the privilege of seeing CBSA grow and evolve into an impressive and influential presence here in our state.

Denise Brown, who has led the association as interim CEO for the past 6 months has been a driving force behind CBSA's success for many years, and truly a visionary of ways CBSA could bring value to the industry and bioscience community. I want to extend my thank you to her for her incredible dedication to this group.

I am so proud to step into this leadership position and am likewise committed to building on our tradition of delivering indispensable programs and services to our members. I recognize that CBSA plays a crucial role in bringing together many groups -- from life sciences companies to service providers and education and research institutions to policy-makers -- all under the banner of preserving and furthering innovation in Colorado.

Over the past few weeks sitting in on meetings and working with the CBSA team, I have gained a true appreciation of our staff members' commitment to our members and the community at large. I am thrilled to lead the organization at this time, as the next several months include several signature

CBSA events.

Our staff is currently busy planning BioWest, our annual conference, which will draw hundreds of industry professionals, and focus on ways the industry can adapt during this time of constrained resources and increased focus on value. Our Annual Awards Dinner will take place the evening of the first night of the conference. The dinner will recognize the contributions and achievements of life sciences companies and supporters in Colorado. The Conference and Awards Dinner promise to be outstanding events and if you have not yet registered, I encourage you to do so.

On the policy front, foreseeing a difficult budget year in Colorado and a continued gradual economic recovery, we believe it is more important than ever to remind legislators of our companies' positive economic contributions, both today and as an area for growth in the future. Our champions in government are invaluable, and as 2010 is an important election year, we are also watchful for opportunities to elevate life sciences issues in the Gubernatorial, Congressional, and State government electoral races.

Additionally, as health care reform legislation is rolled out and implemented, we will be watching closely for opportunities to make your voice heard. The advancements being made in medical devices and promising therapeutic areas are among those which are

actively moving our health care system, and our regional economy in the right direction.

While we are hard at work here at CBSA, we recognize that our members are the reason for our efforts. While I have enjoyed working with many of CBSA's companies and community leaders over the years, I am looking forward to connecting with each of our members over the coming months and together working to develop strategies for how CBSA can best serve our community in the years to come.

Theodorescu to Lead University Colorado Cancer Center

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Photo courtesy of Glenn Asakawa

Dan Theodorescu, MD, PhD, a cancer researcher and urologic surgeon, was named last

December as director of the University of Colorado Cancer Center, and assumed the role there effective July 1. UCCC is the Rocky Mountain region's only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center. UCCC is a consortium of three state universities (Colorado State University, University of Colorado at Boulder and University of Colorado Denver) and five institutions (The Children's Hospital, Denver Health, Denver VA Medical Center, National Jewish Health and University of Colorado Hospital).

Previously, Theodorescu was director of the Mellon Urologic Cancer Institute at the University of Virginia. In Colorado, he will lead the efforts of the UCCC consortium, coordinate UCCC's research portfolio and hold the Paul Bunn Chair in Cancer Research.

Speaking on what attracted him to Colorado, he says he hoped to "make a bigger impact at a comprehensive cancer center." Indeed he says, a large part of what makes UCCC a uniquely collaborative environment is the volume of research within three mile radius: namely University of Colorado Hospital, The Children's Hospital and the University of Colorado School of Medicine among them. "It's going to keep growing," he says. "We want to expand and create new opportunities, on the Anschutz Medical Campus

and across the entire consortium." On the importance of industry partnerships, Theodorescu said, "I am the owner of a biotech company myself. I am a big fan of biotechs started by academics. We need these companies. Without them it is impossible to bring research to the commercial realm." Theodorescu stressed the importance of the State Government's appreciation of the value that cancer research provides the state, both in terms of human health and economic benefits. "For every dollar invested, there is a multiplier effect for the state," he said. "They should recognize that spending money in this way is leveraging their investment to create economic benefits for the State."

On Wednesday, August 4th, Dr. Theodorescu will provide keynote remarks during the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network's Annual Breakfast. A reception will be held to welcome Dr. Theodorescu following the breakfast. For more information or to register for the

Update on Cures Acceleration Network

The Cures Acceleration Network (CAN), authorized through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or health reform law – will allow the National Institutes of Health to seek out and support biotech companies, universities, and patient advocacy groups that are pursuing promising, innovative research. CAN also promises to establish a new funding mechanism that promotes outcomes-driven research. The initiative would provide start-up biotechs with up to \$15 million for clinical trials for new drugs for neglected diseases. These are defined as drugs, biological products or devices that are a priority to diagnose, mitigate, prevent, or treat harm from any dis-

ease or condition, and for which the incentives of the commercial market are unlikely to result in adequate or timely development. The CAN initiative received considerable support during the health care reform package debates, and was championed loudly by Pennsylvania Democratic Senator Arlen Specter. However, without appropriation by the rest of Congress, the fate of the network remains uncertain, and indeed has faced growing opposition by members that are reluctant to add to increasing deficits.

NIH Chief Francis Collins has spent time this month lobbying for Congress to set aside funding for the half-billion dollar program.

the half-billion dollar program. According to *Fierce Biotech*, this initiative marks a strategic shift for the NIH, which has traditionally spent most of its efforts sponsoring academic research.

In an interview with *Bloomberg*, Collins said, "We have the chance now to make progress in therapeutics that we really could not have done five or six years ago; we just didn't have the science." By creating the new program, "we will have a good chance of some dramatic stories of success." He noted that this program has the potential to fund clinical development for 20 new drug projects.

Boettcher Foundation Honors Inaugural Class of Investigators



Pictured: Boettcher Foundation President, Tim Schultz with inaugural class of Investigators

By Kathryn Bailey

In 2008 the Boettcher Foundation, an institutional pillar of scholarship advancement in Colorado, was entrusted with the assets of the Webb-Waring Foundation. Staying true to the goals and legacy of the Webb and Waring

families, and recognizing that innovation is the lifeblood of the life sciences industry, the Boettcher Foundation's trustees and institutional partners deliberated for over two years on the best way to address the need for continued advancement in human health as well as the careers of young scientists.

The result was an innovative

agreement between the Boettcher Foundation, the Webb-Waring Foundation for Biomedical Research and the University of Colo-

rado, creating a new funding area that will support the work of early-career investigators in the biomedical field.

The inaugural class of Boettcher Investigators was introduced on June 30 during a ceremony at the Governor's Mansion. To be eligible for grants, the researchers must meet the parameters of Early Career Investigators (ECIs) – faculty members who are

four years or less from their first academic appointment at a research institution.

Among those receiving grants from the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program are researchers in the fields of immunology, bioinformatics, Parkinson's Disease, pediatric cancer and the development of cardiovascular medical devices.

In a statement, Governor Ritter elaborated on the needs addressed by this program by saying, "Early stage investigators have a difficult time getting a first opportunity at an independent research effort that will move them out of the laboratory of their mentors and into their own new and exciting areas of discovery." Through its mission for over 70 years, the Boettcher Foundation has helped to build

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Start Saving Today with BioBusiness Solutions

Colorado BioScience Association has partnered with the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) to offer CBSA members discounts and other benefits on products and services from industry-leading suppliers through BIO's cost-savings program, BIO Business-Solutions.

There is no charge for member companies to utilize any of the programs, which offer discounts and special benefits on products

and services like laboratory products and equipment, clinical trials liability and other commercial insurance policies, news distribution services, office supplies, computer and technology products and more.

More than 70 CBSA member companies are using the BIO BusinessSolutions program to help their businesses save money. If your company is not one of them, visit

www.biobusinessolutions.com/



216 16th St.
 Suite 850
 Denver, CO 80202
 Main number: (303) 592-4073
www.cobioscience.com



WHAT CBSA MEMBERSHIP OFFERS

LEADERSHIP: The CBSA supports the economic development of Colorado through the creation of a premier bioscience cluster within the state. Representing more than 400 members, the CBSA facilitates growth of the bioscience industry in Colorado through advocacy, representation and service.

MEMBER BENEFITS: CBSA membership provides all employees free or discounted registration for over 50 meetings and conferences throughout the year. Members also have access to BIO Business Solutions program, which provides discounts and benefits on products and services with industry-leading suppliers.

ADVOCACY: CBSA works with and educates local, state and federal policymakers to strengthen opportunities for life sciences companies.

Learn more by contacting April Giles at
agiles@cobioscience.com or (303) 492-4071

Boettcher Investigators, cont'd from Page 3
 community infrastructure through capital grant making. Likewise, since 1924 Webb-Waring Foundation has contributed to the advancement of biomedical research by engaging in basic and clinical research and training research scientists.

The National Institutes of Health and Colorado's own Strategic Fund to help finance proof of concept and early stage companies serve as a critical source of funding for companies seeking to make the leap toward clinical trials and ultimately regulatory approval. These grants do not reach every promising research project however. In an effort similar to the actions of researchers who work to address unmet needs in health care, Dr. Timothy Schultz, President and Executive Director of the Boettcher Foundation said that the Foundation spent a great deal of time working to "identify the best opportunity for investment by the Foundation of more than \$1 million each year into the efforts to increase out competitiveness in biomedical science."

BioWest Conference: September 29-30

The industry is setting its sights on the future as new companies emerge, large companies partner more often and new policies begin to take hold. As new research and funding paradigms continue to unfold in the coming years, it will be essential for industry professionals to understand the changes afoot in order to take advantage of the opportunities that arise.

The Seventh Annual BioWest Conference and Trade Show will focus on the future of the industry on an international, national and state level. Discussing these issues amongst key industry members is a key benefit of the conference, with more than 700 national and international industry leaders, government representatives, executives, researchers, investors, entrepreneurs, and professional services firms expected to attend. The day and a half long program will include the following topics:

"Key Steps to Moving Colorado's Bioscience Industry Forward: A Debate between the gubernatorial Candidates"

"The Future of Partnering and

Working with the Industry Titans"

"Health Care in Transition: The Outlook on What the Industry Should Expect" presented by Jim Greenwood, CEO of BIO and Mark Leahy, CEO of MDMA

"Venture Showcase Competition: Four Start-Up Company Presentations to Venture Capitalists"

"The Path to Working Internationally: Advantages and Disadvantages from Industry Experts"

"The Year 2020 and the Role of the Venture Capitalist"

The conference also allows companies the opportunity to showcase their products and services to the attendees with more than 50 exhibitor spaces and sponsorship opportunities at various levels. More information on the conference along with the full agenda and speakers can be found on the conference website,

www.BioWestConference.com.