



Vol. I No. XXVIII 30 August – 5 September

## COMPANY SPOTLIGHT

- **AspenBio Pharma** (Castle Rock) reported enrollment levels are approaching fifty percent in the ongoing FDA 510(k) clinical trial for AppyScore™, the world's first blood-based diagnostic tool for human appendicitis. Since the trial commenced in late June 2008, enrollment rates have accelerated, as the number of participating institutions have expanded and all are active, including a large children's hospital. As of the end of August 2008, 343 patients were enrolled in the 800 patient clinical trial. The study is focused on patients arriving at hospital emergency rooms with a primary complaint of abdominal pain. This is further narrowed with criteria related to medical history and duration and location of abdominal pain.
- **Archemix** (Cambridge, MA) licensee of University Colorado-based intellectual property granted Ribomic (Japan) a worldwide, non-exclusive license to certain of its IP rights to develop aptamers against multiple targets. Archemix will receive an upfront payment of \$6M. Ribomic has the option to convert the licenses from non-exclusive to exclusive on a target-by-target basis. When the option is exercised, Archemix is eligible to receive milestone payments and a royalty on any marketed products developed under the agreement. Total milestone payments for the products combined could exceed \$200M.
- **Covidien** (Boulder) launched a global introduction of its Evident microwave ablation system. The system is designed to remove tissue during surgery via focusing microwave energy and heat on target tissue. The microwave technology has shown positive soft tissue removal results in patients who cannot undergo surgical resection and have few other options, according to a press release.
- **Celgene** (Boulder) announced the Food and Drug Administration has given special status to its experimental drug for lung cancer. The FDA has agreed to review Amrubican under its "fast track" program, which is designed to speed up the approval of treatments for deadly diseases. Under the program, companies can submit their applications in piecemeal fashion instead of all at once.
- **Monsanto – Emergent Genetics** (Boulder) signed a new five year partnership expansion with Israel-based Evogene which is designed to include discovering genes related to yield, environmental stress and fertilizer utilization. The scope of the research was previously limited to increasing nitrogen usage. Evogene will do the initial discovery research to identify genes that could increase yields and then Monsanto will test the candidates in plants. Monsanto will pay Evogene \$35M plus milestone and royalty payments for products that are get developed.

## FINANCE

- **Colorado State University** announced a \$302.6M spend on research in fiscal year 2008, an increase of \$6.6M over the previous fiscal year. A 35% increase on research spend was reported over the last five years driven by a sharp increase in research funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, NASA and the National Science Foundation Approximately 71% of CSU's research funding comes from the federal government, with the USDA being the largest single funder.

## PEOPLE

- **Jessica Tyler, Ph.D.**, team leader of the University of Colorado Cancer Center's Molecular Oncology Program and assistant professor of Biochemistry and

Chemistry at the University of Colorado Denver, identified a key marker cells use to know when broken DNA has been repaired and it's described a function to signal a cell when it is safe for the cell to begin dividing again. Her group has an article in the July 25 edition of Cell that discusses the breakthrough in understanding the basic mechanisms of cell cycle regulation.

- **Dr. Jane Shaw**, director of the Argus Institute at Colorado State University's Veterinary Medical Center, received the Leo K. Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year Award for her outstanding work increasing understanding of, preserving and protecting human-animal relationships. Shaw is also an assistant professor of veterinary communication.

## **SQUARE PEGS**

- Organizers of **BioWest 2008** are seeking candidates for the Venture Showcase Award. Six companies will be chosen to present at the showcase on 13 November and will be judged by a panel of national venture capitalists. Deadline for entry is 1 October. To apply, fill out an [application](#).
- The application and rules for **HB 1001 grants** are on the CBSA website and on the [Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade](#) website. The application deadline for early-stage bioscience company grants is November 30; the deadline for proof-of-concept grants is November 15.
- The **Cancer Supercluster** Retreat at CSU is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-5:00 in the Cherokee Park Room at the Lory Student Center. A goal of the Cancer Supercluster is to encourage greater collaboration between CSU researchers and bioscience companies. There will be a social hour and poster viewing at the end of the day. Lunch will be provided. Please email [Mike Weil](#) by Thursday, September 11th if you plan to attend.
- Forest City Science + Technology Group broke ground on the 184-acre **Colorado Science + Technology Park @ Fitzsimons**. The first phase of construction of the new bioscience park will house an incubator for emerging businesses, a hotel-conference center, a new office building for University Physicians, Inc. and a new site for the Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union.