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COMPANY SPOTLIGHT

- **miRagen Therapeutics** (Boulder) announced the publication of novel research demonstrating that acute myocardial infarction (MI) in mice and humans results in the dysregulation of a specific set of microRNAs. The microRNAs identified by this research may serve as novel targets for therapeutic intervention against acute MI due to coronary artery occlusion, which represents a major cause of human morbidity and mortality. The study appears in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (van Rooij E, et al. Dysregulation of microRNAs following myocardial infarction reveals a role of miR-29 in cardiac fibrosis. Proc Nat Acad Sci USA 105:13027-13032).
- **Roche Colorado** (Boulder) initiated its annual search to identify new members for its Community Advisory Panel, a group of that advises management of Roche Colorado on environmental and social issues related to the local community. The panel meets monthly from 6 to 9 p.m., and members commit to a two-year term. Applications are due Oct. 3. For an application, contact panel facilitator Marsha Caplan at join.rcap@rochecap.org. For more information, visit www.rochecap.com.
- **Amgen** (Boulder) released additional positive late-stage data for their potential osteoporosis drug denosumab. The trial compared bone mineral densities of 1,189 postmenopausal women with low bone mass who transferred from a weekly oral pill, alendronate to denosumab to those who stayed with the oral pill. The study revealed that participants who switched to denosumab experienced a 1.9 percent increase in bone mineral density compared to 1.05 percent for those who stayed with alendronate.
- Researchers at **National Jewish Health** (Denver) report in the 20 September issue of *The Lancet* that though exhaled nitric oxide serves as a biomarker of inflammation in the lungs, and proponents have suggested that monitoring nitric oxide levels could help improve management of asthma new science now indicates that adolescent and young adult patients whose asthma is managed according to the latest NIH guidelines in fact do not benefit from the addition of nitric-oxide monitoring. And, in other recently published work NJH researches published in the 18 September issue of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* that a pregnant mouse's diet can induce epigenetic changes that increase the risk her offspring will develop allergic asthma; where pregnant mice that consumed diets high in supplements containing methyl-donors, such as folic acid, had offspring with more severe allergic airway disease than offspring from mice that consumed diets low in methyl-containing foods.

FINANCE

- Fresh off taking first place BCBR IQ Award **Tensegrity Prosthetics** (Louisville) has received a Phase II SBIR \$750,000 grant to continue the redesign and manufacture of prototypes for a next-generation flexible prosthetic foot. Funds are to be allocated to redesign and prototypes for clinical testing. Data has indicated that the Tensegrity foot requires less energy to use than competitive products and amputees testing the beta version have reported increased comfort and agility when walking with the Tensegrity product.

PEOPLE

- Array BioPharma (Boulder) announced that **John Yates, MD** the company's chief medical officer resigned effective 15 September for personal reasons and was unrelated to Array's drug discovery and development activities.
- **Pat Stryker** (Ft. Collins) with an estimated net worth of \$1.8 billion appears in the No. 262 spot among the 400 richest Americans, according to the annual Forbes magazine rankings. Stryker's fortune consists primarily of holdings in Stryker Corp., the medical equipment company founded by her grandfather, Homer Stryker, who was an orthopedic surgeon and inventor. Stryker also has been a prime benefactor of Colorado State University, steering nearly \$30 million providing gifts such as \$3M to CSU for renovation of Rockwell Hall, home of the university's College of Business; \$400,000 to support a CSU business school program aimed at improving local economies in developing nations; \$16,800 to the Book Trust program that seeks to raise literacy levels among low-income children; and \$5,000 to the Legacy Land Trust to help match a grant from the Colorado Conservation Trust.
- Researchers at the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine indicate that manipulating embryo-derived stem cells prior to transplanting them holds the key to using stem cell technologies for repairing spinal cord injuries in humans. In the online Journal of Biology, **Dr. Stephen Davies**, an associate professor of neurosurgery, reports his research team are developing a potentially safe, efficient and cost-effective way to leverage astrocytes as a fast and relatively pain-free spinal cord recovery process that paves the way for victims of paralysis to recover the use of their bodies.

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, visit: the website at www.biowestconference.com/showcase.php.
- The **Colorado BioScience Association** and southern Colorado economic development representatives will be promoting Colorado Springs as a premiere location for the bio-med industry at the AdvaMed 2008 MedTech Conference September 20th in Washington, D.C. Colorado Springs is home to more than 20 medical device companies.