

## Iowa Biotech Association Monthly Update January 2011

This message was sent to you as a benefit of membership in the IBA.  
If you would like more information on any topic or no longer wish to receive these messages,  
please email Mike Ott at [mikeott@iowabio.org](mailto:mikeott@iowabio.org) or call (319) 621-8580

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### Breaking News

Save money in the New Year with the IBA's Purchasing Agreements! IBA members combine to spend more than \$12 million annually with our purchasing partners and reap the benefits of pooling together. A full list of purchasing partners and contact information can be found on the left side of our website Purchasing page located at:  
[http://www.iowabio.org/en/members\\_directory/purchasing\\_benefits/](http://www.iowabio.org/en/members_directory/purchasing_benefits/)

Governor Branstad presented legislation which lays out his vision to reformulate Iowa's economic development programs:  
<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/01/31/branstad-pitches-legislation-to-swap-ided-with-ipep/#comments>

[Click here for a text](#) version of Governor Branstad's budget presentation to the Iowa General Assembly.

Iowa lawmakers are holding a series of forums discussing regulatory issues that are too burdensome for Iowa's businesses. See the schedule of meetings held in your area on the left side of the Des Moines Register's website located at:  
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=201102010372>

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### Welcome to New Member - ViraQuest

ViraQuest is located in North Liberty; they specialize in the production of adenoviral vectors. Using the patented processes unique to RAPAd® (U.S. Patent #6,830,920) for the generation of new constructs, ViraQuest can provide the fastest turnaround time of any supplier in the industry. [www.viraquest.com](http://www.viraquest.com)

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# Healthcare & Pharmaceutical

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**Novartis is buying Genoptix**, a cancer diagnostics company, for \$470 million:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE70N04V20110124>



**Amgen agreed to buy Biovex**, a maker of experimental cancer drugs, in a deal that could be worth up to \$1 billion:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-24/amgen-to-buy-biovex-for-425-million-to-add-experimental-cancer-medicines.html>



GlaxoSmithKline

GlaxoSmithKline announced that it was **starting late stage trials for two drugs** for treatment of advanced or metastatic melanoma:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE70N1E720110124>

Trial data shows that Mosquirix, a malaria vaccine from

GlaxoSmithKline, **gives long lasting protection from the disease to African children:**

<http://af.reuters.com/article/tanzaniaNews/idAFLDE70C1OR20110114?sp=true>



**Pfizer has agreed to a deal with Theraclone Sciences** for antibody drugs for cancer and infectious disease that could be worth up to \$632 million:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/19/health/research/19pfizer.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/19/health/research/19pfizer.html?_r=2)

**Pfizer will pay Seattle Genetics \$8 million** for rights to its cancer fighting antibody-conjugate technology: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-06/seattle-genetics-announces-pfizer-collaboration.html>



**Boehringer Ingelheim and Eli Lilly announced a strategic alliance** to develop a pipeline of diabetes

compounds: [http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110111-706582.html?mod=dist\\_smartbrief](http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110111-706582.html?mod=dist_smartbrief)



The **Sanofi-Aventis/Genzyme merger deal is closer**, as both parties are working towards an agreeable method to negotiate value: [http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110109-703203.html?mod=dist\\_smartbrief](http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110109-703203.html?mod=dist_smartbrief)

A new study shows that niparib, a drug from Sanofi-Aventis,

not only shrinks breast cancer tumors but **prolongs survival**

**in women with triple-negative breast cancer:** <http://health.usnews.com/health-news/family-health/cancer/articles/2011/01/05/experimental-drug-helps-fight-aggressive-breast-cancer-report.html?PageNr=1>

Iowa is **re-opening the debate on the use of stem cells**:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011101160331>

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences will be created to **accelerate the pace of new drug treatments**, which have slowed in recent years:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/23/health/policy/23drug.html?\\_r=2&src=me](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/23/health/policy/23drug.html?_r=2&src=me)

A new test for parental genetic mutations could help **prevent conception of babies with deadly diseases**: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE70B7UZ20110112>

The **definition of 'exclusivity' in regards to generic drugs is up for debate**, and the resolution will have significant economic consequences:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704013604576104413760150024.html?mod=dist\\_smartbrief&mod=WSJ\\_hp\\_LEFTWhatsNewsCollection](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704013604576104413760150024.html?mod=dist_smartbrief&mod=WSJ_hp_LEFTWhatsNewsCollection)

The rush for patents on stem cell therapies **seems to be slowing down treatments**:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iPtBlarvPCd4E8rJt-BCu82ZmOwg?docId=CNG.1824f4b91fbefe5d8cf85de640b1a169.b1>

A **herpes zoster vaccine could prevent tens of thousands of cases of shingles** each year if it was offered to everyone who is eligible

[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41039897/ns/health-infectious\\_diseases/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41039897/ns/health-infectious_diseases/)

Antibodies derived from people infected with H1N1 **may lead to a 'universal' flu vaccine**:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE70938S20110110>

**Repetitive stretches of RNA are found in cancer cells**, which may lead to better early detection methods: <http://www.technologyreview.com/biomedicine/27093/?p1=A2>

Solar cells made at Purdue **can repair themselves, using carbon nanotubes and DNA**:

[http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/2011/01/04/Self-repairing-solar-cells-described/UPI-90791294185541/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2011/01/04/Self-repairing-solar-cells-described/UPI-90791294185541/)

A 1998 study that **linked autism to vaccines appears to be a fraud**:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110106/ap\\_on\\_he\\_me/eu\\_med\\_autism\\_fraud](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110106/ap_on_he_me/eu_med_autism_fraud)

A new antibody test can **detect Alzheimer's disease using a blood scan**:

[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/40949023/ns/health-alzheimers\\_disease/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/40949023/ns/health-alzheimers_disease/)

## Industrial & Environmental

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DDCE chose Iowa over Nebraska for its next generation biorefinery:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110113/BUSINESS/101130339/DuPont-picks-Iowa-over-Nebraska-for-ethanol-plant>



Cargill and BioAmber have **partnered to produce biobased succinic acid** from an array of non-food based lignocellulosic feedstocks:

<http://biorefiningmagazine.com/articles/5221/bioamber-cargill-partner-to-develop-biobased-succinic-acid>



An ISU researcher is working on **self healing biopolymers** that would repair themselves when they crack:

<http://www.news.iastate.edu/news/2011/jan/healingbiomaterials>

Seven Iowa entities, mostly biodiesel plants, **received money from Section 9005** of the Farm Bill from the USDA:

<http://www.biodieselmagazine.com/articles/7550/usda-lists-bioenergy-program-awardees-many-are-biodiesel-plants>

**Dupont will acquire Danisco** for \$6.3 billion:

<http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2011/01/09/dupont-to-buy-danisco-for-5-8-billion/?scp=1&sq=dupont%20danisco&st=cse>

GPRE announce that it has **signed a purchase agreement for a 55 MGPY ethanol plant** in Fergus Falls, MN, formerly owned by Otter Tail Ag Enterprises:

<http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/7383/gpre-signs-purchase-agreement-for-otter-tail-ag-enterprises>

Flint Hills Resource Renewables will **acquire the remaining Hawkeye Renewables ethanol plants**: <http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/7377/flint-hills-to-acquire-final-hawkeye-plants>

The EPA will allow the **sale of E15 for 2001-2006 autos and light trucks**:

<http://blogs.wsj.com/drivers-seat/2011/01/22/e15-fuel-what-it-means-to-you/>

President Obama **touted biofuels and proposed a clean energy mandate** in his State of the Union address: <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/01/25/obama-touts-biofuels-clean-energy-mandate/>

The **USDA announced loan guarantees for biorefinery projects** in Alabama, Mississippi and Florida: <http://biorefiningmagazine.com/articles/5247/vilsack-announces-biorefinery-loan-guarantees>

The **USDA launched a Biobased product label program** designed to boost demand for products made from renewable feedstocks:

<http://www.biopreferred.gov/?SMSESSION=NO> and <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110119/BUSINESS01/101190358/1030/USDA-s-new-labels-for-green-products-to-debut-this-spring>

The **EPA granted a 3 year exemption from the regulation of biomass as a feedstock** for power production, citing the fact that it may offer a greenhouse gas neutral option:  
<http://blog.25x25.org/?p=2015>

Biofuels Digest listed its **10 predictions for 2011**:  
<http://biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2010/12/31/top-10-biofuels-predictions-for-2011>

A genetically engineered woody biomass feedstock technology is **ensnared in a lawsuit that is slowing development**:  
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110123/BUSINESS01/101230326/Court-challenges-stall-new-biofuel-crops>

Banned alcoholic drinks, such as Four Loko, are **being recycled into ethanol**, proving the old adage, 'Drink the best, Drive the rest':  
<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=12556667>

**Miscanthus acres in Georgia are expected to increase from 500 to 10,000** and be used as a replacement for coal: <http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/7360/2011-miscanthus-acres-to-mushroom>

## Food & Agriculture

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Chromatin has successfully demonstrated **the ability to stack genes in sugarcane**. Syngenta has worldwide license to develop this product:

[http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf\\_articles.html?ID=103937](http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=103937)



**PIONEER**  
BRAND · PRODUCTS

**Pioneer will add 138 jobs** and expand its facilities in Johnston:  
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110121/BUSINESS01/101210341/Pioneer-to-add-138-jobs-expand-its-Johnston-research-facilities>

Pioneer is introducing a new corn variety that **improves yield when water is short**:  
<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/01/05/pioneer-bringing-out-drought-tolerant-corn/>



Cargill plans to **give up over \$24 billion worth of shares in Mosaic** in exchange for Cargill shares:  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703954004576090290720390356.html>

Univ. of Illinois researchers say that **biofuel crops grown on available land could meet half of the world's current fuel consumption without affecting food crops or pastureland.** [http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/2011/01/10/Global-biofuel-land-area-estimated/UPI-97301294707088/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2011/01/10/Global-biofuel-land-area-estimated/UPI-97301294707088/)

USDA Announces Decision to **Fully Deregulate Roundup Ready Alfalfa**  
[http://www.iowabio.org/documents/news/USDA\\_Announces\\_Decision\\_to\\_Fully\\_De\\_A898773358AFC.pdf](http://www.iowabio.org/documents/news/USDA_Announces_Decision_to_Fully_De_A898773358AFC.pdf)

Potential USDA restrictions on biotech alfalfa planting rules **would have far-reaching impact on other crops:**  
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110109/BUSINESS01/101090322/1030/Policy-shift-concerns-biotech-companies>

A USDA audit determined that **BCAP rules relating to CHST need to be enforced uniformly:** [http://www.agri-pulse.com/USDA\\_audit\\_changes\\_Biomass\\_crop\\_assistance\\_%20program.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/USDA_audit_changes_Biomass_crop_assistance_%20program.asp)

Food prices may rise **as commodity prices increase:**  
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110113/BUSINESS01/101130331/1030/As-commodity-prices-climb-food-costs-may-soon-do-the-same>

**Spikes in commodity prices may be ill-timed** as farmers look to hold on to subsidies and incentives for biofuels:  
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110130/BUSINESS01/101300336/Commodity-price-spike-may-affect-subsidy-views>

Purdue researchers discovered a gene that **helps plants endure a drought without the loss of biomass:**  
[http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Gene\\_Helps\\_Plants\\_Use\\_Less\\_Water\\_Without\\_Biomass\\_Loss\\_999.html](http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Gene_Helps_Plants_Use_Less_Water_Without_Biomass_Loss_999.html)

The 2010 corn harvest **was 9% smaller than 2009**, with an average yield of 164 bushels per acre: <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/01/12/big-corn-soybean-report-out-today/>

South Korea, the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest grain buyer in Asia, will **set up a grain buying operation in Chicago:** <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-11/south-korea-to-set-up-grain-trading-company-in-chicago-in-2011.html>

## **New Members:**

If you know of a company that would benefit from the Association's advocacy, financial savings and education/workforce focus; please have them contact the Association at 515-327-9156 or email [rachelhurley@iowabio.org](mailto:rachelhurley@iowabio.org). Membership details are also available at [www.iowabio.org](http://www.iowabio.org)

## Events:

National SBIR/STTR Spring Conference, Madison, WI; April 10-13  
<http://conferencing.uwex.edu/conferences/sbir2011/index.cfm>

BIO World Congress on Bioprocessing, Toronto, CA, May 8-11  
<http://www.bio.org/worldcongress/>

BIO International Convention, Washington DC, June 27-30 <http://convention.bio.org/>

Want to promote your biotechnology conference, symposium or training class? SEND A NOTE TO MICHAEL OTT AT [mikeott@iowabio.org](mailto:mikeott@iowabio.org) Members may submit their event for a free listing in our Monthly Update and on our website [www.iowabio.org](http://www.iowabio.org).

## Speakers

IBA staff members are available to give 15-60 minute speeches to interested groups, such as Rotary Clubs, trade associations, or civic groups. A broad range of topics could be discussed, including biotechnology, healthcare, food vs. fuel, legislative policy, investment and more. Contact Rachel Hurley at (515) 327-9156 or [rachelhurley@iowabio.org](mailto:rachelhurley@iowabio.org)

## Today's Thought:

You read a book from beginning to end. You run a business the opposite way. You start with the end, and then you do everything you must to reach it."

**--Harold Geneen**