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## Iowa Biotech Association Monthly Update July 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

The IBA is now on Twitter! Follow us [@iowaBio](https://twitter.com/iowaBio) for hot news stories, updates on Member Benefits and everything related to biotechnology in Iowa. We also want to promote other members on Twitter, so please send a note to [mikeott@iowabio.org](mailto:mikeott@iowabio.org) with your details.

Governor Branstad signed a bill overhauling economic development in Iowa and creating the Iowa Partnership for Economic Progress:  
<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/07/18/branstad-signs-bill-creating-new-economic-development-agency/>

IBA Vice President Tom Swegle wrote this op-ed about how Iowa needs to cultivate prosperity through biotechnology  
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011107100325>

Students who pursue careers in STEM fields have lower rates of joblessness and earn 26% more than non-STEM counterparts:  
[http://www.esa.doc.gov/sites/default/files/reports/documents/stemfinaljuly14\\_1.pdf](http://www.esa.doc.gov/sites/default/files/reports/documents/stemfinaljuly14_1.pdf)  
[iExploreSTEM](#) will host an event in Coralville on Sept. 18th

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### Featured Member

**ALLIANT ENERGY** is a regulated, investor-owned public utility holding company providing electric and natural gas service to approximately 1 million electric and 412,000 natural gas customers in the upper Midwestern states of Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Alliant Energy is headquartered in Madison, WI and is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "LNT."

For more than 100 years, Alliant Energy and its predecessor companies have kept homes warm, lights burning and factories running across the upper Midwest and around the world. Alliant Energy's generation portfolio includes more than 1,000 megawatts from renewable and alternative energy sources. Learn more at [www.alliantenergy.com](http://www.alliantenergy.com)

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## Industrial & Environmental

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REG has filed a registration statement for an IPO:  
[http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf\\_articles.html?ID=111691](http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=111691)



DDCE will begin its **second year of collecting corn stover** for its cellulosic biorefinery:  
<http://ethanolproducer.com/articles/7947/ddce-begins-second-year-of-stover-collection-program>



**Congratulations to Dupont, Genencor and Cargill** for being named to the 30 Hottest Companies in Renewable Chemicals and Materials: <http://biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2011/07/27/the-30-hottest-companies-in-renewable-chemicals-and-materials/>



ISU researchers are **pioneering a hybrid method of cellulosic ethanol production** using both biochemical and thermochemical methods:  
<http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/7992/the-next-next-best-thing>

The city of Dubuque has been **awarded \$3.8 million to buy biodiesel hybrid buses**:  
<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/2d815e55da954859ba01c12892a5b4ea/IA--Transportation-Funds-Dubuque/>

A new study using empirical data rather than statistical models shows **that US ethanol production has had negligible or nonexistent impact on ILUC**:  
[http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf\\_articles.html?ID=112026](http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=112026)

Lignol **will skip the demo stage and \$30 million in DOE funding** to build a commercial scale plant: <http://ethanolproducer.com/articles/8013/lignol-skipping-demo-straight-to-commercial-without-doe-funding>

Dow Chemical and Mitsui are **partnering to produce biopolymers from sugarcane** in Brazil: [http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf\\_articles.html?ID=111777](http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=111777)

Illinois researchers **claim that converting perennial grasses on less productive farmland will increase ethanol output per acre** and improve groundwater quality:  
[http://news.illinois.edu/news/11/0712switch\\_EvanDeLucia.html](http://news.illinois.edu/news/11/0712switch_EvanDeLucia.html)

**Corn usage for ethanol and feed is roughly the same**, with some debate about the total amounts used for each: <http://ethanolproducer.com/articles/7965/debate-over-corn-use-estimates-shows-need-for-solid-ethanol-data>

Joule received a patent for its method of **converting sunlight and carbon dioxide in to ethanol**: [http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf\\_articles.html?ID=112012](http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=112012)

Brazil is **reducing the amount of ethanol required in fuel blends** and looking to the US for imports to meet its needs: <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/07/17/another-report-of-brazilian-ethanol-import-plans/>

The use of **biobased chemical intermediates may reduce price volatility**, which is typically dependent on fluctuating crude oil prices: <http://www.icis.com/Articles/2011/06/27/9471601/bio-based-intermediates-will-reduce-price-volatility.html>

The ethanol industry is **cautiously optimistic about the legislative deal to remove VEETC**: <http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/07/08/compromise-relieves-ethanol-industry/>

## Food & Agricultural

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Pfizer is **looking for buyers for its Animal Health division**: <http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2011/07/07/pfizer-puts-animal-health-and-nutrition-businesses-on-the-block/?nl=business&emc=dlbkpma21>



ISU researchers were able to **achieve traditional crop yields with the addition of a perennial cover crop**: <http://www.grainnet.com/article.php?ID=112080>

John Deere is **diversifying in to a broader set of technologies** which will help their core business: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110724/BUSINESS01/107240301/1030/BUSINESS01/Big-Green-big-player-beyond-agriculture>

**Iowa farmers produced more grain than China or Canada** in 2010, while using a fraction of the land: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110731/BUSINESS01/107310305/1030/Green-Fields-iowa-farmers-outproduce-China-Canada-grain>

Iowa exported over \$7 billion in agricultural products last year, second only to California: <http://business380.com/2011/07/25/iowa-second-largest-ag-products-exporting-state/>

Farmers strongly support biotech seeds, with over 88+% of major crops: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110710/BUSINESS01/107100310/1030/BUSINESS01/Green-Fields-Study-finds-strong-farmer-support-biotech-seeds>

The USDA said that the nation's corn crop is ok, despite scorching temperatures: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110725/BUSINESS01/110725024/Ag-markets-Corn-is-OK-despite-scorching-temps-USDA-says>

GM crops are gaining market share globally: [http://www.twincities.com/business/ci\\_18533083?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.twincities.com/business/ci_18533083?nclick_check=1)

82% of the corn crop is rated good to excellent, but silking is behind historical averages: <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/07/11/iowa-corn-crop-behind-in-silking/>

Radiation tainted beef has been found in Japanese markets: [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/19/world/asia/19beef.html?\\_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha22](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/19/world/asia/19beef.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha22)

## Healthcare & Pharmaceutical

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[drug\\_8580810.html](http://www.jnj.com/press-releases/2011/07/23/20110723-johnson-johnson-immune-drug_8580810.html)

The FDA denied Johnson & Johnson's request to market Simponi as a drug for rheumatoid arthritis: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/07/23/business-health-care-us-apfn-johnson-amp-johnson-immune->



Merck will continue spending on R&D, saying it's crucial for long term success: [http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110715-712820.html?mod=dist\\_smartbrief](http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110715-712820.html?mod=dist_smartbrief)

Thermo Fisher has purchased TREK Diagnostic Systems, a provider of microbiology testing products and consumables: <http://www.masshightech.com/stories/2011/07/18/daily3-Thermo-Fisher-buys-TREK-Diagnostic-from-Magellan-Bioscience.html>

Myriad Genetics won an Appeals Court case, establishing a precedent to allow for patent protection for human genes: [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/30/business/genepatent-in-cancer-test-upheld-by-appeals-panel.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/30/business/genepatent-in-cancer-test-upheld-by-appeals-panel.html?_r=1)

University of Michigan researchers **created five new stem cell lines from adult stem cells:**

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20110725/LIFESTYLE03/107250384/1026/schools/U-M-creates-new-stem-cell-lines-with-adult-cells-for-bipolar-disorder-research>

Researchers have found **a method to produce blood cells from a patient's stem cells:**

<http://www.dailytech.com/Stem+Cell+Technique+Produces+Colonies+of+Blood+Cells+from+Patients+Existing+Cells/article22180.htm>

**VC funding in biotechnology jumped 46%** in the second quarter:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-07-20/biotechnology-bounces-back-with-46-rise-in-venture-capital.html>

Targeted treatments, **which are tailored to a patient's genetic makeup**, will be reviewed in conjunction with diagnostic devices, under a new FDA proposal:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/07/12/us-fda-targeted-drug-testing-guidelines-idUSTRE76B6OR20110712>

**Lonza will buy Arch Chemicals for \$1.2 billion** to diversify its product lineup:

<http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2011/07/11/lonza-to-buy-arch-chemicals-for-1-2-billion/>

**The FDA is on pace to nearly double the number of drugs approved in 2011,** compared to 2010:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303365804576432170845403108.html?mod=dist\\_smartbrief](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303365804576432170845403108.html?mod=dist_smartbrief)

**The FDA has approved a gene therapy trial** for the treatment of Wiskott-Aldrich

syndrome: <http://www.masshightech.com/stories/2011/07/18/daily59-Childrens-Hospital-Genethon-get-FDA-OK-for-gene-therapy-trial-.html>

**The FDA approved the flu vaccine** for the 2011—2012 flu season:

<http://consumer.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=654963>

## **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:

[iExplore STEM](#), Coralville, Sept. 18

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:

How can you say luck and chance are the same thing? Chance is the first step you take, luck is what comes afterwards.

--Amy Tan