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Iowa Biotech Association Monthly Update June 2011

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Breaking News

The Iowa General Assembly concluded the third longest session in Iowa history on Thursday, June 30th, narrowly avoiding a state government shutdown. While budget negotiations between House Republicans, Senate Democrats and Republican Governor, Terry Branstad were at times contentious, they managed to find an agreement on almost everything but commercial property tax reform, which will be a major issue next year.

In terms of Iowa Biotechnology Association issues, there were no changes in regard to the research activities credit. The bill reorganizing the Iowa Department of Economic Development was passed by both chambers, but has not yet been signed by the Governor. Funding of the Institute for Physical Research and Technology (IPRT) program at Iowa State, which was originally zeroed out in the House proposal, was funded at \$2.4 million, only \$100,000 less than expected expenses for the fiscal year. All-in-all, a very good year.

Did you know that you can keep up with the news items below in real time? Check out the [Healthcare & Pharmaceutical](#), [Industrial & Environmental](#) and [Food & Agriculture](#) news pages during the month to find up-to-the-minute news.

Please let me know if you would like to have your company and its products highlighted in our Featured Member section.

Featured Member

CEDAR VALLEY TECHWORKS is a 40-acre bioeconomy, technology and advanced manufacturing campus connecting technology, intellectual property, and industry innovators, with a focus on commercializing and manufacturing bioproducts. TechWorks is a place where major innovators in the region as well as small and start-up businesses can collaborate on and showcase innovations and products, while at the same time accessing expertise and facilities of major research universities in the state.

Learn more in this [video](#) and by visiting www.cedarvalleytechworks.com

Healthcare & Pharmaceutical



Eli Lilly plans to have 10 drugs in final stage trials by the end of 2011: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-06-30/eli-lilly-plans-10-drugs-in-final-stage-trials-by-end-of-2011.html>

Eli Lilly's CEO suggested that quicker immigration processes could assist innovation: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-06-23/lilly-ceo-blames-immigration-and-tax-laws-for-slower-innovation.html>



Pfizer is investing \$100 million in a novel research partnership in Boston: http://articles.boston.com/2011-06-08/news/29634766_1_mikael-dolsten-pharmaceutical-giant-pfizer-biomedical-research



GlaxoSmithKline and Merck have agreed to lower prices for rotavirus vaccines: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-06-05/drugmakers-pledge-to-supply-vaccines-at-reduced-prices-to-gavi.html>



BIO President James Greenwood wants to speed up the process of bringing drugs to market: http://articles.boston.com/2011-06-22/business/29690669_1_center-for-drug-safety-fda-spokeswoman-karen-riley-drug-approval

A Colorado Representative has introduced a bill supporting embryonic stem cell research: http://www.denverpost.com/politics/ci_18381721

TPG will buy Immuncor, a maker of blood transfusion systems, for \$1.97 billion:
<http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2011/07/05/tpg-capital-to-buy-immucor-for-1-97-billion/?nl=business&emc=dlbkpma21>

Experts are debating the value of widespread use of a Medtronic bone growth product:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/29/business/29spine.html>

Synthetic biology has come a long way, but fundamental problems are still unsolved:
<http://www.technologyreview.com/biomedicine/37834/?p1=MstRcnt>

Ernst & Young predict that most biotech M&A activity will occur as larger entities absorb companies worth \$1-5 billion:
http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2011/06/14/business/business-us-biotech-ernstyoung.html?_r=3&nl=business&emc=dlbka22

A genomic study corrected a mis-diagnosis in a set of twins:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/06/15/us-genome-twins-idUSTRE75E6P820110615>

Patent reform legislation favored by the biopharmaceutical industry is getting key support in the House, after passing through the Senate:
<http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/medical-devices-and-prescription-drug-policy-/166253-patent-reform-gets-key-support-in-house>

UCSD researchers were able to create hematopoietic stem cells, which may lead to advances in blood related diseases:
<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2011/jun/09/ucsd-led-team-finds-genetic-key-blood-stem-cells/>

An Op-Ed from the New York Times about the cost effectiveness of Avastin:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/25/opinion/25tucker.html?>

Ambit Biosciences was unable to complete an IPO, so it raised \$30 million from investors for its leukemia drug: <http://www.xconomy.com/san-diego/2011/06/10/ambit-raises-30m-venture-round-after-pulling-plug-on-ipo/>

Aveo Pharmaceuticals plans to raise \$100 million in an IPO:
<http://www.masshightech.com/stories/2011/06/13/daily32-Aveo-Pharmaceuticals-files-for-100M-stock-offering.html>

Combination treatments for cancer are expected to increase:
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304906004576369454034665450.html?mod=dist_smartbrief

Researchers successfully converted cord blood stem cells in to mature adult red blood cells: http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_18213602

The Supreme Court issued a ruling which limits the patent rights of research universities:
<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-06-06/roche-wins-as-high-court-limits-university-patent-rights.html>

The injection of genes into the brains of Parkinson's patients appears to reduce the symptoms of the disease:
http://www.oxfordtimes.co.uk/news/9057821.Gene_jabs_could_ease_Parkinson_s/

Industrial & Environmental



Genencor released Accellerase TRIO, a new enzyme mix which improves the economics of cellulosic biofuel production:

<http://biorefiningmagazine.com/articles/5621/genencor-releases-new-enzyme-product>



DDCE has agreed to purchase land nearby the Lincolnway ethanol plant in Nevada in order to build a cellulosic biorefinery:

<http://www.mccormickcompany.net/pioneer/newsrelease/20110627DDCE.htm>



REG will acquire the 30 MGPY SoyMor plant in Albert Lea, MN:

http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=11

[0570](#)



Cargill is investing \$2.6 million at its Wichita plant to convert soybean oil to electrical insulation fluid:

http://www.soyatech.com/news_story.php?id=23666



Honeywell has been selected to assist in the design of SynGest's first biomass ammonia facility:

<http://www.grainnet.com/article.php?ID=110044>

The EPA has cut its cellulosic biofuel target for 2012:

<http://ethanolproducer.com/articles/7905/epa-cuts-2012-cellulosic-biofuel-target>

Western Dubuque Biodiesel will save money by deregistering shares with the SEC:

http://www.soyatech.com/news_story.php?id=24198

Quad County Corn Processors has received a \$1.45 million grant for a bolt-on cellulosic facility in Galva: <http://ethanolproducer.com/articles/7908/iowa-ethanol-plant-gets-grant-for-bolt-on-cellulosic-facility>

Gevo and Toray will partner to produce biobased PET:
http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=110827

Gevo plans to retrofit another ethanol plant with its biobutanol platform:
<http://biorefiningmagazine.com/articles/5593/gevo-plans-another-corn-ethanol-plant-retrofit>

Lallemand announced a new yeast product for the ethanol industry at the FEW:
<http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/7931/lallemand-announces-new-ethanol-yeast-at-few>

AGP will acquire the East Fork biodiesel plant in Algona:
http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=110440

Coskata signed an EPC deal for its first commercial facility:
<http://americanfuels.blogspot.com/2011/06/coskata-signs-letter-of-intent-for.html>

Elevance has acquired an idle biodiesel plant and will convert it into a biorefinery that produces specialty chemicals: <http://www.biodieselmagazine.com/articles/7835/elevance-to-convert-idle-biodiesel-plant>

Amyris and Cosan are partnering to produce biobased oils to replace petroleum lubricants:
<http://biorefiningmagazine.com/articles/5589/amyris-cosan-team-up-for-global-production-of-biobased-oils>

DSM and Roquette plan to build a biosuccinic acid plant in Italy:
<http://biorefiningmagazine.com/articles/5519/dsm-roquette-plan-commercial-biosuccinic-acid-plant-in-italy>

Valero joined existing investors in raising \$60 million for Enerkem to develop cellulosic ethanol: <http://biorefiningmagazine.com/articles/5573/valero-invests-in-enerkem-sees-future-for-cellulosic-ethanol>

Dandelion 'goo' might be a viable source of rubber for cars:
<http://news.nationalpost.com/2011/05/20/researchers-hope-dandelion-%E2%80%99goo%E2%80%99-will-be-a-source-of-rubber-for-cars/>

Myriant plans to file for a \$125 million IPO to fund their biochemical plant construction:
http://news.bostonherald.com/jobfind/news/technology/view/2011_0601quincy_biotech_myriant_files_for_125_million_ipo/srv=home&position=also

Virent is making progress in creating biogasoline from wood and corn stover:
<http://www.jsonline.com/business/123068063.html>

Brazil is considering reducing the amount of ethanol blended in its fuel due to a potential shortfall in the sugar cane crop:

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/07/04/brazil-considers-cuts-in-ethanol/>

NASCAR has converted to using E15 blends in its races and training:

<http://biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2011/06/13/nascar-converts-to-e15-ethanol-blends/>

Senator Grassley introduced a bill to extend the \$1 per gallon biodiesel credit for three years: <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/06/25/grassley-pushes-to-extend-biodiesel-credit/>

USDA Secretary Vilsack will defend the US biofuel policy at the G20 meetings in Paris: <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/06/20/vilsack-to-defend-biofuels-policy-at-g20-meetings/>

The 45 cent per gallon tax credit for ethanol will end, with funds moving towards installing pumps and storage tanks:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011106190321>

Senator Coburn is forcing a vote on VEETC that could force it to expire on June 30th:

<http://ethanolproducer.com/articles/7863/coburn-forces-vote-on-repealing-veetc-tariff-effective-june-30>

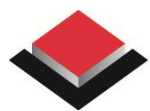
Vinod Khosla believes biofuels technology can compete with oil today:

<http://biorefiningmagazine.com/articles/5581/khosla-biofuels-tech-can-compete-with-oil-today>

Presentations and Abstracts are available from the recent DOE Biomass Review:

<http://obpreview2011.govtools.us/presenters/public/AllPresentations.aspx>

Food & Agriculture



Diamond V[®]

Diamond V is expanding its production facilities and headquarters:

<http://thegazette.com/2011/06/10/diamond-v-mills-seeks-state-local-help-for-new-hq-project/>

Danone will switch to biobased plastic containers for its best selling yogurt containers:

<http://biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2011/06/13/danone-switches-to-biomass-based-plastics-for-best-selling-yogurt-containers/>

Corn is selling at a premium to wheat, for just the 2nd time since 1984:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110619/BUSINESS01/106190326/1030/Corn-has-very-rare-premium-over-wheat>

Kenya will allow GM maize, in order to alleviate a looming shortage:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/06/29/us-kenya-maize-idUSTRE75S2XO20110629>

China has ratified seven bio-safe GM crops:

<http://english.cri.cn/6909/2011/06/28/189s645259.htm>

The 2011 World Food Prize laureates were named:

<http://www.isaaa.org/kc/cropbiotechupdate/article/default.asp?ID=8019>

Vale will buy back shares in its fertilizer business as it looks to triple potash and phosphorus rock output by 2015: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-06-22/vale-offers-up-to-2-22-billion-reais-for-outstanding-shares-of-unit.html>

Favorable weather and strong genetics may offset crop losses incurred by flooding:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110621/BUSINESS01/106210334/1030/Better-corn-bean-production-may-offset-losses-flooding-river-basin>

The USDA is funding a \$2.8 million project in Iowa and Illinois to determine methods to compensate farmers for emission saving practices:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110612/BUSINESS01/106120323/Green-fields-USDA-testing-climate-credits-with-iowa-illinois-farmers>

80% of Iowa corn and soybeans are rated good to excellent:

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/06/06/iowa-corn-81-percent-good-to-excellent/>

US grain exports are expected to decrease as global farmers ramp up production due to higher commodity prices: http://www.agriculture.com/markets/analysis/corn/us-grain-expts-seen-falling_9-ar17004

Farmland is one of the hottest investments at the moment:

<http://curiouscapitalist.blogs.time.com/2011/06/01/americas-hottest-investment-farmland/>

Genomic selection will improve crop yields in developing countries:

<http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/June11/GatesGenomics.html>

Corn acreage could drop as low as 87 million acres, much lower than the 92 million acres projected at the end of March:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110605/BUSINESS01/106050326/1030/Green-Fields-Firm-issues-corn-forecast-falling-acre-numbers>

Climate change is predicted to affect global crop yields:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/05/science/earth/05harvest.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha2>

The traditional food pyramid is being replaced with My Plate:
<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/06/02/my-plate-replaces-food-pyramid/>

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. Membership details are also available at 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 Members may submit their event for a free listing in our Monthly Update and on our website 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, included biotechnology, healthcare, food vs. fuel, legislative policy, investment and more. Contact Rachel Hurley at (515) 327-9156 or rachelhurley@iowabio.org

Today's Thought:

All progress has resulted from people who took unpopular positions.

--Adlai E. Stevenson