



IowaBio June 2016

MONTHLY UPDATE

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IOWABIO NEWS

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Life Science Asset Databases Now Available!

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In 2015, IowaBio completed two asset mapping projects to help others discover the biotech talent located in Iowa and the Midwest. See below for additional information and a link to the two databases:

- **Iowa Ag/Bioscience Asset Database** – A comprehensive reference database for the state’s agbioscience, agribusiness and healthcare industries. This database combines years of industry data into a single, searchable resource intended to help interested parties understand, strategize, forecast and identify opportunities within Iowa’s key industries for economic growth.
- **Heartland Civic Collaborative Life Science Database** – A collaborative effort between four biotech associations in the Midwest. It contains nearly 800 life science companies within Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri along with their locations, websites, industry segments and more.

Visit www.iowabio.org/en/resources/life_science_asset_databases to download the files

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

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Animal Health *in the* Heartland

Biotech's Role in Emergency Preparedness

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Evening Kick-Off Reception

July 19, 2016 | 5:00p – 8:00p

Brix at Midtown Crossing
Omaha, NE

Main Symposium

July 20, 2016 | 7:30a – 5:00p

Sorrell Center
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE

Cost

\$125 per Person

Registration Deadline

July 8, 2016

Register Now! The Iowa Biotechnology Association (IowaBio) and the Bio Nebraska Life Sciences Association (BioNebraska) are proud to announce the *inaugural Animal Health In the Heartland: Biotechnology's Role in Emergency Preparedness* symposium scheduled for Wednesday, July 20, 2016, at the Sorrell Center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

Recent outbreaks of Avian Influenza (AIV) and Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV) have had serious consequences in our Heartland region, impacting animal health, human health, animal producers, the encompassing agriculture industry, and the overall economy both domestic and abroad. These were not the first diseases emerging in the region, and will certainly not be the last.

Biotechnology's Role in Emergency Preparedness symposium promises to offer key state and industry leaders the opportunity to discuss solutions for animal health preparedness. Our goal is to create an annual event where industry, academia and government sector leaders can interface to address the world's most foremost animal health issues, collaborate, and solve problems.

Learn more and register at www.iowabio.org/animalhealth

HOSTED BY



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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Prairie Pharms, LLC

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Iowa biotech company Prairie Pharms, LLC began doing research on *Monarda fistulosa* in 2008 and started growing it commercially in 2010. The original intent was to produce a plant extract that was high in carvacrol to be used to replace oregano oil that it was importing for another product. However, while doing some research steam extraction in 2011, the company discovered the component thymoquinone (TQ) in the plant extract. None of Pharms' research or literature searches had previously indicated the presence of TQ in *Monarda*.

Pharms founder Bill Rohlfen did some research and found information on the connection between TQ and health. Prior to the discovery by Prairie Pharms, the most widely known source of TQ was black cumin seed oil, which is grown in the Middle East. The level of TQ in black cumin seed oil is very low ranging from .3% to 1.6%, highly inconsistent, and untraceable.

Prairie Pharms' results revealed 10% TQ in *Monarda fistulosa*. Further, the TQ found in *Monarda fistulosa* is cell permeable and lipid soluble, unlike the black cumin seed oil. "When you are the only people growing something that no one has ever tried to grow commercially, you have the best education tools available, which include lots of mistakes and accidents, which create knowledge. For us, it has been incredibly humbling to have discovered this new source of U.S.-derived Thymoquinone," said Mr. Rohlfen.

In 2013, research found individual traits in some of the thousands of plants Prairie Pharms tested. The plants exhibiting those traits (individual clones) are being propagated to increase the TQ content. Taking care to preserve what it had discovered to date, Prairie Pharms filed U.S. and worldwide patents covering methods used to grow the *Monarda*, and the components it produces in the extract. Those patents were approved in the U.S. in July 2015 and are pending in other countries.

Today Prairie Pharms has 756 acres of *Monarda* and is the largest grower in the world, according to Mr. Rohlfen. "We are on the forefront of something incredible. Many Biopharma companies struggle for years searching through molecular compounds at random, hoping for a hit. We have it." Because the *Monarda* plant extract naturally contains TQ, it is not a drug. It has entered the cosmetic market with a topically applied product, which can also be used with a diffuser for inhalation. The small molecule size easily passes through the skin into the bloodstream, and into every cell in a very short time, according to the company. Next up is a gel cap that protects the extract and passes through the stomach into the small intestine where it releases.

Prairie Pharms is also actively looking partners in the human and companion animal markets to see if adding this extract to product lines would be of interest. Prairie Pharms has registered the plant extract "Monarda Gold."

For more information, please visit www.prairiepharms.com.



Viewpoint Molecular Targeting, LLC

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Viewpoint Molecular Targeting is a startup pharmaceutical company that develops therapies and diagnostics for cancer – with a focus on metastatic melanoma. Viewpoint serves as a discovery engine by developing products through preclinical efficacy testing and early human testing phases and aims to partner with medium to large biopharmaceutical companies for late stage testing, manufacturing, and distribution of products.

Viewpoint was formalized in 2008 by Heyward Coleman MBA, Michael Schultz PhD, and Frances Johnson MD and became operational in 2013 after Dr. Schultz was awarded a first prize finish at the 2011 University of Iowa Elevator Pitch Competition (\$25,000) and the 2013 University of Iowa Business Model Competition (\$5,000). The company has established office and lab space within the University of Iowa BioVentures Center at Research Park in Coralville to conduct its operations.

Melanoma is the fastest growing cancer incidence in the world today. Disease detected early can be cured by surgery, but when the disease spreads beyond the skin to other organs (becomes metastatic), melanoma is fatal because the disease quickly develops resistance to all current drugs. Viewpoint is advancing its lead product VMT-MCR1, a new patent-protected alpha-particle radiation therapy. This product is a combination diagnostic-therapeutic radiopharmaceutical, a technology platform referred to as a “theranostic”. The product generates a non-invasive medical imaging scan that precisely determines the location and extent of cancerous tumors in the body and then is used to direct a lethal dose of radiation precisely to cancer cells in the body. This will selectively kill melanoma cells and spare healthy cells and tissues, while overcoming melanoma drug resistance.

Viewpoint has successfully secured over \$1.2Mln through NIH SBIR grants; Iowa Economic Development Authority Demonstration Funds; Innovation Iowa Corporation Matching Funds; and Contracts to Pharmaceutical Industry Partners. The company is aiming to begin clinical trials for its lead product and has other products in the development pipeline. Viewpoint will submit its first Phase II SBIR to the National Institute of Health in FY 2016 to expand efficacy studies of its therapeutic and conduct clinical imaging of its diagnostic lead compound. In addition, the company has developed relationships with two larger partners and investors in the radiopharmaceutical space from Europe and expects to engage these partners for Phase IIB SBIRs for a total raise of \$6 Mln by the end of FY2017. With successful development of its products, Viewpoint looks to not only revolutionize the melanoma drug market, but to provide a solution for patients whom all other forms of therapy have failed.

Viewpoint’s products are not approved for use by the US Food and Drug Administration.

For more information, please visit viewpointmt.com.

Precision Image Guided Therapy_____

MANAGEMENT TEAM AND FOUNDERS:

Michael K Schultz PhD, CSO is an Associate Professor of Radiology at the University of Iowa. Dr. Schultz has business management experience in the technology space and has worked as a consultant on the approval of alpha-particle targeted therapies for other cancers.

Frances L Johnson MD, CMO is a physician scientist with entrepreneurial experience on two diagnostic startups while faculty at Stanford University and has 15 years of experience managing industry-sponsored clinical trials.

Heyward Coleman MBA, CEO is a Harvard MBA serial-entrepreneur with a MS in Nuclear Physics (Duke), who most recently founded/liquidated the largest privately held radiochemistry company in the US (now GEL, Charleston, SC).

UPCOMING EVENTS

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Midwest Events

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Regulatory Affairs Leadership Certificate Program

June 13-17, 2016 | Des Moines, IA



As a response to the industry changes, Drake University has developed a comprehensive leadership program specifically in the area of regulatory affairs. Drawing upon expertise from Drake's Intellectual Property Law Center, the Agricultural Law Center, College of Business and Public Administration, and the College of Arts & Sciences, the Regulatory Affairs Leadership Certificate from Drake University integrates history, innovation, strategy, and business acumen to instill individuals with the skills and expertise to navigate regulations in this vital, fluid industry.

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Iowa STEM School + Business Innovation

June 29, 2016 | Des Moines, IA

The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council is hosting a conference of business and school leaders interested in building or expanding partnerships. The Iowa STEM School+Business Innovation Conference will highlight best practices going on across Iowa including our acclaimed STEM BEST® (Businesses Engaging Students and Teachers) and STEM RLE (Redesigned Learning Environment) models, as well as others such as APEX in Waukee. The goal is to equip attendees with the knowledge, connections, and resources to build school+business partnerships in home communities. Plus, we plan a special announcement about an opportunity to join the growing community of STEM BEST partners across Iowa.

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Animal Health in the Heartland

July 20, 2016 | Omaha, NE



Co-presented by IowaBio and Bio Nebraska, the inaugural Animal Health in the Heartland symposium promises to offer key state and industry leaders the opportunity to discuss solutions for animal health preparedness. The event will allow industry, academia and government sector leaders to address the world's most foremost animal health issues, collaborate, and solve problems.

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SBIR/STTR National Road Tour

August 15-15 | Iowa City & Ames, IA

THE SBIR/STTR National Road Tour is a rare opportunity for small businesses seeking federal funding to learn more about these programs and get facetime with federal program managers. Iowa Innovation Corporation are again hosting two days of pre-conference events, one day in Iowa City and one day in Ames, to help you learn the ropes and get some coaching from national experts. For more information, contact [Jordan Hobfoll](#) or click the event title above. To register, [please click here](#).

INDUSTRY NEWS

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News stories containing company logos indicate IowaBio members



Riverside students explore STEM topics at fair

Genentech

A Member of the Roche Group

Genentech wins approval for immunotherapy drug



Iowa Renewable Fuels Association

Branstad signs bill to extend biofuel incentives in Iowa

Lilly

Eli Lilly lays out 7-year plan to launch new drugs, giant beer merger



Lab Support Earns Recognition for Supplier Excellence at the Agile-1 Fourth Annual US Customer Forum

DMACC
DES MOINES AREA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Life's Calling™

"Kids College" Aims to Close the Skills Gap in Iowa



Officials note TechWorks construction 'launch' as 'significant' milestone

BENCHMARK
BIOLABS

Benchmark Biolabs announces new owner, expansion

Vaccine opportunities expand with AgriLabs' acquisitions

Study finds genetically engineered foods are safe

The White House Launches the National Microbiome Initiative

Treating biopharma as "boogeyman" is not the answer

Building a Navy that runs on ethanol

SUBSCRIBER INFORMATION

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Monthly Newsletter

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This message was sent to you as a benefit of membership with IowaBio and/or a subscriber of our monthly newsletter. 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 info@iowabio.org. Membership details are also available at www.iowabio.org/membership.

If you would like more information on any topic or no longer wish to receive these messages, please email melissa@iowabio.org or call 515-494-9242.

Capitol Report

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IowaBio began issuing a Capitol Report in February 2015. It is a legislative update issued on a periodic basis and allows readers to learn more about our legislative activities and bills that may affect the biotechnology industry. If you would like to receive these reports by email, please visit www.iowabio.org/capitolreport - a link to subscribe and view archives is available on this page.

SPEAKER OPPORTUNITIES

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IowaBio 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 Joe Hrdlicka at (515) 327-9156 or joe@iowabio.org.