
Iowa Biotech Association Monthly Update May 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 or call (319) 621-8580

Breaking News

The BIO International Convention is upon us again! It will be in Washington DC from June 27-30. The IBA received a grant from the Iowa Department of Economic Development to host a booth, so please let us know if your company is interested in participating:
<http://convention.bio.org/>

Congratulations to Lisa Lorenzen for being named Executive Director of the Iowa State University Research Foundation and Director of the Office of Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer:
<http://www.vpresearch.iastate.edu/docs/PressReleaseLorenzenISURF2011.pdf>

Our First Annual IBA Golf Outing was a success! Check out the pictures [here](#) and [here](#). Thanks to the sponsors and attendees for making it a fun event and we hope to see you next year.

New Members

Terpenoid Therapeutics, Inc. is an entrepreneurial drug discovery and development company focused on anti-cancer therapeutics. They use the platform of terpene chemistry to develop candidate drug molecules. Learn more at www.terpenoid.com

iExploreSTEM is a state-wide festival on September 18th created to nurture interests of Iowa children and families in the exciting fields of science, technology, and engineering and math (STEM). Learn more and/or become a sponsor at <http://www.iexplorestem.org/>

C2 Development is a research, development and manufacturing firm focusing on advanced product development and manufacturing of LED application products. The company focus is directed towards development of technical solutions to meet the specific needs of life science applications in the aquaculture and horticulture markets. Learn more at <http://www.aquailumination.com/>

Marel Meat Processing is a leading global provider of advanced equipment and systems for the food processing industry. Learn more at <http://www.marel.com/>

Industrial & Environmental



GPC will invest \$100 million to reduce emissions and improve productivity:

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/05/25/grain-processing-plans-100-million-in-muscatine-improvements-that-will-reduce-emissions-improve-productivity/>



Kemin is expanding with all natural preservatives for personal care products:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110522/BUS>

[INESS03/105220326/Hicks-Her-cream-of-the-crop](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110522/BUS/INESS03/105220326/Hicks-Her-cream-of-the-crop)

DuPont received 92% approval for its best and final takeover offer for Dansico:

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/05/16/131286/>

Ames based biodiesel technology company **Catilin was acquired by Albemarle**, a Louisiana based specialty chemical manufacturer:

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/05/12/ames-bio-fuels-company-acquired-by-specialty-chemical-maker-albemarle/>

A soy based denture adhesive won top prize at the Purdue University Elevator Pitch Competition: http://www.soyatech.com/news_story.php?id=23059

Antibiotics from ethanol production may be **making their way into food through DDGs**:

<http://www.tcdailyplanet.net/blog/iatp/antibiotics-ethanol-just-say-no>

ICM announced that it is ready for **commercial deployment of biomass gasifier technology**: http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=108386

The **Load Toad is a new invention** that reduces labor costs and allows more DDGs to be shipped per railcar: <http://ethanolproducer.com/articles/7725/new-product-makes-loading-ddgs-less-labor-intensive>

Ceres plans to **raise \$100 million in an IPO**: <http://ethanolproducer.com/articles/7812/ceres-takes-bioenergy-seed-business-public>

Cobalt Technologies **successfully raised \$20 million for its n-butanol work**:

http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=108435

Brazil plans to **import US ethanol**:

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/05/18/brazilian-ambassador-well-import-u-s-ethanol/>

Two Nebraska companies are **adding distiller's grains as a component of plastic**:
<http://ethanolproducer.com/articles/7795/dgs-could-end-up-in-plastics-if-biocomposite-facility-is-built>

MSU researchers have proven that there is **no empirical link between biofuels and Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC)**:
http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=109090

The House Ag Committee **voted to eliminate funding for BCAP and REAP**:
<http://biomassmagazine.com/articles/5558/house-ag-appropriations-votes-to-cut-bcap-reap>

Iowa will become the **first state to incentivize the sale of E15**:
<http://ethanolproducer.com/articles/7810/iowa-becomes-first-state-to-incentivize-e15>

Republican candidate **Tim Pawlenty is calling for a phaseout of the ethanol subsidy**, in line with Senator Grassley's proposal:
<http://caucuses.desmoinesregister.com/2011/05/23/ethanol-subsidy-phaseout-is-necessary-pawlenty-says/>

A bill introduced by Senator Grassley would **increase the tax credit given to gas stations who sell ethanol in their pumps**:
<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/05/17/ethanol-bill-would-sidestep-irs-rules/>

Ethanol critics in the US House are **targeting the ethanol subsidy**:
<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/05/18/lawmakers-target-ethanol-subsidy/>

Crude oil prices are down but gas prices are up due to constraints in pipeline capacity:
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110512/BUSINESS/105120333/Tight-pipeline-capacity-sends-gas-prices-up?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage>

Renewable fuel **legislation passed through the Iowa Legislature**:
http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=108534

Senator Grassley introduced a bill **to modify VEETC and convert it to a variable tax incentive tied to crude oil prices**:
http://grassley.senate.gov/news/Article.cfm?customel_dataPageID_1502=34203

Food & Agriculture



Monsanto is testing a **new seed that might beat drought**:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110521/BUSINESS01/105210304/1030/Monsanto-test-seed-might-beat-drought>



CARD analyzed **ethanol's impact on food prices:**

<http://www.ethanolrfa.org/exchange/entry/Better-Understanding-the-Ethanol-Corn-Food-Price-Dynamic/>

John Deere **reported record profits** from strong sales of farm machinery:

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/05/18/deere-reports-record-earnings-2/>

USDA Secretary Vilsack **again defended biofuels from false claims** that it raised food prices: <http://www.agweek.com/event/article/id/18520/>

The new **geopolitics of food:**

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/25/the_new_geopolitics_of_food

US **grain exports are close to 2009/2010 levels** despite increases in prices, while DDGs are up across the board: <http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/7720/feed-exports-up-even-in-a-year-of-high-prices>

Midwest **ag firms have outperformed the S&P 500** since 2007:

http://www.soyatech.com/news_story.php?id=23128

Corn prices fell as the USDA reported **larger than expected surplus in storage:**

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/05/11/usda-increases-corn-surplus-slightly/>

Nearly all Iowa corn has been planted, with 78% of soybeans in the ground:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110524/BUSINESS01/105240334/1030/Iowa-corn-nearly-all-planted-soybeans-78-U-S-behind>

A bipartisan group of House members is **pressuring USDA Secretary Vilsack** to weaken or scrap proposed livestock rules:

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/05/18/lawmakers-push-vilsack-to-scrap-livestock-rules/>

The FDA released details on the **usage of drugs on farm animals:**

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/05/13/fda-provides-new-details-on-use-of-farm-drugs/>

Iowa farmers planted 61% of the 2011 corn crop in one week, once the weather cleared sufficiently:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110510/BUSINESS01/105100338/1030/-Breakneck-pace-brings-corn-planting-up-speed>

About **one third of the food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted every year**, according to the FAO: <http://www.agrimarketing.com/ss.php?id=67146>

China is finding **novel ways to invest in global farmland**:
http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/27/world/americas/27brazil.html?_r=3&ref=todayspaper

Perennial corn would solve many environmental issues related to agriculture, if it can be done profitably and sustainably:
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110504/BUSINESS01/105040354/Perennial-corn-holds-hope-for-cutting-environmental-damage>

Only 8% of Iowa's corn crop is currently planted, **lagging far behind traditional rates**:
<http://thegazette.com/2011/05/05/it%E2%80%99s-getting-late-only-8-percent-of-iowa-corn-crop-is-planted/>

Climate change is already affecting crop yields, according to a new study:
<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/05/05/climate-change-already-hurting-crop-yields-study-says/>

Oxfam released a **pessimistic report about food prices and supply** over the coming decades: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/43221576/ns/business-consumer_news/

Healthcare & Pharmaceutical



CompleWare **launched CompleClinical**-the next generation Clinical Research Information System:

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/compleware-launches-compleclinical---the-next-generation-clinical-research-information-system-121634563.html>



Johnson & Johnson plans to file for **approval of 11 new drugs by 2015**:

http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110526-712602.html?mod=dist_smartbrief

Sirukumab, Johnson & Johnson's **experimental rheumatoid arthritis drug, showed promising results in a Phase II trial**:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/24/johnsonjohnson-arthritis-idUSN2429061120110524>



Novartis is taking a **bold new pathway** with Ilaris, a drug for rare inflammatory disease:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304520804576344871241446758.html?mod=dist_smartbrief



GlaxoSmithKline will pay Isis Pharmaceuticals \$5 million as a milestone payment for the **Phase I launch of its first antisense therapy:**

<http://www.genengnews.com/gen-news-highlights/isis-wins-5m-from-gsk-with-launch-of-first-phase-i-study/81245177/>



Axinitib, Pfizer's kidney cancer drug, **delayed progression of the disease better than competitors** in a Phase III trial:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/18/cancer-pfizer-kidney-idUSN1816631020110518>



AstraZeneca and Heptares Therapeutics are **partnering to develop new medicines that attach to unstable proteins:** http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110531-703920.html?mod=dist_smartbrief



Sanofi-Aventis is shortening its name to Sanofi **and slowing the pace of acquisitions:**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/06/sanofi-idUSLDE74521Z20110506>



Bayer is **closing its multiple sclerosis production facility** and reducing 540 jobs in favor of a contract manufacturer:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/news/2011/05/26/bayer-novartis-betaseron-ms.html?page=all>

PhRMA is **encouraging data exclusivity for biologics for 12 years**, as opposed to 7 years: <http://www.pharmalot.com/2011/05/phrma-wants-12-years-data-protection-in-tp-talks/>

Intrexon **raised \$100 million** to expand its UltraVector platform:

<http://www.medcitynews.com/2011/05/synthetic-biotech-company-intrexon-raises-100m/>

Shire **bought Advanced BioHealing for \$750 million** on the day before its IPO: <http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2011/05/17/shire-acquires-biotech-company-for-750-million/?nl=business&emc=dlbka22>

A gene has been identified that may increase the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease decades before symptoms appear: <http://health.usnews.com/health-news/family-health/brain-and-behavior/articles/2011/05/18/alzheimers-risk-gene-may-damage-brain-decades-before-symptoms-show>

University of Oklahoma researchers are **developing an artificial blood substitute**: <http://newsok.com/fake-blood-is-ou-researchers-real-goal/article/3570073>

A pending House bill would **cut the FDA budget by 11.5%**: <http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/food-safety/162727-house-panel-proposes-big-cuts-to-fda-budget>

Victrelis, **Merck's hepatitis C drug, received FDA approval**: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/14/business/14drug.html>

More biopharmaceutical drugs are being approved by the FDA, despite longer development times: <http://www.masshightech.com/stories/2011/05/09/daily20-FDA-biopharmaceutical-drug-approvals-increase-despite-slower-development-time-.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. Membership details are also available at www.iowabio.org

Events:

[BIO International Convention](#), Washington DC, June 27-30

[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, including biotechnology, healthcare, food vs. fuel, legislative policy, investment and more. Contact Rachel Hurley at (515) 327-9156 or rachelhurley@iowabio.org

Today's Thought:

"Life is change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely."

--Karen Kaiser Clark