

## Iowa Biotech Association Monthly Update September 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

On October 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, the IBA will co-host [Partnering For Growth](#), a first of its kind public/private collaborative event. This is a great opportunity to showcase your products and services to a broad audience that will include peers, partners & potential customers. Please review the [agenda](#) for more information on the event, guest speakers, reception and more.

Core members are encouraged to participate in the expo at **no charge**. We are also seeking Support members and other biotech-related exhibitors for the Expo; all details and sponsor levels can be found on the website. Registration to attend the event is **FREE** and pre-registration is highly encouraged.

This forum will also serve as the **IBA's Annual Meeting**, which will be held Tuesday morning, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 from 7:30-8:15 am. Information regarding the Annual Meeting will be sent directly to all IBA members. Please contact [Rachel Hurley](#) with any questions

Congrats to the newly appointed members of the Iowa Economic Development Authority board: <http://business380.com/2011/09/16/ainger-others-named-to-economic-board/>

Congrats also to those appointed to Governor Branstad's STEM Council:  
<https://governor.iowa.gov/2011/09/branstad-reynolds-announce-members-of-governor%E2%80%99s-stem-advisory-council/>

Rachel Hurley wrote this excellent Op-Ed piece in the Des Moines Register about job creation in bioscience:  
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011309230025>

Follow us on Twitter [@IowaBio](#) for hot news stories, updates on Member Benefits and everything related to biotechnology in Iowa.

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## Featured Member



**KemPharm , Inc.** is an early phase biopharmaceutical company in Iowa City. They are focused on the discovery and development of new, safer therapies for the treatment of Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), pain, and cardiovascular disease. KemPharm uses its patent-applied technology to improve existing drugs and shorten the development timeline while still maintaining a strong intellectual property position within each therapeutic area.

KemPharm recently announced plans to initiate development of its recently identified lead compound KP415, a first-in-class prodrug of methylphenidate, which is a commonly used medication for the treatment of ADHD. KP415 was identified using KemPharm's Ligand Activated Therapy approach.

Learn more at [www.kempharm.com](http://www.kempharm.com)

## Healthcare & Pharmaceutical

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Eli Lilly will invest \$30 million in partnerships in the next five years to fight chronic illnesses:

[http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/09/13/business-health-care-us-eli-lilly-chronic-diseases\\_8676386.html](http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/09/13/business-health-care-us-eli-lilly-chronic-diseases_8676386.html)

Eli Lilly has pioneered open-innovation efforts to help find new therapeutic molecules:

[http://www.pharmatimes.com/Article/11-09-](http://www.pharmatimes.com/Article/11-09-29/Lilly_expands_open-innovation_efforts_with_new_drug_discovery_platform.aspx)

[29/Lilly\\_expands\\_open-innovation\\_efforts\\_with\\_new\\_drug\\_discovery\\_platform.aspx](http://www.pharmatimes.com/Article/11-09-29/Lilly_expands_open-innovation_efforts_with_new_drug_discovery_platform.aspx)



Novartis has cut over 2,500 jobs in the last year, mostly in sales positions:

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/industries/2011/09/25/novartis-cut-2500-jobs-over-past-year-report/>



GlaxoSmithKline will receive up to \$95 million from HHS to support research and clinical testing of a new antibiotic designed against bioterror threats:

[http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/09/07/business-health-care-us-glaxosmithkline-contract\\_8662441.html](http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/09/07/business-health-care-us-glaxosmithkline-contract_8662441.html)



Amgen's Prolia has been approved by the FDA to prevent osteoporosis in certain cancer patients:

<http://consumer.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=657017>



Merck is investing \$500 million in a couple VC related funds to spur innovation in the medical space:

<http://invivoblog.blogspot.com/2011/09/mercks-500-million-venture-bet.html>

Merck decided to return the rights to a Parkinson's disease treatment back to Addex Pharmaceuticals: [http://www.pharmatimes.com/Article/11-09-05/Merck\\_hands\\_back\\_rights\\_to\\_Addex\\_Parkinson\\_s\\_programme.aspx](http://www.pharmatimes.com/Article/11-09-05/Merck_hands_back_rights_to_Addex_Parkinson_s_programme.aspx)



Merck and Vertex have combined to create a treatment for Hepatitis C, which could yield large financial rewards:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/09/14/us-merck-idUSTRE78D76G20110914>

NIH draft guidelines for nanomedicines were recently issued:

<http://www.nature.com/news/2011/110928/full/news.2011.562.html>

Iowa's low rate of HIV could lead to a reduction in funding:

<http://thegazette.com/2011/09/27/iowas-low-hiv-rate-could-lead-to-funding-cut/>

Chimeric and transgenic animals require careful oversight in order to continue as biomedical research tools: <http://the-scientist.com/2011/09/21/opinion-animals-with-human-material/>

DNA sequencing costs are plummeting, which may lead to new advances in how the generated data are used: <http://www.technologyreview.com/business/38581/?p1=BI>

Health insurance premiums are outpacing inflation and wage gains:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/28/business/28insure.html>

Squalamine, a compound that protects sharks from viruses, could be used as a broad spectrum human antiviral: [http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/2011/09/19/Shark-compound-seen-as-human-drug-source/UPI-15821316478212/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2011/09/19/Shark-compound-seen-as-human-drug-source/UPI-15821316478212/)

A new gene therapy treatment from Sangamo reduced levels of HIV and even eliminated it in one patient: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/09/18/sangamo-hiv-idUSS1E78D24J20110918>

Embryonic stem cells are nearly identical to human induced pluripotent stem cells, according to a new study: [http://www.thirdage.com/news/embryonic-stem-cells-identical-to-human-induced-pluripotent-stem-cells-study-says\\_09-13-2011](http://www.thirdage.com/news/embryonic-stem-cells-identical-to-human-induced-pluripotent-stem-cells-study-says_09-13-2011)

Stents inserted to stop strokes actually increased the rate of strokes and death, and are being removed from the market:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/08/health/research/08stent.html>

Clinical trials for Alzheimer's disease are costlier, providing a disincentive for pharma companies to invest precious R&D dollars: [http://blogs.wsj.com/health/2011/09/13/costly-alzheimers-drug-development-deters-drug-companies/?mod=google\\_news\\_blog](http://blogs.wsj.com/health/2011/09/13/costly-alzheimers-drug-development-deters-drug-companies/?mod=google_news_blog)

Researchers have discovered a link between Alzheimer's and diabetes: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/44582653/ns/health-diabetes/>

Midbodies seem to accumulate in both cancer and stem cells and may be a key to understanding cellular growth: <http://the-scientist.com/2011/09/11/obscure-organelle-in-stem-cells-and-cancer/>

The FDA has reorganized its cancer division for greater clarity and transparency: <http://www.drugstorenews.com/article/fda-reorganizes-cancer-division-1>

The FDA will also overhaul its Orphan Drug Program, giving specialized training for development of drugs for rare diseases: <http://the-scientist.com/2011/09/12/fda-to-revamp-rare-disease-efforts/>

## Industrial & Environmental

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Cargill decided not to accept Syngenta's Agrisure Viptera corn at its wet mills until it receives regulatory approval in the EU: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/09/01/cargill-corn-idUSN1E78017Q20110901>



AlphaJet, a JV of SynGest and Unitel Technologies, has developed a catalytic method to make jet biofuel from renewable products: [http://www.syngest.com/AlphaJet/files/AlphaJet\\_Announcement\\_Press\\_Release.pdf](http://www.syngest.com/AlphaJet/files/AlphaJet_Announcement_Press_Release.pdf)



Brent Erickson published a thoughtful piece about the Solyndra debacle, calling for stable policy and thorough due diligence: <http://energy.nationaljournal.com/2011/09/solyndra-bad-bet-or-tip-of-the.php#2071283>



ISU researchers have created 'pyrolytic molasses'- low cost sugars from biomass using funding from ConocoPhillips: <http://thegazette.com/2011/09/29/isu-researchers-produce-cheap-sugars-for-biofuel-production/>

ISU seeks Regents approval for a \$74.5 million biorenewables complex: <http://thegazette.com/2011/09/15/isu-seeks-approval-for-74-5-million-biorenewables-building/>

ISU received a \$25 million federal grant to study transportation and aviation biofuels from biomass: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011309280055>

The NSF has awarded Iowa researchers \$20 million for renewable energy research: <http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/8158/iowa-receives-20-million-for-renewable-energy-research>

Fulcrum BioEnergy seeks to raise \$115 million in an IPO, the latest in a series of biobased products companies going public: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-09-22/fulcrum-bioenergy-seeks-to-raise-115-million-in-biofuels-ipo.html>

NASCAR drivers have raced over 1 million miles using E15 and still sing its praises: <http://ethanolproducer.com/articles/8179/nascar-reaches-million-mile-mark-with-e15-releases-white-paper>

Valero will add corn oil extraction at 3 facilities in Iowa: <http://biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2011/09/20/valero-to-add-corn-oil-extraction-at-three-iowa-plants/>

BCAP applications have been extended until the close of business on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>: [http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf\\_articles.html?ID=114082](http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=114082)

Va. Tech researchers and USDA scientists showed that some yeasts can detoxify contaminated barley in ethanol and DDGS production: <http://www.grainnet.com/article.php?ID=113997>

Mascoma filed for \$100 million IPO: <http://biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2011/09/19/mascoma-files-for-100m-ipo/>

DOE researchers have pinpointed a single gene that controls ethanol productivity: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2011/08/gene-breakthrough-could-unlock-ethanol-potential>

## Food & Agricultural

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**MONSANTO**  
imagine<sup>®</sup>



Monsanto is seeking approval for Vistive Gold, which eliminates trans fats in soybean oil:

[http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/08/31/general-food-retailers-amp-wholesalers-us-food-and-farm-low-fat-soybean\\_8651838.html](http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/08/31/general-food-retailers-amp-wholesalers-us-food-and-farm-low-fat-soybean_8651838.html)

Monsanto bought Beelogs a startup that develops biological tools for pest and disease control:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/news/2011/09/28/monsanto-buys-pest-control-tech-startup.html>



Pioneer gave Iowa State University a grant to establish a faculty position focused on corn breeding: <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/09/19/pioneer-gives-isu-grant-for-plant-breeding/>

Hematech laid off 18 people and will focus on research of cattle antibodies: <http://www.argusleader.com/article/20110917/NEWS/109170308/Biotech-firm-Hematech-lays-off-18-employees>

ConAgra has given Ralcorp a Monday deadline to accept its takeover offer: <http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2011/09/13/conagra-gives-ralcorp-a-deadline-to-accept-its-offer/?nl=business&emc=dlbka22>

A \$20 billion harvest is sending positive ripples through Iowa's economy: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110925/BUSINESS01/309250034/1030/What-20-billion-harvest-means-iowa-s-economy>

Corn prices dipped the maximum of \$0.40 and are below \$6 for the first time since January: <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/09/30/usda-pegs-corn-stocks-at-1-13-billion-bushels/>

This handy tool breaks down corn yields by county: [http://www.agweb.com/harvest\\_map.aspx](http://www.agweb.com/harvest_map.aspx)

Government subsidies fell to 9% of total farm income in the US, part of a global trend due to higher commodity prices: <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/09/21/us-not-alone-importance-of-farm-subsidies-falls/>

USDA Secretary Vilsack defended cuts in crop insurance, as part of a larger plan to cut government spending: <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/09/20/vilsack-defends-crop-insurance-cuts/>

President Obama's tax and spending cuts may pull \$33 billion from farmers in the next decade: <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/09/19/obama-seeking-33-billion-in-farm-cuts/>

Farm groups are pushing out ideas for alterations to farm payment systems: <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/09/16/farm-groups-rushing-out-ideas-for-overhauling-subsidies/>



Iowa farmland has increased an average of 32.6% in value in the past year:  
<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/09/13/iowa-farmland-values-are-up-a-phenomenal-32-6-percent-in-past-year/>

<http://ag-edison.com/> has an interesting piece on whether The World Can Feed Itself

Corn yields in southeastern Iowa could hit a 20 year low due to extreme heat and drought:  
<http://thegazette.com/2011/09/13/drought-could-push-some-iowa-corn-yields-to-20-year-low/>

The USDA cut Iowa's projected corn yield to 167 bushels per acre:  
<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/09/12/august-heat-scorched-corn-yields-usda-says/>

Soybean yields are forecast to be 3+ billion bushels, down about 7% from last year:  
<http://business380.com/2011/09/12/soybean-production-forecast-at-3-billion-bushels/>

## **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:**

[Partnering for Growth: Where Government and the Private Sector Meet:](#)  
Des Moines, Oct. 17-18

20th Annual CBB Conference- [Current Topics in Industrial Biotechnology](#),  
Iowa City, Oct. 17-18

[Open Minds, Open Doors](#)- STEM conference for Young Women, Cedar Rapids, Oct 18

[Innovation Expo 2011](#), Coralville, Oct. 26

[SSTI Conference](#) for technology based economic development, Columbus, OH, Nov 8-9

[Personalized Medicine World Conference](#) 2012, Mountain View, CA Jan 22-23

\*\*\* We have secured a Special Registration Discount of 30% for IBA Members until 10/15!  
Register here: <http://pmwc2012.eventbrite.com/> and enter discount code: IBA\*\*\*

## Recaps of Past Events:

Wrap-up of the Iowa Impact! Medical Innovation Summit with Sen. Tom Harkin:

[http://www.iowabio.org/documents/news/IOWA\\_FINAL\\_REPORT\\_9950EFDA12D3F.pdf](http://www.iowabio.org/documents/news/IOWA_FINAL_REPORT_9950EFDA12D3F.pdf)

The Summit was also featured in this article in the Des Moines Register:

[http://www.iowabio.org/documents/news/DesMoinesReg\\_8272011\\_FACCDF84275CF.pdf](http://www.iowabio.org/documents/news/DesMoinesReg_8272011_FACCDF84275CF.pdf)

Pictures from iExploreSTEM, which was held in Coralville on September 18<sup>th</sup>:

<http://www.iowabio.org/index.cfm?nodeID=37284&audienceid=1&preview=1>

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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, included 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:

“Failure is not fatal, but failure to change might be.”

- John Wooden