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## Iowa Biotech Association Monthly Update September 2010

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 Michael Ott at [otterm@gmail.com](mailto:otterm@gmail.com) or call (319) 621-8580

### Late Breaking News

Congratulations to **LuCella Biosciences of Ames** for being named a semifinalist in the 2010 John Pappajohn Business Plan Competition. Come see if they will win the grand prize at the Iowa Venture Forum on Oct. 5-6 in Des Moines:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100917/BUSINESS/9170365/3-companies-finalists-in-Pappajohn-competition>

The Technology Association of Iowa will present the third annual **Iowa Women of Innovation** event, an awards presentation that elevates and celebrates today's extraordinary women. Submit a nomination and learn details here:

[http://www.technologyiowa.org/en/events\\_services/iowa\\_women\\_of\\_innovation/2010\\_women\\_of\\_innovation/](http://www.technologyiowa.org/en/events_services/iowa_women_of_innovation/2010_women_of_innovation/)

### Food & Agriculture



Kemin released **Enlivatea** which combines the desirable components of green and black teas: <http://www.nutraingredients-usa.com/Industry/Kemin-launches-green-black-tea-blend/>

Pioneer and Monsanto introduced **competing reduced refuge seeds** at the Farm Progress Show:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100902/BUSINESS01/9020338/Farm-Progress-Show-Seed-companies-going-after-reduced-refuge-corn-market>



**PIONEER**  
BRAND · PRODUCTS

Pioneer's IMPACT program will **increase the number of experimental products by 50%** to insure that growers have the best seed for their situation:

[http://www.agnetwork.com/tuesday\\_newsletter.aspx?oid=1229956&tid=Archive&hq\\_e=el&hq\\_m=805012&hq\\_l=20&hq\\_v=5f53f8d16f](http://www.agnetwork.com/tuesday_newsletter.aspx?oid=1229956&tid=Archive&hq_e=el&hq_m=805012&hq_l=20&hq_v=5f53f8d16f)

MONSANTO



Monsanto entered a three-year partnership with pesticide maker AgraQuest Inc. to develop **new strains of pesticide-coated seeds**:

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9I77RNO1.htm>

Agriculture is strong, despite a weak economy, due to a **surge in exports**. Bill Horan is quoted in this NYT article:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/01/business/economy/01exports.html>

Crop output per person **increased by 26 percent** over the last 50 years, according to ISU:  
[http://www.agmrc.org/renewable\\_energy/climate\\_change\\_and\\_agriculture/agricultural\\_research\\_combats\\_global\\_warming.cfm](http://www.agmrc.org/renewable_energy/climate_change_and_agriculture/agricultural_research_combats_global_warming.cfm)

High fructose corn syrup is **being re-branded as 'corn sugar'**:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100914/ap\\_on\\_bi\\_ge/us\\_corn\\_syrup\\_image](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100914/ap_on_bi_ge/us_corn_syrup_image)

Corn yields are expected to **decrease due to poor weather**:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100930/BUSINESS01/9300342/1030/Disappointment-sets-in-for-iowa-corn-growers>

Fixed payment price **subsidies may be phased out**:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100912/BUSINESS01/9120326/1030/Should-fixed-payment-subsidies-be-thing-of-the-past?>

Genetically modified salmon that grow all year round, rather than just when it is warm, have been **declared safe to consume by the FDA**:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/04/health/policy/04salmon.html>

This well balanced article **refutes some of the common claims** against genetically modified food: [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39312857/ns/health-food\\_safety/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39312857/ns/health-food_safety/)

Potash is working to assemble a Chinese-led consortium of investors to back a **leveraged buyout that would trump** BHP Billiton Ltd.'s hostile bid:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-investor/potash/potash-brass-china-in-talks-on-rival-bid/article1709249/?dbk>

The vast majority of nitrogen and phosphorus **found in streams comes from agriculture**:  
<http://thegazette.com/2010/09/27/almost-all-fertilizer-pollution-starts-on-farms-study-shows/>

Soybean vein necrosis is a **newly identified viral disease** in soybean fields found in Arkansas and other states that reduces yield:  
[http://www.agnetwork.com/friday\\_newsletter.aspx?oid=1238963&tid=Archive&hq\\_e=el&hq\\_m=816826&hq\\_l=20&hq\\_v=5f53f8d16f](http://www.agnetwork.com/friday_newsletter.aspx?oid=1238963&tid=Archive&hq_e=el&hq_m=816826&hq_l=20&hq_v=5f53f8d16f)

Higher levels of **carbon dioxide were beneficial** for soybean and sorghum growth:  
[http://www.agnetwork.com/tuesday\\_newsletter.aspx?oid=1236113&tid=Archive&hq\\_e=el&hq\\_m=812799&hq\\_l=18&hq\\_v=5f53f8d16f](http://www.agnetwork.com/tuesday_newsletter.aspx?oid=1236113&tid=Archive&hq_e=el&hq_m=812799&hq_l=18&hq_v=5f53f8d16f)

Smaller EU countries **would like to utilize GM crops**, but larger members plan to veto:  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE68Q14N20100927>

## Industrial & Environmental



Jack Oswald, CEO of SynGest, is **one of the 25 People to Know in Bioenergy**: <http://biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2010/09/09/25-people-worth-knowing-in-bioenergy/>



Ajinomoto **released Corynex**, which produces complex proteins that don't need multi-step purification processes. Check out <http://www.corynex.com/>



Fiberight and TMO Renewables have reached a 20 year deal to make fuel ethanol from waste, **potentially building 15 plants in the next 5 years**:  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE68J2NL20100920>



ISU researchers receive NSF grant to develop **green chemicals for oil spill cleanup**: [http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf\\_articles.html?ID=98551](http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=98551)

Also, ISU ISU chemists discovered a method to **create high value chemicals from biomass**: <http://www.news.iastate.edu/news/2010/sep/supercritical>



UNI researchers worked with AMTek, an Iowa-based industrial microwave company, to make biobased grease by using microwaves and **will be featured on Modern Marvels** on the History Channel:

<http://www.uni.edu/newsroom/stories/breakthrough-in-soy-grease-manufacturing-cuts-manufacturing-time-improves-product-quality>



Q&A with Brent Erickson of BIO, on the potential **impact of a Republican takeover** of the House/Senate on the biofuels industry:

<http://biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2010/09/21/hostile-takeover-what-happens-to-biofuels-if-republicans-take-congress/>

BIO is lobbying the Obama administration to **revamp the loan guarantee program** for biorefineries, as it “essentially forecloses eligibility of advanced biofuels and biorefinery projects.” They are also requesting that \$3.5 billion in diverted funds from the stimulus bill be re-dedicated to energy: <http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/120201-biorefinery-industry-presses-obama-for-financing-help->

Senator Grassley’s latest attempt to pass the **biodiesel tax credit was denied**: <http://domesticfuel.com/2010/09/16/biodiesel-incentive-shot-down-again-dem-calls-it-stunt/>

In related news, CoBank **foreclosed on East Fork Biodiesel** in Kossuth County: [http://www.soyatech.com/news\\_story.php?id=20157](http://www.soyatech.com/news_story.php?id=20157)

A couple smaller **ethanol plants are for sale**: [http://www.ethanolproducer.com/article.jsp?article\\_id=6944](http://www.ethanolproducer.com/article.jsp?article_id=6944) and [http://www.ethanolproducer.com/article.jsp?article\\_id=6971](http://www.ethanolproducer.com/article.jsp?article_id=6971)

An RFA commissioned study showed that **E15 had very little harmful effect** on autos made in 1994-2000. There were more issues from salt and moisture than the increased amount of ethanol: [http://www.ethanolproducer.com/article.jsp?article\\_id=6964](http://www.ethanolproducer.com/article.jsp?article_id=6964)

The EPA is **expected to allow E15 for 2007 and newer cars by mid-October**: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100924/BUSINESS01/9240343/1030/Decision-nears-on-ethanol-limits>

Other researchers claim to be in the middle of a study and that **any authorization is premature**: [http://www.ethanolproducer.com/article.jsp?article\\_id=6976](http://www.ethanolproducer.com/article.jsp?article_id=6976)

Amyris successfully **raised \$85 million in an IPO**, albeit at a lower price than originally targeted: <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/amyris-launches-ipo-aims-at-biofuel-2010-09-28>

Joule Unlimited has secured a patent on its bacterium that **converts sunlight and carbon dioxide into diesel fuel components**:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/14/science/earth/14fuel.html?dbk>

Synthetic biology is a very powerful tool and **politicians will be advised** by the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/ct-x-sulmalsy-bioethics-panel-20100915,0,7176852.story>

In order to **successfully penetrate the market**, biobased chemicals must meet or exceed the performance, functionality and price of petrochemicals:

<http://www.biorefiningmagazine.com/article/20100907523>

SG Biofuels successfully **raised \$9.4 million to advance research into jatropha** as a biodiesel feedstock: [http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf\\_articles.html?ID=98687](http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=98687)

## Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals



GlaxoSmithKline

Avandia **sales have been suspended in Europe** and are only available in the US if every other diabetes medicine has been ruled out:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/24/health/policy/24avandia.html?\\_r=1&th&emc=th](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/24/health/policy/24avandia.html?_r=1&th&emc=th)



Pfizer  **Cancels its partnership with Celldex** for a brain cancer vaccine: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-09-03/pfizer-ends-celldex-accord-for-brain-tumor-vaccine-celldex-shares-plunge.html>



AstraZeneca and University College London (UCL) formed a research partnership tomorrow to **develop stem cells to repair damaged eyesight in patients with diabetes**: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/sep/12/astrazeneca-ucl-stem-cells-diabetes-blindness>



Johnson & Johnson is in advanced negotiations to buy the Dutch biotech firm Crucell to **strengthen its vaccine business.**

[http://www.nj.com/business/index.ssf/2010/09/johnson\\_johnson\\_close\\_to\\_acqui.html](http://www.nj.com/business/index.ssf/2010/09/johnson_johnson_close_to_acqui.html)

Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline and Roche are **testing treatments on human tissue derived from stem cells:**

[http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/10\\_40/b4197022579389.htm](http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/10_40/b4197022579389.htm)

Provenge will extend the lives of patients with incurable prostate cancer an average of four months. **Is the \$93,000 price tag worth it?**

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39329909/ns/health-cancer/>

Rush University Medical Center has started a **clinical trial for a West Nile virus treatment:** <http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/ct-x-c-west-nile-health-study-0901-20100901,0,2532792.story>

Test show that **ADHD might have a genetic origin:**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE68S1CT20100929>

Roche will keep its R&D units separate from Genentech and **find other areas to cut costs:** <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE68E0ZW20100915>

Gut microbe transplants have been successful in **treating unusual digestive infections:**

<http://www.technologyreview.com/biomedicine/26178/?a=f>

Restoring levels of a nerve-protecting enzyme offers **a new approach to developing treatments for Alzheimer's disease:**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE68L5M520100922>

The Obama Administration is receiving plaudits from the pharmaceutical industry for **proposing a larger and permanent tax credit for R&D:**

<http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/corporate-news/117757-healthcare-industries-applaud-rad-tax-credit-proposal>

RXi Pharmaceuticals and EyeGate Pharmaceuticals will collaborate on an effort to **deliver RNAi therapeutics to the eye** to treat retinal disorders:

<http://www.masshightech.com/stories/2010/09/20/daily37-RXi-teams-up-with-EyeGate-Pharma.html>

Cerulean Pharma is using **nanoparticles to treat lung cancer:**

<http://www.xconomy.com/boston/2010/09/07/cerulean-pharma-makes-progress-in-attacking-the-big-c-with-tiny-drugs/>

Researchers identified a gene which causes **Alzheimer's disease to advance more rapidly.** This could lead to more effective treatments:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-09-16/aggressive-alzheimer-s-disease-gene-discovered-may-help-find-treatments.html>

Researchers created an artificial human ovary that they hope will one day allow scientists to **mature human eggs in a laboratory**.

<http://www.technologyreview.com/biomedicine/26312/?a=f>

Forest Laboratories will to pay more than \$313 million to settle complaints, including a claim that it **had illegally promoted the drug Celexa** for use in children.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/16/health/16drug.html?th&emc=th>

## **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 (319)-621-8580 or email [otterm@gmail.com](mailto:otterm@gmail.com). Membership details available at [www.iowaBiotech.com](http://www.iowaBiotech.com).

## **Events**

Iowa Venture Forum, Oct 5-6 in Des Moines:

<http://www.investiowa.com/icic/web.nsf/callforapplications.html>

Biomass Fuel Summit Portland, OR Oct. 12-13 <http://biomassfuelssummit.com/>

Commercial Ethanol Technology and Research Workshop, St. Joseph, MO Oct. 27-28

[http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/bfj\\_conference.html](http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/bfj_conference.html)

National SBIR, Nov 8-10, Oklahoma City, OK: [www.sbirok.org](http://www.sbirok.org)

BIO is seeking Papers and Panels for the 2010 Pacific Rim Summit in Honolulu, HI from Dec. 11-14: [http://www.bio.org/pacrim/presenters/submit\\_abstract.asp](http://www.bio.org/pacrim/presenters/submit_abstract.asp)

## **Want to promote your biotechnology conference, symposium or training class?**

SEND A NOTE TO MICHAEL OTT AT [OTTERM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:OTTERM@GMAIL.COM) Members may submit their event for a free listing on the Event Calendar that appears on [iowaBiotech.com](http://iowaBiotech.com) and other affiliate state associations. Discounted rates are available for prospective members.

## **PURCHASING AGREEMENTS:**

One of the largest benefits of membership in the IBA is access to discounted merchandise through our purchasing partners. Please contact us at 515-327-9156 for details on:

Lab Equipment Supplies and Chemicals:	Primary Contract- <b>Thermo Fisher Scientific</b> Secondary Contract- <b>VWR</b>
Lab Casework & Equipment:	Primary contract- <b>Fisher Hamilton/Wynn O. Jones</b> Secondary - <b>TMI &amp; Kewaunee/Innovative Lab Sys.</b>
Analytical Equipment & Supplies	<b>Shimadzu Scientific and Beckman Coulter</b>
Office equipment, Supplies & Furniture	<b>OfficeMax</b>

## **Speakers**

IBA staff 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 [rhurley.iowabiotech@gmail.com](mailto:rhurley.iowabiotech@gmail.com)

## **Today's Thought:**

"Do not fear mistakes. You will know failure. Continue to reach out."

**--Benjamin Franklin**