



Vol. I No. XXXVIII 8 November – 14 November

COMPANY SPOTLIGHT

- **Oberon FMR** (Idaho Springs) took home top honors in the fourth annual Dorsey & Whitney Venture Showcase Award at the 2008 BioWest Conference & Expo. The company is developing the production of single cell protein (SCP) from un-utilized food and is working to become the premier supplier of high-quality SCP meal destined for use in animal feed diets. The company was borne out of the Colorado School of Mines in 2003 and received their first round of institutional investment in 2007 from Aquacopia Venture Partners and High Country Venture.
- **Replidyne** (Louisville) and Cardiovascular Systems announced that they have entered into a definitive merger agreement under which CSI will merge with Replidyne in an all-stock transaction. Under terms of the agreement, Replidyne will issue new shares of its common stock to CSI shareholders whereby former CSI shareholders are expected to own 83% of the combined company.
- A **GlobeImmune Inc.** hepatitis-C-fighting drug helped reduce the amount of infected liver cells during a four-week phase 2 clinical trial, according to the company. The Louisville-based company's drug, named Tarmogen, was randomly administered to 72 of 140 patients in addition to the standard of care normally used to treat hepatitis C. The remaining 68 patients received standard therapy. Normal therapy inhibits the virus from multiplying, and, as shown in the study, GlobeImmune's drug then helps eradicate infected cells.
- **Beacon Biotechnology** participated in Denver's DaVinci Institute 2008 Inventor's Showcase and was awarded top honors, 2008 Inventor of the Year, for their BrightSPOT Platform. Imagine going to your local drug store, pricking your finger for a drop of blood, and receiving a full panel of test results before you finish shopping. You leave the store with the right medication for your illness. This new technology will change the way diagnostic testing and detection is performed and healthcare is delivered.

FINANCE

- **Accera** (Broomfield) closed a \$35M Series C financing led by Inventages Venture Capital other participants included POSCO BioVentures and other previous private investors. They company is focused on bring Axona to market in 2009. Axona is classified as a 'medical food' and is designed to reduce moderate Alzheimer's disease symptoms via the delivery of catalytic ketone production as an alternative glucose energy source.

- **Solix Biofuels** (Ft. Collins) a Colorado Statue University spin-out closed a \$10.5M Series A financing participants included I2BF Venture Capital, Bohemian Investments, Southern Ute Alternative Energy, Valero Energy Corp. and Infield Capital. The company uses algae to produce liquid fuel for use in airplanes and diesel trucks. Solix is engaged in the construction of a biofuel pilot plant on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation in southwest Colorado, the biofuel reactor anticipated pilot-scale facility construction completion date is 1H10.
- Biopharmaceutical company **Array BioPharma** reported a net loss of \$33.7 million for the first quarter of fiscal year 2009, compared with a net loss of \$19.1 million for the same quarter a year ago. The company's revenue is down from last year as well: \$5.7 million in revenue for the first quarter of fiscal year 2009 compared with \$6.6 million last year. "By the end of calendar 2009, we anticipate obtaining proof-of-concept data on four additional clinical trials," Robert Conway, Array's chief executive officer, said in a statement. "Positive results on any of these trials will add significant value to Array and potential partners."

PEOPLE

- The Colorado BioScience Association 2008 award recipients were named at the 2008 BioWest Conference and Expo awards dinner: Lifetime Achievement — **Dr. Jay Gershen**, Company of the Year — **CaridianBCT** (Lakewood), Rising Star — **Sierra Neuropharmaceuticals** (Aurora), Volunteer of the Year — **Chris Lepore**, Educator of the Year — **Brenda Dempsey**, Partner of the Year – **Cooley Godward Kronish**, Chairman's Award — **Governor Bill Ritter** and **Denise Brown**.
- Bio-fuels company **Range Fuels** (Broomfield) named **David Aldous**, former executive vice president of strategy for Royal Dutch Shell in London, as new Chief Executive. Founding CEO Mitch Mandich, will remain on the board of directors. Range Fuel's cellulosic ethanol plant, believed to be the first commercial-scale plant, is expected to finish construction in late 2009.
- **Richard J. Traystman, Ph.D., FAHA** professor and Vice Chancellor for research at the University of Colorado Denver has been selected by the American Heart Association (AHA) as one of the Distinguished Scientists for 2008. Each year this distinction is proudly bestowed upon prominent AHA members whose work has advanced the understanding and management of cardiovascular disease and stroke. Traystman has made major contributions to the understanding of how the brain and its circulation respond to clinical disease states such as stroke and cardiac arrest.
- **Heska Corporation** (Ft Collins) announced the promotion of **Michael McGinley** to the position of President and Chief Operating Officer effective 1 January 2009. In his new role, Dr. McGinley will be responsible for managing and optimizing day-to-day operations across the corporation and ensuring that processes, systems, and personnel are optimized to address future growth objectives. Dr. Robert Grieve will continue in his role as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer focusing on corporate vision, strategy, and development to ensure Heska's continued industry leadership and business success.

- **Jennifer Richer, Ph.D.**, associate professor of Pathology at the University of Colorado Denver and member of the University of Colorado Cancer Center Hormone Related Malignancies Program, has been awarded a Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Idea Award for her project, "MicroRNA-200c: A Novel Way to Attack Breast Cancer Metastases by Restoring the Epithelial Phenotype." Richer will receive \$572,130 over three years starting this spring. Richer's research laboratory has previously found that in carcinomas, epithelial cells that start losing their normal, row-like characteristics have lost miRNA-200c. They learned that the molecule E-cadherin is the glue that keeps the cells sticking together, and miRNA-200c makes the epithelial cells retain E-cadherin.

SQUARE PEGS

- The Children's Hospital (Aurora) and the University of Colorado Hospital (Aurora) signed a letter of intent to develop a maternal-fetal/neonatal medicine program. The program new **Colorado High Risk Maternity and Newborn Program** is designed to increase the chance of high-risk babies surviving.
- Read the Inaugural Newsletter from the **University Colorado, Boulder Molecular Cell and Development Biology** department [here](#).
- The **Northern Colorado Larimer Bioscience Cluster** is proud to announce their new internship jobs board for Larimer County bioscience companies and job seeker. This free service is designed to connect area bioscience companies and students. Register to create a company profile, post internship openings and search the resume bank, post your profile and resume. Click [here](#) for more information.