

Dear Members of the BAA,

As we are now mid-way into 2010, I am happy to report that some of the most difficult financial challenges facing the biotechnology industry since its beginnings are starting to fade. The financial markets are coming back and biotechnology is leading the way – coming back faster and stronger! In fact, biotech stocks have outperformed virtually every other index in the first two quarters of this year and the Nasdaq Biotech Index has climbed back to a point even higher than it was when the market peaked in 2007.

I am proud to report that Alabama is contributing in a big way!

It is with great pleasure that I assume the role as Chairman of the BAA (Biotechnology Association of Alabama) at a time when the organization is uniquely poised to support Alabama's biotechnology community and I am more excited than ever by the inspiring progress that Alabama's industry has achieved in recent months.

Since 2009, Alabama's biotechnology industry made headlines around the globe, including:

- The first ever emergency use authorization by the FDA (Federal Drug Administration) for BioCryst's anti-viral, piramivir and for Diartherix's H1N1 test
- SurModics Pharmaceuticals announced a drug development agreement with Roche and Genentech
- Vaxin partnered with Korean-based AnC Bio
- Southern Research received FDA approval for pralatrexate to treat PTCL
- Birmingham's Innovation Depot was rated among the nation's top five incubators

These are just a few of the recent developments among BAA members. We have obviously made great progress in translating world-class science into commercial success.


In good times and in tough times, every organization needs a plan and a vision. Our goal for 2010/2011 is to create a strategic plan that will help us to build on our successes and to become the very best that we can for our state, our industry and for the benefit of the patients whom we serve. To this end, we will be reaching out to you for your guidance as we begin to develop a strategy that will best serve this organization and its members for the years to come.

We will also continue to promote networking opportunities through our BioMIXERs and biotechnology-focused workshops. Please let us know if there are topics and issues that you feel can be addressed in these forums and we will do what we can to accommodate requests.

The future of biotechnology in Alabama depends on our collective ability to communicate, shape policy, share information, co-develop programs and implement a successful strategic plan. Your membership in Alabama's most comprehensive network of industry, academic and research institutions as well as entrepreneurial enterprises and service providers, bolsters Alabama's presence in the national biotechnology industry. **Your membership in the BAA makes us a stronger force.**

Thank you for your continued support. This association could not exist without its members and their active support. I encourage you to take advantage of our upcoming BioMIXERs and workshops. Let us hear from you about issues, concerns and programs that can benefit your companies and institutions. The industry's future in Alabama is more promising than ever before – join the BAA as we usher in a new decade in the era of biotechnology, one in which Alabama will have a strong voice.

Sincerely,



Art Tipton, Ph.D.
Chairman, Biotechnology Association of Alabama