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Events Column

6/6 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Third Annual CVG-UConn Tech Transfer Forum. UConn Avery Point Campus, Groton. [more](#)

6/6 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. MIT Enterprise Forum of CT. A.B.L.E. Tech. UConn Avery Point Campus, Groton. [more](#)

6/18-20 BioVenture Forum East 2007. The largest life sciences venture forum on the East Coast. Montreal, Quebec, Canada. [more](#)

6/18-20 International Congress of Nanobiotechnology & Nanomedicine 2007. San Francisco, CA. [more](#)

6/19-21 SBIR Conference: *The Future of Manufacturing is Innovation 2*. Pratt & Whitney, East Hartford. [more](#)

6/21-23 Inspection Preparedness Roundtable. The team at Triumvirate Environmental will walk you through the EPA and state regulatory processes. Crowne Plaza, Hartford, CT. [more](#)

6/21-23 Convergence - The Life Sciences Leaders Forum. Martha's Vineyard, MA. [more](#)

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Connecticut Emerges as Hub of Bioscience Activity *From the desk of Paul Pescatello, President and CEO of CURE*

The past few years CT has emerged as a top site for bioscience research. This has come about due to several core strengths. We've made solid progress in assembling the critical mass necessary for success in a small state that's pleasant to live in and very serious about its commitment to bioscience.

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Connecticut on View at BIO Convention in Boston



Led by a team from CURE, Connecticut Innovations, and the State of Connecticut's Department of Economic and Community Development, this year's Connecticut Pavilion at the BIO 07 Convention in Boston was double the size of last year's in Chicago. Hundreds of business leaders, scientists, students, and real estate professionals stopped by to learn more about Connecticut's lifescience cluster

and to visit with company representatives.

[For the full story](#)

RainDance Snares Largest Q1 Venture Investment

In Q1 2007, the largest venture investment in Connecticut went to RainDance Technologies, Inc., a Guilford NanoReactor company that received \$23.7 million in investment dollars. Applied Spine Technologies, Inc., a New Haven company that develops stabilization devices with full anatomic motion for back pain, received \$15.0 million.

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CURE Member News Digest

- **Achillion** appoints new Chief Scientific Officer
- **Alexion** introduces OneSource™ support service
- **Boehringer Ingelheim** broadens Viramune® policy
- **Bristol-Myers Squibb** releases BARACLUDE® study
- **Connecticut Innovations** announces Pre-Seed support Services
- **CuraGen** in trial for treating Soft Tissue Sarcomas
- **GlaxoSmithKline** prepares to roll out weight-loss product
- **Hartford Hospital** reovates Sleep Disorders Center
- **HistoRx** secures patent on core AQUA® technology
- **Invitrogen** to offer adipose-derived stem cell-based products
- **Johnson & Johnson** presents LEVAQUIN data
- **MannKind** continues focus on Technosphere Insulin
- **Marinus** conducts international Ganaxalone study
- **Neurogen** study of NGD-4715 obesity compound
- **Pfizer** teams with CBIA on scholarships
- **Rib-X** to explore structure of 70S ribosome
- **Triumvirate Environmental** scouts Connecticut location
- **UConn** confers award on pediatric pulmonologist
- **Yale** targets brain function gene

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The Center of Connecticut's BioScience Cluster



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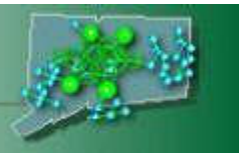
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Connecticut Emerges as Hub of Bioscience Activity

From the desk of Paul Pescatello, President and CEO of CURE

At the BIO convention in Boston in early May, I had occasion to speak to the New England Forum on BioTechnology on Connecticut's emergence as a center of bioscience activity. Following is a summary of my remarks.



The past few years CT has emerged as a top site for bioscience research. This has come about due to several core strengths.

We've made solid progress in assembling the critical mass necessary for success in a small state that's pleasant to live in and very serious about its commitment to bioscience.

CT bioscience currently employs more than 17,000 people and spends more than \$7.6 billion on operations annually.

The core is the biotech cluster centered in and around New Haven, where 40-plus companies, Yale's new research- and clinical trials-focused Cancer Center, and Pfizer's clinical research facility make their home.

The mix also includes Pfizer's worldwide R&D headquarters, a large Bristol-Myers Squibb research facility, and the U.S. headquarters of the steadily growing Boehringer Ingelheim.

Fueling the industry is a brisk rate of technology transfer from world-class research institutions such as the University of Connecticut and Yale, which also have world-class research hospitals and healthcare facilities very much involved in clinical trials.

And the state has a well-developed network of engineering, laboratory supply, and other supporting organizations.

The net result is a beehive of activity in a relatively small area. Much of the industry is centered along I-91 between New Haven and Hartford. But the Danbury and Groton/New London areas are also important hubs.

With large pharmas, emerging biotechs, major research universities, and first-class hospitals all in close proximity, CT is an attractive center of employment for bioscience workers, especially two-career couples.

Remember, CT is closer to Boston, New York City, and northern New Jersey than many California bioscience firms are to each other. Connecticut is smaller than San Diego County.

And the cost of living compares favorably with that of some other bioscience centers. For example, a recent cost of living index shows New Haven at 124 versus Boston's 136 and San Francisco's 171.

Similarly, lease rates have recently been 30% to 50% lower than in such hubs as Cambridge/Boston and San Diego.

All this is in a state whose government has consistently shown support for the bioscience industries.

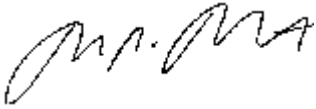
For example, Connecticut was not only one of the first states to earmark public funds for stem cell research, it was the very first to actually get the promised funding into researchers' hands.

And Connecticut recently followed through on its commitment to stem cell research by hosting a well-attended symposium that attracted international stars in the stem cell area.

Connecticut Innovations, a quasi-public entity created by the state legislature, funds young biotech companies through its BioSeed and laboratory facilities funds. Just recently Connecticut Innovations announced an investment to establish in Connecticut the U.S. subsidiary of Ipsogen, a French bioscience company.

And in addition to capital, Connecticut offers annual incentives through such programs as Enterprise Zones, Incubators, and the state's unique tax credit exchange, through which eligible companies that cannot use R&D tax credits can exchange them for 65% of their value.

Taken together, the Connecticut Pavilion was a successful crossroads for the meeting of Connecticut's bioscience community and a useful symbol of our bioscience leadership worldwide.



Paul R. Pescatello is President and CEO of CURE.

Connecticut on View at BIO Convention in Boston

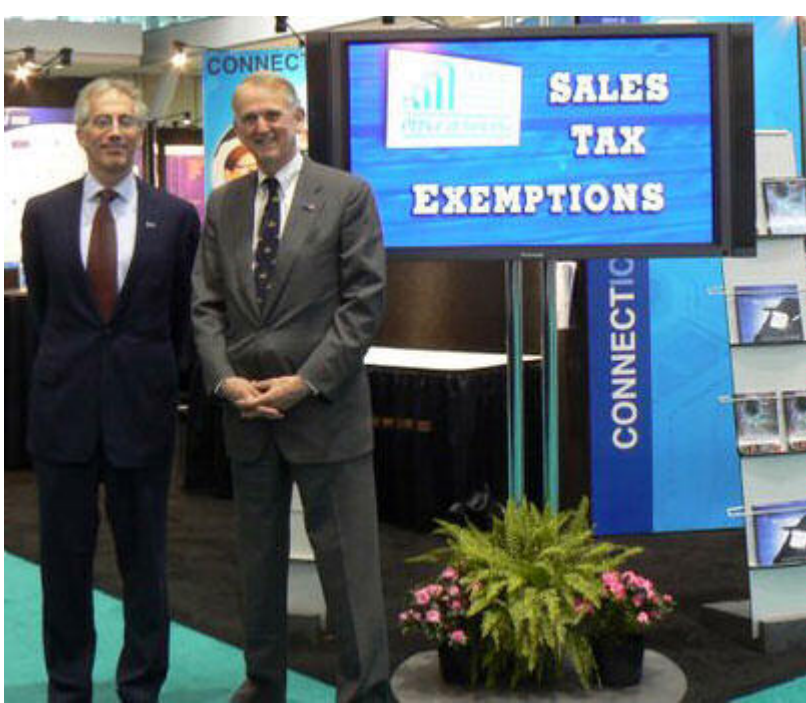
"Connecticut's convention visibility matched its preeminence in bioscience." That was the consensus at BIO 07, the international pharmaceutical and biotechnology convention held May 7-9 in Boston.



With its new 6-foot high header sign hung from the rigging of the Boston Convention and Exposition Center, the Connecticut Pavilion could be seen from the far corners of the convention floor, a space the size of four football fields. The Pavilion focused the lifescience community's attention on the advantages of locating or expanding a business in Connecticut.

The convention drew a record 22,366 attendees, a nearly 15 percent increase from the previous year in Chicago, with representatives from 48 states and 64 countries. One-third of attendees came from outside the United States.

Led by a team from CURE, Connecticut Innovations, and the State of Connecticut's Department of Economic and Community Development, this year's Pavilion was 20' x 40', double the size of last year's, featuring new graphics and a Connecticut showcase of 21 lifescience companies, universities, and service providers. More than 100 attendees used the Pavilion as "home base" during the three-day event.



Active throughout the convention were Paul Pescatello and the CURE staff.

Rob Simmons, Business Advocate with Connecticut's Office of Policy and Management, represented Connecticut, on behalf of Governor Rell, at the convention and the the New England Forum on BioTechnology. The Forum was a working session among the New England states, with a focus on collaborative opportunities, and a showcase for New England's substantial biopharma assets. Very much in line with his advocate title, the former Congressman was a skillful spokesman for Connecticut bioscience and collaboration among the New England states. He noted that 200 miles out from the San Diego biotech cluster is desert, while the same distance from Connecticut's cluster is rich with New York City and Boston biotechs and research hospitals. Analogizing to the successful advocacy for keeping open both the Groton and Portsmouth NH submarine bases, Simmons underscored the collective strength of New England's bioscience resources.

State Senator Gary LeBeau (D-East Hartford), who is co-chairman of the Commerce Committee, took time out from his busy schedule to make an extended visit, stopping to ask visitors and exhibitors alike their reactions to the show and to Connecticut's bioscience policies. As he always does, Senator LeBeau also listened carefully to the concerns of Connecticut conventioners and answered an array of questions. Senator LeBeau is a tireless fighter for 21st-century economic development and Connecticut bioscience.

Hundreds of business leaders, scientists, students, and real estate professionals stopped by to learn more about Connecticut's lifescience cluster, or to visit with company representatives. A five-minute video sponsored by the State of Connecticut, Market New Haven, Town of Trumbull, City of West Haven, Town of Farmington, and Town of Branford helped tell the Connecticut story.



Also attracting attention were repeated viewings of *Promise: The Future of Stem Cell Research*, a 30-minute video made in conjunction with Connecticut's well-attended stem cell symposium last March. (The program will be broadcast Saturday, June 9, at 4:30 pm on WTNH-TV News Channel 8, the New Haven ABC affiliate.)

With the theme CONNECTicut Delivers!, the Connecticut pavilion focused on three core messages:

- * [Connect to Capital](#)
- * [Connect to Incentives](#)
- * [Connect to a Friendly Environment for Business, for Life](#)

A newly edited brochure, [An Entrepreneur's Roadmap to Connecticut](#), was on hand for distribution.

Capping the networking agenda, a Connecticut-Made Wine and Cheese Tasting attracted more than 400 people, who sampled wines produced at Chamard Vineyards, Connecticut's premier winery, owned by bioscience serial entrepreneur Jonathan Rothberg. The cheese was produced by Sakow's Beaver Brook Farms, a sheep, cow, and goat farm that has operated continuously for more than 80 years in Lyme.



BIO 08 is scheduled for June 17-20 in San Diego. Planning for the Connecticut Pavilion there has already begun.

RainDance Snares Largest Q1 Venture Investment

Venture-backed companies in Connecticut raised more than twice as many investment dollars in the first quarter of 2007 than in the fourth quarter of 2006. According to the PricewaterhouseCoopers/National Venture Capital Association MoneyTree™ Report based on data from Thomson Financial, five Connecticut companies received \$42.7 million in venture capital funds during the first quarter of 2007, an increase of 122% over \$19.2 million invested in four companies in the fourth quarter of 2006. However, investments declined by \$17.1 million when compared to the first quarter of 2006.

"We are off to a tempered start in the first quarter of 2007. Investments rose dramatically compared to the fourth quarter of 2006, yet declined versus the first quarter of 2006, when \$59.8 million was invested," said Owen Davis, co-chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers' venture capital/private equity practice in Connecticut and Westchester County, New York. "The average deal size in first quarter 2007 of \$8.5 million was comparable to the first quarter of 2006, yet reflects just five deals. However, average deal size rose compared to \$4.8 million in Q4 2006. Investments in two early stage companies in Connecticut for Q1 2007 totaled \$26.6 million or 61% of total funding. And, four of the current quarter's five investments were first-time financings, a sign of investors' continued interest in new ventures."

In Q1 2007, the largest investment in Connecticut went to RainDance Technologies, Inc., a Guilford NanoReactor company that received \$23.7 million in investment dollars. Applied Spine Technologies, Inc., a New Haven company that develops stabilization devices with full anatomic motion for back pain, received \$15.0 million. Rounding out the top three deals for

the quarter, Westport based LegiTime Technologies, Inc., a security solution developer for the mobile communication market, received \$2.5 million.

Nationally, in the first quarter of 2007, venture capitalists invested \$7.1 billion into 778 deals, the highest quarterly dollar amount since the fourth quarter of 2001.

Nationally, the Life Sciences sector had an extremely strong quarter, with Biotechnology ranking as the number one industry for investment, while Medical Devices was at an all-time high. Later Stage investing also jumped in the quarter to the highest dollar level since the fourth quarter of 2000. First time financings remained relatively steady, increasing slightly over last quarter.

Tracy Lefteroff, global managing partner of the venture capital practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers, observed, "This quarter, the breadth of investing in a wide variety of industry segments and in companies across varying stages of maturity indicates a healthy balance between short- and long-term opportunities. We're seeing solid levels of investing in traditional industries that are being complemented by renewed interest in promising, fast-growing niches. Entrepreneurs in any area can look forward to a more receptive – though no less demanding – market for their ideas."

And Mark Heesen, president of the National Venture Capital Association, added, "As investment levels inch upwards, it is important to watch where the money is going. The Life Sciences sector is receiving a lot of attention right now but it is an industry that is indeed scalable. Biotech and medical device companies require a substantial amount of capital to get through the regulatory process and the VC industry is responding to this demand. The quarterly increase in later stage investing may be reflective of an improving exit market as venture capitalists are now willing to invest an additional later stage round with the hopes that an IPO or a robust acquisition is around the corner."

In the first quarter, the Silicon Valley region placed first among major regions in terms of deals and dollars invested, followed by the New England region (which includes portions of CT). The New York Metro region (which includes Fairfield county) placed seventh in terms of dollars invested and fourth in terms of deals.

Region	# of Investments	Investment Amount
Silicon Valley	244	\$ 2,165.1 million
New England	95	\$ 975.5 million
San Diego	44	\$ 686.3 million
Southeast	54	\$ 579.3 million
LA/Orange Co.	40	\$ 526.0 million
Northwest	42	\$ 456.7 million
New York Metro	48	\$ 360.5 million

Connecticut Results, Most Recent Quarters

Quarter and Year	# of Investments	Investment Amount	Average Deal Size
Quarter 1, 2007	5	\$ 42.7 million	\$ 8.5 million
Quarter 4, 2006	4	\$19.2 million	\$4.8 million
Quarter 3, 2006	10	\$56.4 million	\$5.6 million
Quarter 2, 2006	9	\$111.7 million	\$12.4 million

Quarter 1, 2006	7	\$59.8 million	\$8.5 million
Quarter 4, 2005	4	\$33.2 million	\$6.6 million
Quarter 3, 2005	8	\$59.9 million	\$7.5 million
Quarter 2, 2005	8	\$22.9 million	\$2.9 million
Quarter 1, 2005	10	\$74.1 million	\$7.4 million

Connecticut Results, Most Recent Six Years

Year	# of Investments	Investment Amount	Average Deal Size
2006	30	\$247.1 million	\$8.2 million
2005	30	\$189.6 million	\$6.3 million
2004	32	\$194.9 million	\$6.1 million
2003	34	\$233.9 million	\$6.9 million
2002	37	\$176.7 million	\$4.8 million
2001	69	\$535.8 million	\$7.8 million

Industry Sectors – Industrial/Energy Sector Leads First Quarter

In Connecticut, the Industrial/Energy sector obtained the largest share of venture capital funds for the first quarter of 2007 – a total investment of \$23.7 million in one company, or 55% of total investment dollars. Medical Devices and Equipment followed with \$15.5 million invested in two companies, and the Software industry ranked third with \$3.5 million invested in two companies.

Nationally, Medical Devices investing skyrocketed to an all-time high in the first quarter, with \$1.08 billion going into 96 deals, a 60 percent increase in dollars over Q4 2006. Biotechnology was the single largest industry sector with \$1.5 billion going into 102 deals, unseating software, which is traditionally the largest sector. Life Sciences (Biotechnology and Medical Devices together) accounted for 36 percent of the quarter's dollars, an all-time high.

Software investments fell 10 percent from Q1 of 2006 to \$1.1 billion into 193 deals in Q1 2007. The decrease can be attributed to lower deal volume. However, Software still had the highest deal level of all industries and was the second largest industry sector for dollar value this quarter.

The Media and Entertainment sector increased 16 percent in dollars to \$489 million into 72 deals. Telecommunications increased 27 percent in dollars over Q4 2006 with \$588 million going into 63 deals. Within the Telecom sector, Wireless Communications captured \$356 million for the quarter.

Internet-specific companies captured \$1.3 billion going into 167 deals, a 31 percent increase in investment dollars over Q4 2006 and the highest quarterly level in five years. However, the number of Internet Specific deals decreased since the fourth quarter indicating more dollars being invested in each round. 'Internet-specific' is a discrete classification assigned to a company whose business model is fundamentally dependent on the Internet, regardless of the company's primary industry category such as Software or Telecommunications.

A new Clean Tech category, which crosses traditional MoneyTree sectors and comprises alternative energy, pollution and

recycling, power supplies and conservation, will be reported going forward. In the first quarter, venture capitalists invested \$264 million dollars into 23 deals in the Clean Tech category, a 41 percent increase in dollar value over the fourth quarter. For the full year 2006, Clean Tech investments were \$1.5 billion or an average of \$383 million per quarter.

Other major industry categories that experienced dollar increases in Q1 2007 include IT Services, Networking and Equipment, Retailing/Distribution, Industrial/Energy, Electronics/Instrumentation, and Computers/Peripherals. Other industries experiencing declines were Semiconductors and Consumer Products.

Stage of Company Development – Early Stage Leads First Quarter in Connecticut

For the first quarter of 2007 in Connecticut, two Early Stage companies received \$26.2 million of the state's total in-bound funding or 61% of the total dollars invested in Connecticut. Also in Q1 2007, one Expansion Stage company received \$15.0 million of funding, one Later Stage company received \$1.0 million, and one Startup/Seed Stage company received \$0.5 million.

Nationally, investments in Later Stage companies increased significantly in the first quarter of 2007 with \$3.0 billion dollars going into 245 deals. This was the highest dollar level in over six years. Average post-money valuations were \$95.33 million for the 12-month period ending Q4 2006. (Note: Valuation data lags investment data by one quarter and is as of April 16, 2007.)

Funding dollars for Seed and Early Stage companies declined 30 percent in Q1 to \$1.1 billion in 259 companies, a 26 percent decline in deals. Average post-money valuations of Early Stage companies were \$11.13 million for the 12 months ending Q4 2006.

Investments in Expansion Stage companies experienced a modest dollar increase in Q1, rising nearly 9 percent to \$2.9 billion invested into 274 deals. The average post-money valuation for an Expansion Stage company was \$68.9 million for the full-year 2006.

Overall for Q1 the number of deals was spread relatively evenly among the stages. Seed/Early Stage companies accounted for 33 percent of the deal volume; Expansion Stage for 35 percent; and Later Stage for 32 percent.

CURE Member News Digest

Achillion Pharmaceuticals (New Haven) announced that Milind Deshpande, Ph.D., Senior Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer, will assume leadership of Achillion's clinical development activities in addition to his current drug discovery responsibilities. John C. Pottage, Jr., M.D., Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, has resigned to accept a senior clinical development position at GlaxoSmithKline.

Alexion Pharmaceuticals (Cheshire) said that following marketing approval by the FDA for Soliris, the first therapy ever approved for paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria, a rare, disabling and life-threatening blood disorder, U.S. commercial launch of Soliris is underway. The first Soliris vials were shipped within a week of commercial launch. The Company has initiated multiple programs to help achieve its objective that every patient who can benefit from Soliris will have access to Soliris, the company said. For example, the same day the FDA approved Soliris, the Company introduced Soliris OneSource™, a personalized treatment support service for patients with PNH and their healthcare providers. Each patient enrolled in the program receives support from an Alexion case manager at OneSource™. Alexion case managers are registered nurses and provide education about PNH and Soliris and facilitate solutions to help patients obtain Soliris.

In order to further improve access to its anti-HIV drug Viramune®(nevirapine) in developing countries, **Boehringer Ingelheim** (Danbury/Ingelheim, Germany) has amended its policy of voluntary licenses for generic producers. The company now issues short, non-assert declarations which can be given to all generic producers worldwide, prequalified by the WHO, that will supply nevirapine to developing countries. These agreements, which in practice mean that patents on nevirapine will not be enforced by Boehringer Ingelheim in developing countries, are free of license fees or other charges.

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (New York/Wallingford)) has announced study results that indicated that treatment with BARACLUDE® (entecavir) demonstrated greater viral load reduction than adefovir at 48 weeks -- a result that was also seen at weeks 12 (primary endpoint) and 24. Discovered at Bristol-Myers Squibb, BARACLUDE® (entecavir) is a nucleoside analogue indicated for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B virus infection in adults with evidence of active viral replication with either evidence of persistent elevations in serum aminotransferases (ALT or AST) or histologically active disease. BARACLUDE has been approved in more than 60 countries and regions around the world.

Connecticut Innovations (Rocky Hill) has announced a Pre-Seed Support Services Program. The program will help a select number of emerging technology entrepreneurs by identifying the services they need, identifying commercialization

services available in the state, and providing limited funding for those services. To be considered under this program, prospective applicants must be Connecticut-based entrepreneurs or companies and have a "proof of principle" or pre-beta product; proprietary technology; sustainable competitive advantage; definable, addressable market; technology that, when developed, could be considered for later investment by CI and/or private investors; and management team or entrepreneur with domain expertise. Additionally, prospective applicants must be at a pre-Series A stage in raising capital.

CuraGen Corporation (Branford) and TopoTarget A/S have announced the initiation of a Phase I/II open-label, multi-center clinical trial evaluating the efficacy and safety of intravenous belinostat (PXD101), an HDAC inhibitor, in combination with doxorubicin for the treatment of Soft Tissue Sarcomas (STS). During the initial dose escalation part of the trial up to 24 patients with solid tumors for whom no standard therapy exists will be enrolled in order to define the maximal tolerated dose (MTD) of belinostat in combination with doxorubicin.

GlaxoSmithKline (Research Triangle Park, NC) is continuing preparations for the roll-out of *alli*, the only FDA-approved weight-loss product available to consumers without a prescription, combines a clinically-proven product with a comprehensive individualized action plan. The *alli* program encourages modest, gradual weight loss, known by experts as the best way to lose weight. *alli* is expected to be available in pharmacies and mass retailers nationwide beginning on or about June 15.

The newly renovated Sleep Disorders Center at **Hartford Hospital** (Hartford), which treats nearly 100 patients a month for a variety of sleep disorders, is under the direction of Natalya Thorevska, MD.

HistoRx (New Haven) announced that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has granted a patent protecting HistoRx's core AQUA® technology, an automated quantitative immunohistochemical (IHC) technology that enables in situ biomarker analysis for pathology.

Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA/Branford) and Cytori Therapeutics have entered into a global strategic supply and commercialization agreement to offer adipose-derived stem cell-based research products to life science researchers. Invitrogen will offer Cytori's stem cell products to broaden the understanding of adult stem cells and to discover and accelerate development of preclinical applications for adipose derived stem cells.

Johnson & Johnson (New Brunswick, NJ) has presented data that LEVAQUIN® (levofloxacin) 750 mg tablets administered once-daily for five days is as effective as standard therapy of ciprofloxacin (400/500 mg) for 10 days for the treatment of complicated urinary tract infections (cUTI) and acute pyelonephritis.

Alfred Mann, chairman and chief executive officer of **MannKind Corporation** (Valencia, CA/Danbury), in a discussion of first-quarter results, said: "Technosphere Insulin continues to demonstrate significant differentiating qualities when compared to other diabetes therapies. Technosphere Insulin produces a rapid elevation in insulin that peaks within 12 to 14 minutes after inhalation. We believe the kinetics for Technosphere Insulin are much faster than any other product in commercial development. The result of these kinetics in safety and efficacy further strengthens our belief that Technosphere Insulin will emerge as the first in a new class of diabetes products. We continue to meet our program milestones and remain on track to file our NDA submission with the FDA for Technosphere Insulin in December 2008."

Marinus Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Branford) announced that it is enrolling patients in an international, multi-center, placebo controlled Phase IIb study of its lead compound, Ganaxolone, as an adjunctive treatment in adults suffering from partial onset seizures. This marks the second indication for which Marinus is evaluating Ganaxolone. Ganaxolone is also currently being evaluated in a separate Phase IIb study in infants suffering from Infantile Spasms (also called West syndrome).

Neurogen Corporation (Branford) announced that it has completed a single ascending dose, first-in-human study with NGD-4715, the Company's leading drug candidate for the treatment of obesity. NGD-4715 works as a small molecule antagonist at the melanin concentrating hormone receptor-1 (MCHR1). The compound was safe and well tolerated at all doses studied in this clinical trial. "Neurogen has established a leading position with this promising new target," said William H. Koster, president and CEO. "We hope to provide an effective therapeutic for the growing number of patients affected by obesity and its many co-morbidities, including diabetes and hypertension."

The New London global research headquarters of **Pfizer Inc.** (New York, NY/Groton/New London) have announced 24 fellowships to help college students prepare for possible careers in the pharmaceutical industry. Hartford-based CBIA and Pfizer have been working with the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Trinity College in Hartford, the University of New Haven in West Haven and Fairfield University in Fairfield. CBIA plans to work with CURE to develop future programs that advance science-based careers.

Rib-X Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (New Haven) and the Laboratory of Molecular Biology of the Medical Research Council (MRC) announced they have entered into a research collaboration in the area of ribosome and antibiotic structure and function. Under the terms of the collaboration, Rib-X and the MRC will jointly explore the high resolution crystal structure of the full

70S ribosome recently discovered by the MRC's world-renowned ribosome scientist, Venki Ramakrishnan, Ph.D.

Triumvirate Environmental, Inc. (Somerville, MA) was recently named for the second year in a row to Boston's Best Places to Work. They have recently joined CURE and are scouting locations for a Connecticut office.

*Following is recent news from **The University of Connecticut** (Storrs) and the **University of Connecticut Health Center** (Farmington).*

Dr. Michelle Cloutier, a pediatric pulmonologist, is this year's recipient of the UConn Health Center Board of Directors' Faculty Recognition Award, which is given each year to recognize outstanding academic and professional accomplishments. Cloutier helped develop Easy Breathing, a disease management program designed to reduce the burden of asthma in youngsters ... [more](#)

Robert Pomeroy, a professor of agricultural and resource economics, has co-authored a guide about evaluating the effectiveness of marine protected areas. The guide has been adopted by countries around the world ... [more](#)

Handwritten orders have become a thing of the past for patients and their caregivers in the John Dempsey Hospital's intensive care and cardiac step down units, where an electronic system for entering physicians' orders was recently adopted. The system, introduced on a pilot basis on one of the surgical floors last spring, is designed to improve patient safety and reduce medical errors ... [more](#)

Frank Musiek, professor of audiology and director of auditory research in the Department of Communications Sciences, is being recognized with the James Jerger Career Award for Research in Audiology, the field's highest award. Musiek says his research boils down to a simple question: "How well does the brain understand what the ear is telling it?" ... [more](#)

Having a handful of people looking on as a surgeon performs an operation is nothing unusual, but one recent morning at the Health Center, orthopedic surgeons Drs. Robert Arciero and Augustus Mazzocca had more than 200 people watching as they performed a routine shoulder instability repair. Thanks to a two-way interactive video feed, medical professionals attending an international orthopedics conference in São Paulo, Brazil were able to see the surgery live and ask questions during the procedure ... [more](#)

A "Good Catch" program was implemented at the Health Center's John Dempsey Hospital early last year to encourage employees to watch for potential mistakes and to celebrate intervention ... [more](#)

Unplanned visits to school nurses by Hartford students with asthma dropped in recent years, thanks to a partnership between the Health Center and Hartford public schools. The program has worked so well that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has recognized the Hartford Public School District for two years in a row with an award for its indoor air quality initiative and by naming it a mentor for other urban school districts ... [more](#)

*Following is recent news from **Yale University** and the **Yale School of Medicine** (New Haven).*

Where there is cigarette smoking there is probably misuse of alcohol too, according to a study by Yale School of Medicine researchers in the Archives of Internal Medicine. "This means cigarette smoking status can be used as a clinical indicator for alcohol misuse, which presents an opportunity for intervention," said the principal investigator, Sherry McKee, assistant professor of psychiatry. She and her collaborators arrived at their conclusions after analyzing data obtained from 42,374 adults in a national epidemiological survey on alcohol misuse and other related conditions.

Toddlers with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) often have difficulty focusing on people's faces and making eye contact, but a new study by Yale School of Medicine researchers found that these same toddlers do not have difficulty looking at photographs of faces. The researchers, led by Yale Child Study Center Assistant Professor Katarzyna Chawarska, also found that toddlers with ASD spend most of the time examining the eyes.

Yale School of Medicine and University of Crete School of Medicine researchers report in Cell April 20 the first evidence of a molecular mechanism that dynamically alters the strength of higher brain network connections. This discovery may help the development of drug therapies for the cognitive deficits of normal aging, and for cognitive changes in schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). "Our data reveal how the brain's arousal systems influence the cognitive networks that subserve working memory-which plays a key role in abstract thinking, planning, and organizing, as well as suppressing attention to distracting stimuli," said Amy Arnsten, lead author and neurobiology professor at Yale.

Yale biophysicist Thomas A. Steitz has received one of the four 2007 Gairdner International Awards, among the most prestigious awards in science, for his groundbreaking work on the structure and function of the large subunit of the ribosome and the structural basis for the action of antibiotics that target the ribosome.

The Yale Child Study Center has been awarded the Autism Center of Excellence (ACE) status by the National Institutes of

Health. This highly competitive and prestigious award comes with \$7.5 million of direct funding over five years to the Autism Program led by Ami Klin, he Harris Associate Professor of Child Psychology & Psychiatry in the Child Study Center.

A gene found exclusively and at high levels in the brain appears to be a key player in enabling more sophisticated brain function, Yale School of Medicine researchers report in Science. "We envision that the lessons we learn about the role of dynamin 1 may prove widely applicable to understanding the biology of many cell types in both healthy states and disease states," said Pietro DeCamilli, professor of cell biology and neurobiology, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, and senior author of the study.

"Lonesome George," a giant Galapagos tortoise and conservation icon long thought to be the sole survivor of his species, may not be alone for much longer, according to a multinational team of researchers headed by investigators at Yale University. New research led by biologists Adalgisa Caccone and Jeffrey Powell in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Yale, with the strong support and cooperation of the Galápagos National Park and Charles Darwin Research Station, has identified a tortoise that is clearly a first generation hybrid between the native tortoises from the islands of Isabela and Pinta.

Research teams at Yale University and the University of Rhode Island have demonstrated a new way to target and potentially treat tumors using a short piece of protein that acts like a nanosyringe to deliver "tags" or therapy to cells, according to a report in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. "Since the mechanism is general, and since even very small tumors can be targeted, there is an exciting array of possible applications for pHLIP," said Donald Engelman, Eugene Higgins Professor of Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry at Yale and a co-author of the paper.

The stronger the reduction in nicotine craving after smoking the first cigarette in the morning, the more difficult it will be to quit smoking, according to a Yale School of Medicine study in Drug and Alcohol Dependence. In a study of 207 smokers, the researchers found significant reductions in craving, withdrawal and mood after smoking the first cigarette of the day. The greater the craving reduction, the more likely the smoker would relapse, said Benjamin Toll, assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and lead author of the study.

Those who most need medical care in Korea but can afford it least spend a greater percentage of their income on health services, according to a Yale School of Medicine study published in the American Journal of Public Health. "Low-income individuals with multiple chronic conditions are particularly vulnerable to cost sharing and coverage restrictions because they need and use more services," said Jennifer Prah Ruger, assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health.

Yale Cancer Center physicians have presented clinical recommendations for the diagnosis and subsequent treatment of superior vena cava syndrome in this week's issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. Lead author Lynn D. Wilson, M.D., MPH, Professor, Clinical Director, and Vice Chairman of the Department of Therapeutic Radiology at Yale School of Medicine, urges physicians evaluating patients who present with superior vena cava syndrome to evaluate the patient in a multidisciplinary fashion.

Yale President Richard C. Levin has named Michael Cappello M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Microbial Pathogenesis, and Epidemiology & Public Health at the Yale University School of Medicine, as the Director of the Yale World Fellows Program. The Yale World Fellows Program is a unique initiative among U.S. universities and a core element of Yale's commitment to serve as a leading global university. Building a worldwide network of emerging leaders and broadening international understanding, the Program conducts a competition each year to select 18 highly accomplished mid-career men and women from government, business, the media, and civil society organizations representing countries across the world for a 4-month leadership program at Yale.

State regulations requiring equal insurance coverage for mental illness does not increase usage and reduces out-of-pocket expenditures for families who have children with mental illness, a Yale School of Medicine study reports in the journal Health Services Research. "Prior research has left policymakers with the impression that state parity laws will neither break the bank nor confer much benefit," said Colleen Barry, assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health and lead author of the study. "But our study indicates that these laws are providing important economic benefits to families of mentally ill children. This information may be important to policymakers considering enacting parity or expanding existing laws."

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