

BioLines Weekender

To Our New Jersey Life Sciences Community:

Welcome to *The Weekender*.

Besides the holidays, the end of the year is a time to look back at your investments. News came across our desk this week noting that the pharmaceutical industry is seeing a higher return on its investments in research and development (R&D), something that will help continue to fuel our thriving industry. The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) also approved more than \$17.6 million in Angel Investor Tax Credit investments to support four New Jersey emerging technology companies, including BioNJ Member Agile Therapeutics, Aucta Pharmaceuticals and ElectroCore.



Other exceptional things have happened across our membership this week. Cancer Genetics, Inc. announced the launch of targeted next generation sequencing based panel for Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, Focus::CLL. Soligenix received \$617,000 in non-dilutive financing from New Jersey's Technology Business Tax Certificate Transfer Program and Ferring Pharmaceuticals officially opened its new U.S. Operations Center in Parsippany. Rutgers also had some exciting news, as they named Dipak K. Sarkar, a distinguished animal sciences researcher, as a Board of Governors Professor.

With all of this in mind, take a minute from all of your holiday shopping, sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of *The Weekender*.

Be sure to watch for an exciting announcement soon on BioNJ's newest offering to keep New Jersey's industry talent on top!

Because Patients Can't Wait!

The BioNJ Team

Highlights include:

- **BioNJ Calendar** - The BioNJ and LES-NJ Chapter Gala Holiday Celebration is December 15 at the Madison Hotel in Morristown, NJ. The BioNJ Annual Dinner Meeting will be held on February 5 at the Hilton East Brunswick in East Brunswick, NJ.
- **BioNJ News** - BioNJ and Choose New Jersey have reserved premium space on the BIO 2015 International Convention trade show floor. Make sure to reserve your room to be a part of the biggest industry event of the year.
- **NJ Industry News** - EDA approves more than \$17.6 million in angel investor tax credit investments to support four emerging New Jersey tech companies. Triple-negative breast cancer: new treatment combos show promise. Ferring Pharmaceuticals strengthens its commitment to New Jersey. Christie Administration continues to act on commitment to fuel urban economic growth and bring large-scale investment to New Jersey cities. \$9.5B deal nets Merck a Massachusetts biopharma company. Cancer Genetics, Inc. announces launch of targeted next generation sequencing based panel for Chronic Lymphocytic

Leukemia, Focus::CLL. Advaxis announces FDA acceptance of its investigational new drug application to commence clinical trials of ADXS-PSA in combination with Merck's KEYTRUDA for prostate cancer. Bergen county-based medtech company secures capital from EDA. Soligenix appoints Oreola Donini as Chief Scientific Officer. Advaxis's Listeria-based Lm-LLO immunotherapy featured in Nature Biotechnology. N.J. hospitals contribute \$21 billion to N.J. economy. Soligenix receives \$617,000 in non-dilutive financing from New Jersey's Technology Business Tax Certificate Transfer Program (NOL).

- **Advocacy for Innovation, Brought to You by Celgene** - Congressman Lance to chair Congressional Rare Disease caucus. Returns on pharmaceutical R&D improving as pipelines revive.
- **NJ University/Institution News** - Rutgers names distinguished animal science researcher Dipak K. Sarkar Board of Governors professor.
- **Purchasing Consortium** - What savings opportunities are you overlooking? Find out the winner of the Purchasing Consortium's survey giveaway!
- **Talent News** - Check out the latest jobs from our Talent Network. Check out upSkill NJ to find opportunities in information technology, science, engineering or mathematics for unemployed professionals and veterans.
- **BioNJ Tweets of the Week** - Featuring tweets by DiscoveryDrug and Pfizer.

BioNJ Calendar

BioNJ and LES-NJ Chapter Gala Holiday Celebration

*December 15, 2014
Madison Hotel
Morristown, NJ*

[Register Now](#)

The Gateway Gala BioNJ Annual Dinner Meeting, Networking Event and Innovation Celebration

*February 5, 2015
Hilton East Brunswick
East Brunswick, NJ*

[Register Now](#)

BioNJ News

Reserve Your Exhibit Space and Hotel for BIO 2015

BioNJ and Choose New Jersey have reserved premium space on the BIO 2015 International Convention trade show floor! We are working to incorporate the New Jersey Story into our pavilion and want to see how we might include you!

Also, don't get left without a room at the biggest industry event of the year! With 44 percent of the housing space already reserved, rooms are promising to be in short supply very soon. Make sure you're at the world's largest biotechnology meeting by [RESERVING YOUR ROOM TODAY.](#)

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE NEW JERSEY PAVILION?

Please contact Debbie Mennito at BioNJ by phone at [609-890-3185](tel:609-890-3185) or by e-mail at DMennito@BioNJ.org.

NJ Industry News

Make sure to send us your stories via BioNJ@BioNJ.org.

EDA Approves More Than \$17.6 Million in Angel Investor Tax Credit Investments to Support Four Emerging New Jersey Tech Companies

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) has approved more than \$17.6 million in Angel Investor Tax Credit investments to support four New Jersey emerging technology companies, three of which are life sciences companies. BioNJ helped conceive of and advocated for the Angel Investor Tax Credit, which was initiated in 2013, and is continuing to seek enhancements to the program.

Please [click here](#) to read the full press release.

Triple-Negative Breast Cancer: New Treatment Combos Show Promise

Although breast cancer survival rates are improving on the whole, those for women diagnosed with the triple-negative form remain significantly lower. In large part, that's because triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) doesn't respond to many of the more modern, targeted treatments, BioNJ Member Celgene Corporation reported in a press release.

Please [click here](#) to read the full article.

Ferring Pharmaceuticals Strengthens its Commitment to New Jersey

Switzerland-based Ferring Pharmaceuticals, a BioNJ Member located in Parsippany, officially opened its new U.S. Operations Center on December 4 on a 25-acre campus on Interpace Parkway, where the company has invested \$135 million in an existing building, constructing offices, laboratories, a clinical-testing department and even literally raising the walls of one wing to accommodate its first U.S. manufacturing plant.

Please [click here](#) to read the full article.

Christie Administration Continues To Act On Commitment To Fuel Urban Economic Growth and Bring Large-Scale Investment To New Jersey Cities

Building on the Christie Administration's commitment to spur economic investment, job creation, and create opportunities in the New Jersey's urban centers, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) approved on December 9 assistance for significant projects bringing large-scale investment to some of New Jersey's largest cities, including Camden, Newark and New Brunswick.

Please [click here](#) to read the full press release.

\$9.5B Deal Nets Merck a Massachusetts Biopharma Company

Drugmaker and BioNJ Member Merck announced on December 8 that it is buying Cubist, a Massachusetts biopharmaceutical firm, in an equity-and-debt deal valued at approximately \$9.5 billion.

Please [click here](#) to read the full article.

Cancer Genetics, Inc. Announces Launch of Targeted Next Generation Sequencing Based Panel for Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, Focus::CLL

BioNJ Member Cancer Genetics, Inc., headquartered in Rutherford, announced on December 8 that it has been licensed by the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) to perform Focus::CLL, the company's unique next-generation sequencing (NGS)-based panel for chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL).

Please [click here](#) to read the full press release.

Advaxis Announces FDA Acceptance of Its Investigational New Drug Application to Commence Clinical Trials of ADXS-PSA in Combination With Merck's KEYTRUDA (pembrolizumab) for Prostate Cancer

Princeton-based BioNJ Member Advaxis, Inc., a clinical-stage biotechnology company developing cancer immunotherapies, announced on December 8 that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has cleared its Investigational New Drug (IND) application to conduct a Phase 1/2 clinical study to evaluate the combination of ADXS-PSA (ADXS31-142) with KEYTRUDA (pembrolizumab), marketed by Merck & Co., Inc., in patients with previously treated, metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC).

Please [click here](#) to read the full press release.

Bergen County-Based Medtech Company Secures Capital From EDA to Fuel Growth

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) announced on December 4 that it has closed on a \$1 million loan to support Bergen County-based Ivy Sports Medicine, a company that manufactures and markets innovative tissue growth and repair products.

Please [click here](#) to read the full press release.

Soligenix Appoints Oreola Donini, PhD, as Chief Scientific Officer

BioNJ Member Soligenix, Inc., based in Princeton, announced on December 10 the appointment of Oreola Donini, PhD, as Senior Vice President & Chief Scientific Officer.

Please [click here](#) to read the full press release.

Advaxis's Listeria-based Lm-LLO Immunotherapy Featured in *Nature Biotechnology*

Advaxis, Inc., a BioNJ Member headquartered in Princeton, announced on December 11 that its Lm-LLO immunotherapy technology is featured in an article in the December 2014 issue of *Nature Biotechnology*. The article explores the potential of the Listeria bacterium as a vector to enhance an anti-tumor response given its ability to induce powerful innate and adaptive immune responses.

Please [click here](#) to read the full press release.

Report: N.J. Hospitals Contribute \$21 Billion to N.J. Economy

New Jersey hospitals continued to play key roles as strong contributors to New Jersey's economy and as healthcare safety nets by contributing almost \$21 billion to the Garden State economy in 2013, according to the 2014 N.J. Hospitals Economic Impact Report released today by the New Jersey Hospital Association.

Please [click here](#) to read the full press release.

Soligenix Receives \$617,000 in Non-Dilutive Financing From New Jersey's Technology Business Tax Certificate Transfer Program (NOL)

BioNJ Member Soligenix, Inc. announced on December 11 that it has received approximately \$617,000, net of transaction costs, in non-dilutive financing via the State of New Jersey's Technology Business Tax Certificate Transfer Program (NOL).

Please [click here](#) to read the full press release.

Advocacy for Innovation

Brought to You by Celgene Corporation.

Lance To Chair Congressional Rare Disease Caucus

Congressman Leonard Lance (NJ-07) announced on December 10 that he will continue as the Republican Chair of the Congressional Rare Disease Caucus in the 114th Congress that will begin in January.

Representative Lance has been a strong supporter of the life science in Congress and during his time in the State Legislature. BioNJ wishes him the utmost success in his endeavors and offers our full support in this initiative.

Please [click here](#) to read the full press release.

Returns on Pharmaceutical R&D Improving as Pipelines Revive

Drugmakers are finally getting more bang for their scientific buck, with the rate of return on pharmaceutical research and development (R&D) increasing for the first time since 2010.

Please [click here](#) to read the full article.

NJ University/Institution News

Rutgers Names Distinguished Animal Sciences Researcher Dipak K. Sarkar Board of Governors Professor

The Rutgers University Board of Governors named Dipak K. Sarkar, a distinguished professor in the Department of Animal Sciences, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS), a Board of Governors Professor at today's meeting. The professorship was established in 1989 to recognize exceptional scholarship and accomplishment by a faculty member at the full professorial rank.

Please [click here](#) to read the full press release.

Purchasing Consortium

What Savings Opportunities Are You Overlooking?

If you haven't looked at BioNJ's Purchasing Consortium lately, you are in for some very pleasant news! You have spoken and we have listened!

The Purchasing Consortium has been working hard to secure discounts on products and services that our Members want and need at greatly reduced pricing! In addition to our newest offering of IT Services by Dynamic Strategies, big things are happening at your Purchasing Consortium.

Look for new programs in Meeting and Event Planning, Payroll and Health Insurance, an enhanced UPS offering, Environmental Health and Safety Services and Executive Liability Insurance, just to name a few!

Stay Tuned for the Savings!

Please [click here](#) to see available Member Benefits.

For more information about the Purchasing Consortium, contact Linda Pontell at LPontell@BioNJ.org or visit the [Purchasing Consortium website](#).

Office Supply Survey News!

Thank you! To all who participated in the Purchasing Consortium's recent Office Supply Survey, we appreciate for your valuable input!

And to make the season even merrier, we are happy to award the winner of our Starbucks Gift Card to **Suzanne Gibson of GSG Scientific!** Thank you one and all for taking the time to tell us what your needs are! Stay tuned for more exciting happenings from your Purchasing Consortium!

BioNJ Talent Network

Job Leads

BioNJ can help you find the perfect candidate for your open positions. Call us today!

Please [click here](#) to view all the job postings on the LSTN at BioNJ website.

upSkill NJ

Are you an unemployed professional or a veteran? Do you live in New Jersey and have professional work experience in Information Technology (IT) or Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM)? Do you want to acquire the exact skills that employers are looking for today - and do it AT NO COST? You are in luck - upSKILL does just that!

Please [click here](#) to learn more.

Major Announcement Coming...

Doesn't everyone, employer and employee alike, want to remain contemporary, creative and competitive?

Watch for our exciting announcement coming soon on BioNJ's newest offering to keep New Jersey's industry talent on top!

BioNJ Tweets of the Week

- @DiscoveryDrug tweeted, "[News: #medicine Investigational Drug Dasotraline Significantly Improved Symptoms of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity](#)"
- @pfizer_news tweeted, "[New data at #ASH14 highlight progress of Pfizer's growing portfolio in blood cancers](#)"

Please contact BioNJ at BioNJ@BioNJ.org
or [609-890-3185](tel:609-890-3185) with any questions.

Connect with us:

