

VOICE

March 2011

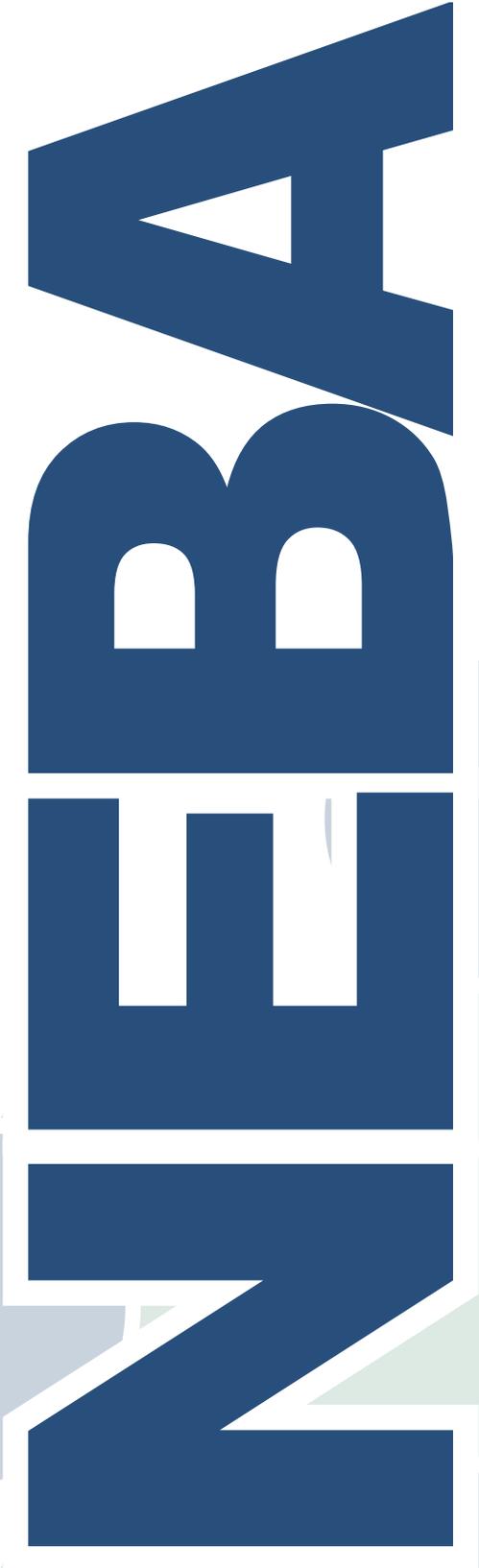
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The logo for the New England Biotech Association (NEBA) is displayed in large, bold, dark blue letters with a white outline. The letters are set against a background of several overlapping circles in shades of light blue and light green. The circles are of varying sizes and are arranged in a way that they appear to be floating or overlapping each other, creating a dynamic and modern feel. The letters 'N', 'E', and 'B' are stacked vertically, while the 'A' is positioned to the right of the 'B'.

NEBA



From the Chairman

Members,

As you'll see throughout this newsletter, 2011 is shaping up to be a very busy legislative year across the region. From bills that would benefit the biopharma industry, jobs, and consumers to legislation that would negatively impact the business environment, it's clear that every New England state has an issue set that we'll need to follow closely. Our issues often overlap from state to state. Keeping abreast of a situation in one state can be critical when that issue comes to the forefront in another. I encourage you to take a look at our Legislative Watch section to get up to date.

I also encourage you to participate in submitting items to make our newsletter viable and informative. We enjoy learning about and highlighting the hard work and innovations of our membership. The biotech and biopharmaceutical industries are thriving throughout New England. We look forward to hearing about and helping you spread the news of your organization's accomplishments to your colleagues across the region.

The NEBA community offers each of us an opportunity to learn from each other, whether in a legislative battle, or a business challenge. I welcome the opportunity to work with you again in 2011.

Best Wishes,

Paul Pescatello
NEBA Chairman 2011-12

Media Outreach



Want to get your company's name in the news? NEBA is working to build a comprehensive [media guide](#) to distribute to members of the press throughout the region.

The guide will be broken down by state and by topic. To be included in the guide or recommend someone, please contact Jen Daly: daly@graymediagroup.com

If you have an idea or submission for the next issue of the NEBA newsletter, please contact Jen Daly:

daly@graymediagroup.com

Suggestions and ideas are welcome. We are always looking for member spotlights and news to share with our members, so please let us know what to include in the next issue.



www.newenglandbiotech.org

NEBA is a 501(C)(6) non-profit, member driven organization comprised of more than 600 state biotech associations, biotechnology and biopharmaceutical companies, academic institutions, and other organizations with a collective mission to support and grow the biotechnology industry in New England.



NEBA Legislative Watch

Maine:

The issue of drug take back legislation is back on the table again in Maine. Last year, NEBA strongly opposed the idea of a state run medication take-back program, instead favoring the use of pre-existing federal programs.

Environmental groups concerned about the effects of pharmaceuticals in drinking water are driving the current legislation. However, data has shown that 90% of pharmaceuticals in the environment come from human excretion, not improper disposal of medications.

Massachusetts:

The NEBA team is gearing up again this session to work on passage of the Prescription Discount Bill. This bill would finally allow consumers to use discounts and coupons for the purchase of their prescription medications. Massachusetts is the only state in the nation that prohibits these sorts of discounts. Last year, the MA House of Representatives passed a bill in support of the discounts 156-0. The Senate also passed a bill in the waning hours of session. For more information and to learn how you can help support this important legislation go to MassRxHelp.org.

Connecticut:

Two bills are working their way through the legislative process in Connecticut that aim to reduce barriers to access for prescription medications. HB 1083 would ban the use of step therapy by insurance companies for patients dealing with chronic pain. Patients with chronic illnesses are often forced to fail on medications before their insurance companies fill the prescription their doctors have prescribed. HB 1084 would ban the use of specialty tiers by insurance companies in the state. Specialty tier pricing passes a large percentage of the cost of medications on to the consumer—often costing the patient thousands of dollars each month to stay on medication. The drugs that fall into these classes are often for those patients who are the sickest, and need these medications to survive.

New Hampshire:

Lawmakers in New Hampshire have voted down a bill that would have allowed conscientious exemptions from immunizations. This is a big shift after the bill looked to have strong support early in the session. NEBA members and their teams worked to raise awareness around the need for vaccinations--highlighting the recent outbreaks in Massachusetts and California and risks for the overall population when vaccination rates decline.

Rhode Island:

In January, Rhode Island Senate President Teresa Paiva-Weed introduced “The Rhode Island Health Benefit Exchange Act.” The bill would create the framework for a state health insurance exchange, as required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Portions of the bill mirror the National Association of Insurance Commissioners’ model health insurance exchange act, while other portions of the legislation are similar to California’s Health Benefit Exchange legislation. The legislation is in the early stages and no similar bill has yet to be introduced in the House. Both the House and Senate will be conducting hearings on the exchange over the next several months.

Vermont:

Implementing healthcare reform is taking center stage right now in Vermont’s legislature. As part of the state's efforts to go above and beyond Federal health care reform, the major bill includes several components including a single payer system and a proposal for a statewide formulary. On March 16th, the House Health Care Committee proposed a study of the statewide formulary prior to implementation. The state Senate could choose to implement the original formulary proposal, but at this point that looks to be unlikely.



NEBA
Events

Vermont

The Vermont Bioscience Alliance (VBSA) has its annual meeting at the end of March. At that point a new program chair will take over.

One top focus this year is intellectual property strategies. Specifically the idea is to figure out once a patent is secured or a copyright, what happens next? How do you create value, defend the property and figure out what more can be done to maximize the intellectual property.

The VBSA has other events planned for later this spring. For more information go to:

www.VTbiosciences.org

STEMConn 2011

March 22

7:45am-5:30pm

Marriott Hotel, Farmington, CT
Featuring Connecticut
Governor Dannel Malloy

StemCONN 2011 will bring the northeast U.S. stem cell research community to Connecticut for a full-day scientific symposium highlighting the most recent discoveries in stem cell research. To register:

www.regonline.com/stemconn11



Member
Spotlight

Biotechnology Association of Maine re-branding... New Name, Same Mission

The Biotechnology Association of Maine is pleased to announce that they will now be known as the BioScience Association of Maine. The decision to change the name was based on a desire to more accurately reflect the diversity of companies within the organization.

Representing more than 30 companies and nearly 200 bioscience companies in the state, BAM will continue to work on behalf of the industry, advocating for pro-industry legislation, and bringing together members for idea exchange and networking. [Click here](#) to see the organization's updated website.

Member in the News

The following Op-Ed by Amgen CEO Kevin Sharer recently appeared in Politico:

Building U.S. Growth and Jobs

By Kevin Sharer

January 19, 2011

British Prime Minister David Cameron recently called me. He listed the many reasons that my company could benefit by expanding in Britain.

Naturally, the call was flattering. But more important, it made clear that nations are hotly competing to host growing businesses. And it crystallized what Americans, as a nation, must do to effectively compete in the global marketplace and spur economic growth here at home.

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Specifically, we must focus on policies that can generate investment in the United States, accelerate innovation and increase our job base.

But such vague goals are hollow words without a plan, measurable actions and structured accountability. So it's important for the president, the Congress and the private sector to consider concrete actions.

Before the holidays, President Barack Obama and the Republican congressional leaders took an important first step by reaching an agreement to extend both individual tax rates and essential pro-growth tax provisions, such as the education and research-and-development tax credits. This commitment can help instill confidence in the market and in businesses that "compromise" is not a dirty word in Washington. It demonstrates that both political sides are willing to come together to promote economic growth.

The president's new executive order requiring that all new federal regulations be evaluated in terms of their effect on our economy is another positive development. Though regulations are necessary and serve valid purposes, poorly written or badly implemented regulations can destroy jobs and slow progress.

When the White House gives the potential economic outcomes of laws and regulations the same attention and weight that it gives other concerns, it produces the type of broadened government thinking that can bring about significant and helpful change.

Now we must build on this work to foster further economic and business development.

To start, the executive branch should reorganize all functions vital to business - the Commerce Department, the U.S. Trade Representative and the Export-Import Bank - so that they're housed in one place, not spread throughout the capital.

Jobs are created not according to the size of a company or via government functional diagrams but by business and market necessity. A single, more-focused, coordinated and accountable agency can drive economic expansion using all the tools of government, without being painfully slowed by unnecessary redundancy and bureaucratic red tape.

Next, the president and the Congress should build on their bipartisan foundation to dramatically improve education. Our educational system is weak, and we are falling ever further behind our global competitors.

So we must put aside partisanship and invest in the one piece of infrastructure that is truly renewable: human capital. We must improve overall educational achievement in math and science.

Today, the U.S. scores close to Hungary and Poland in science aptitude. In math, we're near Luxembourg and Portugal.

This must change. We should aim to be ranked with the highest-performing countries within five years - particularly South Korea, Finland, Singapore, Hong Kong and China.

While there are important roles for parents, students, teachers and government, we need to be

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'Member In the News' continued...

inspired to act boldly. The Race to the Top spending to prod educational reform on the state and local levels is working, and funding for a national Race to the Top in 2011 is essential to sustaining momentum.

The economic crisis over these past few years has made life difficult for many families and businesses. But with challenges come opportunities. Throughout its history, America has faced its share of adversity and grown stronger. By working together across party lines and emboldening education for the coming generation, our nation can restart its economic engine and be a driving force in the global economy of the future.

Over the next several months, it will be vital for the federal government to demonstrate its commitment to our economy and to our future work force, so companies can decide whether - and how much - to invest here in the U.S.

Member Feature:

EpiVax: Helping in the Fight Against Bio Terror

Despite outbreaks like the H1N1 virus, and repeated warnings about a bio-terror threat on American soil, experts say the US remains largely unprepared to handle a biological attack. In 2010, The Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism, gave the US a failing grade for bio-terror attack preparedness.

But, a Rhode Island company is looking to change that. EpiVax, a Providence based vaccine development company has formed a consortium with two other vaccine manufacturing and delivery firms to speed up the ability to identify and distribute vaccines in the case of a terrorist attack.

“The idea was to bring together small and diverse companies with complementary technologies to be able to rapidly respond and deliver effective vaccines in the case of a biological attack” said Jason Del Pozzo, Business Development Manager at EpiVax.

The three companies each have a specific strength in vaccine manufacturing. Once an outbreak was identified, EpiVax would work to design the vaccine. North Dakota based Aldevron would then

produce the antibiotic and Providence based Isis would develop the most effective delivery method system for getting the vaccine to the public. The relatively small size of each company gives them the ability to quickly mobilize in the event of an attack, to produce and manufacture the vaccines and be able to deliver it to the affected population as quickly as possible.

The group is currently working with the federal government to secure approval and funding to move forward.

