

New Biotech Group Forms

By Eileen Kennedy

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New England biotech executives and experts know there is strength in numbers so they created a new regional organization called the New England Biotech Association, according to its first chair person Paula Newton, who is also president of the New Hampshire Bio/Medical Council.

“We’ll be a larger force to be reckoned with,” Newton said. It is made up of biotechnology associations from each New England state, the national Biotechnology Industry Organization, biotechnology companies, universities and other groups that support the biotechnology industry.

Newton helps companies find international markets and work out the necessary logistics once they have landed customers at the New Hampshire Office of International Commerce in Portsmouth, N.H. She previously worked at Millipore Corp., which is based in Billerica, but also has a Jaffrey, N.H. facility.

“When we know there are matters before the U.S. House or Senate, we can go as a group and speak on the issues, which will mean much more than going as individuals,” she said.

The group’s bylaws call for an elected 20-member board of directors, with 16 of those seats now full. The vice chair is Paul Pescatello of Connecticut United for Research Excellence and the treasurer is Kathie Shields of the Rhode Island BioGroup. Also on the board are Maria Cahill, of Abbott Laboratories in Worcester, Robert Coughlin of the Massachusetts Biotech Council and Christopher Anderson of the Mass High Tech Council.