

'08 Summit Features Gov. Perdue, Sen. Bob Dole; Achieves Record 800 Attendees

The 2008 Georgia Life Sciences set records for both delegates, with 800, and program speakers, with 70, including headliners Governor Sonny Perdue and Senator Bob Dole. These achievements solidify Georgia Bio's Summit as one of the largest state biotechnology association showcases in the nation. Attendees hailed from across the nation and included company executives, university administrators and scientists, government leaders, and investors.

The program involving Governor Perdue and Senator Dole, special counsel with Alston & Bird, honored the senator for his role the 1980 Bayh-Dole Act. It also explored the impact of the landmark legislation through presentations by University of Georgia President Michael Adams, Emory University President James Wagner and Georgia Research Alliance President and CEO Michael Cassidy. The Bayh-Dole Act enabled universities to license technology innovations to the private sector for commercial development, establishing U.S. dominance in the biotechnology industry.

Other featured speakers at the Summit included Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) President and CEO James Greenwood; US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Chief Science Officer Tanja Popovic; Solvay Pharmaceuticals President and CEO Stephen Hill; and Morehouse School of Medicine President Emeritus Louis Sullivan.

A plenary session on neuroscience research advances in understanding the human brain and behavior showcased the work of seven distinguished scientists from Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, Medical College of Georgia and Morehouse School of Medicine.

Eight concurrent breakout sessions examined trends and issues in agricultural biotechnology, bioenergy, collaborations between hospitals and technology companies on new cardiovascular treatments and therapies, medical device innovations, financing and partnering in a tough economic climate, and Georgia's attractiveness as a center of biotech development. Presentations will be posted on the Georgia Bio website (www.gabio.org) as soon as possible. To review the full program, visit www.gabio.org/Summit2008.

The exhibit hall was sold out with 64 companies displaying their latest technologies and services, and 70 scientists entered the poster competition. Five winners were selected and each received a \$500 cash prize. They are Dr. Karyn Cotta, Mercer University; Dr. Lakshmi P. Dasi, Georgia Institute of Technology; Peng-Meng Kou, Georgia Institute of Technology; Sarah Cork, Emory University; and Dr. Abdessamad Zerrouqi, Emory University.

Shaping Infinity, The Georgia Life Sciences Industry Analysis 2008, was released at the Summit and is available online at www.gabio.org. For printed copies contact Maria Thacker at maria.thacker@gabio.org or 404-920-2042.

The 2008 Summit, held at the Georgia World Congress Center, also signaled the countdown to the 2009 BIO International Convention, May 18-21, in Atlanta. Georgia Bio, as the BIO state affiliate, is the local host and will not hold the Life Sciences Summit in 2009. The next Life Sciences Summit will be in 2010.