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Governor Perdue to Address Life Sciences in Georgia At 2008 Georgia Life Sciences Summit

ATLANTA (August 13, 2008) – The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Governor of Georgia will give a keynote address on Georgia's life sciences industry strengths at the 2008 Georgia Life Sciences Summit September 24 at the Georgia World Congress Center.

Governor Perdue's remarks will serve as a prelude to the 2009 BIO International Convention, the world's largest biotech conference, and its significance to Georgia. The governor will highlight life sciences economic development in Georgia, the contributions of the state's research universities and the catalyst for our nation's global dominance in the life sciences industry, the 1980 Bayh-Dole Act.

Following his remarks, Governor Perdue will stay and present former U.S. Senator and Republican Presidential candidate Bob Dole with an award for his role in adoption of the Bayh-Dole Act. Senator Dole, Special Counsel with Alston & Bird, will be honored for his role in the 1980 Bayh-Dole Act, enabling universities to license inventions and the U.S. biotechnology industry to become the global leader in innovation.

In addition to Governor Perdue and Senator Dole, honored guests include Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin; Mr. James Greenwood, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Biotechnology Industry Organization; 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 morning plenary session, hosted by the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience, will feature speakers discussing recent advances in neuroscience research from the laboratories of scientists at Georgia's research universities. Neuroscience is one of the strongest areas of interdisciplinary and interinstitutional research in Georgia. This research is pushing the envelope on one of science's last and most daunting frontiers — the brain. This work holds great promise for understanding basic brain function and treating illnesses such as Alzheimer's disease and post traumatic stress disorder. This session,.

The theme of Georgia Bio's (GaBio) 8th annual Life Sciences Summit is "Molecules, Materials and Minds: Building Georgia's Innovation Economy." A total of 70 speakers will be featured at the Georgia Life Sciences Summit. The Summit has become the premier life sciences conference in the Southeast and one of the largest state biotechnology showcases in the nation. More than 800 professionals from Georgia and across the U.S. are expected to attend. The Summit also includes an exhibit hall, which was sold out last year with 60 companies and universities displaying their latest research and product advances.

For more information on the program, registration, exhibit hall, and sponsorship visit www.gabio.org/Summit2008.

The 2008 Georgia Life Sciences Summit also will kick-off the excitement of the countdown to the 2009 Biotechnology Industry Organization's (BIO) International Convention, the largest biotech conference in the world expected to bring to Atlanta and Georgia more than 20,000 professionals from 70 nations. GaBio, the state affiliate of BIO, and the State of Georgia are local co-hosts of the convention, May 18-21, 2009, at the Georgia World Congress Center.

Editor's note: Registration is complimentary for credentialed members of the news media. Contact Maria Thacker (maria.thacker@gabio.org; 404-920-2042) to register.

Georgia Bio (www.gabio.org) is the private, non-profit association representing the life sciences industry in Georgia. Its 300 members include pharmaceutical, biotech and medical device companies, universities, research institutes, government groups and other business organizations involved in the development of products that improve healthcare, agriculture, industrial and bioenergy production and environmental management.

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