



April 2007

### Biotech News

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- DGI scientists find three new non-annotated regions of human DNA that contain risk factors for diabetes and triglycerides through a "genome-wide association study."  
[http://web.med.harvard.edu/sites/RELEASES/html/4\\_26Altshuler.html](http://web.med.harvard.edu/sites/RELEASES/html/4_26Altshuler.html)
- Team lead by Professors George Georgiou and Brent Iverson develops a quicker method to develop therapeutic antibodies entirely with E. coli.  
<http://www.engr.utexas.edu/news/articles/200704181210/index.cfm>
- Molecular chemists find critical enzyme called memapsin-2 that acts on amyloid precursor protein (leading to the formation of plaque in the brain) and design an inhibitor that could block the enzyme's interactions at a very early stage of Alzheimer's disease.  
<http://news.uns.purdue.edu/hp/GhoshAlzheimers.html>
- Team develops revolutionary, prosthetic prototype arm that can be controlled naturally, provides sensory feedback, and has eight degrees of freedom.  
<http://www.jhuapl.edu/newscenter/pressreleases/2007/070426.asp>
- The Renewable Fuels Association released statistics on U.S. ethanol production, which increased 24.3% in 2006.  
[http://www1.eere.energy.gov/biomass/news\\_detail.html?news\\_id=10624](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/biomass/news_detail.html?news_id=10624)

### Accepting Nominations

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In memory of Professor Jay Bailey for his many pioneering contributions to biotechnology, SBE's Bailey award is presented to an individual who has had an important impact on bioengineering and whose achievements, either specific or general, have advanced this profession in any of its aspects. Award winners include Michael Shuler of Cornell University, Robert Langer of MIT, Edwin Lightfoot of the University of Wisconsin, and Nicholas Peppas of the University of Texas at Austin. You can nominate your colleague by following the instructions at <http://www.aiche.org/SBE/About/Awards.aspx>

### SBE Conferences

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If you missed SBE's 1st Conference on Accelerating Biopharmaceutical Development, and would like to know what keynote speaker Roger Perlmutter, Executive VP of R&D at Amgen, discussed regarding the innovation deficit in drug discovery, go to [http://www.aiche.org/uploadedFiles/SBE/Publications/CEP\\_Story.pdf](http://www.aiche.org/uploadedFiles/SBE/Publications/CEP_Story.pdf).

Student funding is still available to attend SBE's 3rd International Conference on Bioengineering and Nanotechnology ([ICBN 2007](#)) on August 13-15, 2007 in Biopolis, Singapore. Professor Jackie Ying, head of Singapore's Institute for BioNanotechnology, is chairing the event. Speakers include Takuzo Aida, Mounji Bawendi, C. Jeffrey Brinker, James Bryers, James Heath, Allan Hoffman, I-Ming Hsing, Yu-Chen Hu, Kazuhiko Ishihara, Klavs Jensen, Kazunori Kataoka, Thomas A. Kost, Gil Lee, Kam Leong, Benjamin List, D. Tyler McQuade, Vladimir Mironov, Teruo Okano, Buddy Ratner, Myron Spector, Galen Stucky,

Matthew Tirrell, Gordon Wallace, David Weitz, Feng-Shou Xiao, Shuguang Zhang, and Dongyuan Zhao. Find out more at <http://www.aiche.org/icbn>.

Mark your calendar to attend [SBE's 1st International Conference on Stem Cell Engineering](#) on January 20-23, 2008 in Coronado, CA. Fred Gage of the Salk Institute, Corey Goodman of Renovis, and David Schaffer of the University of California at Berkeley are chairing the event. Keynote speakers include Professors [Irv Weissman](#) of Stanford, [George Daley](#) of Children's Hospital Boston and the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, and [Doug Lauffenburger](#) of MIT. Find out more at <http://www.aiche.org/StemCellEng>.

September 25, 2007 — **Save the date** to attend a new conference on bio-economics. SBE as a member of the Biotech Council is cosponsoring this conference, entitled "Bioeconomics: Developing an Economic Strategy for Healthcare Bio and Information Technologies," together with the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology. The conference will bring together key government, industry, academic and research leaders and patient advocates to discuss mechanisms for assessing the economic benefits and opportunities of Bio and Information technologies in the life sciences. The goal is to help attendees understand the economics of Bio and Information technology and learn useful approaches for evaluating promising technologies. Jerome Grossman, Senior Fellow and Director of the Harvard/Kennedy School Health Care Delivery Policy Program, is chairing the event. More information will be available shortly on our website.  
<http://www.aiche.org/SBE/Events/Conferences.aspx>.

A complete bio-event calendar can be found at <http://www.aiche.org/SBE/Events/index.aspx>

### [Join Now](#)

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Not a current SBE member? It's never too late to join or renew. Costs are \$75 for regular members, \$25 for graduate students, \$10 for AIChE, ACS and IBE members, or \$5 for undergraduates. Join now at <https://www.aiche.org/apps/ecommerce/bio/index.asp>.

### **Member benefits include:**

- Subscription to SBE's semi-annual BioSupplement to Chemical Engineering Progress.
- Discounts on leading biological engineering conferences including SBE and SBE cosponsored meetings and courses.
- Access to online membership directory.
- A voice in education, employment and technology advancement topics.

### [Comments?](#)

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SBE's e-Connections is edited by Adrian Andrew Fay, Web Science Editor, with input from various SBE staff. Contact us at [bio@aiiche.org](mailto:bio@aiiche.org)

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Its mission is to promote the integration of biology with engineering and realize its benefits  
through bioprocessing, biomedical, and biomolecular applications.  
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