



KANSASBIO

KANSAS BIOSCIENCE ORGANIZATION

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KANSAS ANNOUNCES "BIG THINKERS" IN BIOSCIENCE

Lenexa, Kan. - In preparation for the BIO 2007 convention in Boston May 6-9, 2007, KansasBio has named seven industry and policy leaders as Kansas bioscience "BIG THINKERS." The Kansas Bioscience BIG THINKERS are individuals whose groundbreaking leadership in bioscience innovation has contributed to bioscience research, commercialization, policy, industry growth and expansion in the state. The Kansas Bioscience BIG THINKERS are part of the Kansas strategy to showcase its historical strengths and new innovation in biosciences during the world's largest bioscience convention.

The 2007 Kansas Bioscience BIG THINKERS are:

- **Scott Deeter**, President and CEO, Ventria Bioscience
- **David Franz**, International Expert, Biosecurity
- **Joerg Ohle**, President and General Manager, Bayer HealthCare LLC, Animal Health Division N.A.
- **Governor Kathleen Sebelius**, Governor of Kansas
- **Val Stella**, Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, University of Kansas
- **Tom Thornton**, President and CEO, Kansas Bioscience Authority
- **Dave Vander Griend**, President and CEO, ICM Inc.

During the BIO 2006 convention in Chicago, Kansas received acclaim and national media attention for its significant presence, which included the only two-story state pavilion at the convention. Governor Kathleen Sebelius also joined the delegation in Chicago as the state highlighted its \$580 million bioscience initiative.

With Kansas gaining the bioscience industry's attention in 2006, Kansas will focus its 2007 presence on the breadth and depth of the state's bioscience industry. As part of this focus, Kansas will bring BIG THINKERS in Kansas bioscience who can best tell the world of the state's strengths, opportunities and path for growth.

"Certainly the passage of our award-winning \$580 million bioscience initiative in 2004 is vital to spurring growth in the industry, however we're not resting on our laurels," said Angela Kreps, President of KansasBio. "By featuring our BIG THINKERS at BIO 2007, Kansas is demonstrating to the world that we have a strong track record of bioscience innovation and thoughtful leadership."

"Kansas is committed to supporting a vibrant bioscience industry, and to giving companies the support they need to make big discoveries and advance the frontiers of science," said Governor Kathleen Sebelius. "We've continued to move forward over the past year, celebrating the completion of the Biosecurity Research Institute at Kansas State University and the opening of the Life Sciences Innovation Center at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Most importantly, we've also made long-term commitments to our K-12 schools and post-secondary institutions so that we'll have a talented and versatile workforce for years to come."

The BIG THINKERS will be featured at numerous events during the convention, including the Kansas Bioscience Industry Growth (BIG) Reception at the Boston Harbor on Monday, May 7; during the KansasBio Media Mornings on Monday, May 7, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Tuesday, May 8, from 10 a.m. to noon.

"I look forward to joining the other "Kansas BIG THINKERS" in promoting Kansas at BIO 2007 in Boston," said Tom Thornton, president and CEO of the Kansas Bioscience Authority "Kansas has an abundance of 'BIG THINKERS' who are placing the state at the forefront of the convergence of health, food and agriculture and industrial and environmental bioscience. Kansas is home to world class research institutions; innovative startups; and leaders in drug discovery, animal health, plant sciences, bio-fuels and bio-composites – and it's time to let the world in on what we are doing to become a bioscience leader."

For more information about BIO 2007 or for information on how to join the Kansas delegation, please visit: www.kansasbio.org/presskit

Editor's Note: The following attached pages include the Kansas Bioscience BIG THINKERS bios.

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KansasBio is a unified voice representing the biosciences in Kansas. Across the human, plant, animal and industrial biosciences, KansasBio is focused on enhancing the business and research climate and working with leaders across the state to attract and retain bioscience talent and companies. Learn more at www.kansasbio.org



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2007 Kansas Bioscience "BIG THINKERS"

Scott Deeter, Ventria Bioscience, President & CEO

Scott Deeter is President and CEO of Ventria Bioscience, a plant-made pharmaceutical company developing affordable life saving medicines. Ventria's products are the first commercial healthcare products utilizing plants as a factory for production of biopharmaceuticals and have been clinically proven to help children with oral rehydration.

- Instrumental in bringing Ventria's new bioprocessing facility to Junction City, Kansas – putting Kansas at the forefront of innovation in biopharmaceuticals while leveraging Kansas's historical strength in agricultural innovation.
- Member of BIO's Food and Agriculture Section Governing Board and chairman of BIO's Emerging Plant Technologies Policy Committee.
- Led the startup and development of several successful products and businesses for Cargill and Koch Industries.

Dr. David Franz, International Expert, Biosecurity

Dr. David Franz is an international expert and leader in the area of biosecurity – helping to put Kansas at the forefront of biosecurity related industry growth. Dr. Franz stresses he is, "using science as a common language internationally to build understanding...and a little trust."

- Director of National Agricultural Biosecurity Center at Kansas State University. Vice President and Chief Biological Scientist at the Midwest Research Institute.
- Served as Commander of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases.
- Served as Chief Inspector on three United Nations Special Commission biological warfare inspection missions to Iraq and technical advisor for the Trilateral Agreement on biological weapons programs in Russia.
Kansas Bioscience Authority Member.

Joerg Ohle, Bayer HealthCare, LLC Animal Health Division, President & General Manager

Joerg Ohle is President and General Manager of Bayer HealthCare's Animal Health Division, North America. He's been instrumental in creating dynamic industry and community partnerships to position Kansas and the Kansas City area as the global center for animal health research and innovation.

- Advisory Board Chairman of Kansas City's Animal Health Corridor Initiative with the goal to improve the Kansas City area's share of the global animal health market, which is estimated at 30 percent of the \$15 billion industry.
- Working on new initiatives to link Kansas universities to animal health companies in the areas of collaborative research.
- Supporter of Bayer's "Making Science Make Sense" program and YouthFriends Uplink education initiative.
- Vice Chair of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Kansas Task Force.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius, Kansas Governor

Governor Sebelius has demonstrated a strong commitment to the biosciences beginning with her stewardship of the Kansas Economic Growth Act and its Kansas Bioscience Initiative component. Governor Sebelius continues to demonstrate “big thinking” and leadership in the following areas:

- Leading the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Kansas Task Force – a \$451 million project for the state of Kansas.
- Past Chair of Governor’s Ethanol Coalition.
- Promoting wind energy and biofuels production in Kansas, as well as expanded energy conservation.
- Elected chair of the Democratic Governors Association in 2006 and serves on the National Governors Association’s Executive Committee.
- Named one of the nation’s top five governors by Time magazine.

Dr. Valentino Stella, University of Kansas Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Dr. Val Stella is a distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the University of Kansas. Through the mentoring of Tak Higuchi, Dr. Stella became an inventor and entrepreneur in Kansas.

- His influence as an educator and mentor extends around the world. More than 33 patents and 170 former students working in 15 countries.
- First recipient of the KU Technology Transfer Leadership award for his efforts to transform university discoveries into commercial applications.
- Inventor of two drugs for the treatment of epilepsy and AIDS, an experimental anesthetic drug waiting approval and the novel solubilizer, Captisol, used in four commercialized drug products.
- Spun off three Kansas companies – CyDex, CritiTech and ProQuest.

Tom Thornton, Kansas Bioscience Authority, President and CEO

Tom Thornton is implementing a strategic vision while guiding the state in its investment of over \$580 million generated by the Kansas Economic Growth Act. Thornton is leading the state’s mission to develop an infrastructure that makes Kansas a center for bioscience research, innovation and commercialization.

- Recruited as the first President and CEO of the Kansas Bioscience Authority.
- Leading the state’s effort to enhance bioscience Research and Development.
- Organized the strategy behind the public/private team pursuing the \$451 million dollar National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Kansas
- Developed the regional strategy behind Heartland BioVentures — designed to provide promising bioscience start-ups with business acceleration and access to capital.

Dave Vander Griend, ICM Inc., President and CEO

Dave Vander Griend is President and CEO of ICM, Inc., a world leader in the engineering and construction of ethanol plants. Heavily invested in advancing the production of biofuels from agricultural products, ICM is building a lab and full-scale pilot plant to support its research in cellulosic ethanol and other biorefining technologies underway at its lab in Colwich, KS.

- Helped build the U.S.’ first licensed commercial fuel ethanol distillation equipment.
- Received Distinguished Service Award for helping the ethanol industry increase efficiencies and refine its methods over the past 20 years.
- Serves on Board of Directors for the Ethanol Promotion and Information Council as well as other biorefining and agricultural organizations.