

## **2011 Legislative Agenda**

Georgia Bio's legislative agenda for the 2011 Georgia General Assembly session encompasses four broad issues: preservation of existing state tax incentives for life sciences companies; support for university research funding; protection of research and technology applications in regenerative and reproductive medicine; and enhancement of patient access to medicines and other health care technologies in federal health care reform. All these issues are integral to Georgia's life sciences economic development strategy, long-term job growth, and the health and well-being of its citizens.

### **Economic Development & Tax Reform**

Preserve existing tax exemptions and economic development incentives related to life sciences companies and organizations. Enact new tax incentives to spur company and capital formation, and job growth.

### **University Research**

Maintain FY 2011 funding levels for college and university life sciences-related research through allocations to the Georgia Research Alliance, Georgia Cancer Coalition and the University System of Georgia. Georgia's future life sciences economic development is tied directly to the strength of the university-related research programs. Any further reductions in funding to life sciences research would adversely affect new company and job growth in Georgia for years.

### **Regenerative and Reproductive Medicine**

Georgia should support the federal regulations governing research and technology applications in regenerative and reproductive medicine. Restricting or banning research that is considered legal and ethical by the federal government and the vast majority of U.S. States could adversely affect any science-related economic development as well as the recruitment of scientists to companies and universities.

### **Patient Access**

As federal health care reform is implemented at the state level, ensure patients' access to innovative therapies in any modifications to commercial health insurance plans and the State's Medicaid and state employee health plans. Georgia has identified life sciences economic development as a priority for the state's future growth and improved health and well-being of its citizens. Essential to that policy is enabling access to medicines, medical devices, therapies and other health care technologies produced by life sciences companies. Medical innovation is equally critical to the success of health care reform. New medicines, medical devices and therapies are essential in improving health and quality of life.

### **Specific Legislative Initiatives**

Introduce legislation to allow the Georgia public employees' pension funds to make alternative investments in private equity.

Seek state funding for the Georgia Bioscience Commercialization Center.

### **Legislator/Governor-Elect Education**

Given the number of new legislators, GaBio will provide legislators with a GaBio primer, conduct Bio 101 program, and establish Bioscience Legislator Caucus

### ***What is Georgia Bio?***

Georgia Bio (GaBio) is a private, non-profit, membership-based association and is an industry organization that sponsors the life sciences industry in Georgia.

GaBio members include pharmaceutical, biotech and medical companies, universities, research institutes, medical centers, government groups and other business organizations involved in the research and development of products that improve the health and well-being of people, animals and the environment.

GaBio's mission: ***Advance the growth of Georgia's life sciences industry and foster strategic partnerships that can create a healthier world.***

GaBio is an industry association whose members have a record of achievement in three areas critical to the state's future:

- Improving the health of people, animals and the environment
- Expanding the number of high paying, advanced technology jobs
- Enhancing student achievement in science

GaBio's programs include **advocacy; education, and workforce development** in partnership with educators in K-12 schools, technical colleges and universities; **economic development** in partnership with state and local officials to grow Georgia's life sciences industry; and **business development** events to facilitate collaborations among all the elements of Georgia's life sciences community.

### ***What impact has Georgia's life sciences industry?***

Georgia has a strong life sciences industry and world-renowned university research focused on applying advanced technologies to improve health care, agriculture, bioenergy and environmental management.

The life sciences industry and university research have an **annual economic impact of \$17.3 billion**.

The life sciences industry is responsible for **62,000 direct and indirect jobs** in Georgia. It pays **\$4.2 billion in salaries** and **\$578 million in state and local taxes**. The industry's **average salary is \$63,000**, which is 50% higher than the average for all other industry sectors.

There are more than 300 life sciences companies with more than \$8 billion in annual sales in Georgia. These companies have more than 400 marketed products and another 350 in development, mostly for treatment of human illnesses such as cancer, infectious diseases, heart disease, neurological disorders, diabetes, and inflammatory diseases. There are also companies developing animal health care products, agbiotech crops, and biofuels.

The life sciences industry ended 2009 in much better shape than the average of private industry in Georgia. The life sciences industry actually realized a slight 0.8 percent gain in jobs compared with a 6.7 percent loss in jobs for the state's private industry sector as a whole.

During the first two quarters of 2010, Georgia's medical device companies received the third largest infusion of venture capital funds since 2000. Between 2000 and 2010, biotechnology and medical device companies attracted more than \$655 million in venture capital.

Georgia's life sciences industry has proven to be an important driver of the state's economy that translates into jobs, higher incomes, greater production of goods and services, and higher revenue collections for state and local governments.

Georgia is a center of global health innovation with the **U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, Carter Center, Task Force for Global Health, CARE International, American Cancer Society, Arthritis Foundational, American Red Cross** and the state's world renowned research universities: **Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, Medical College of Georgia, Morehouse School of Medicine, and University of Georgia**.

Georgia also is the home of the proposed **National Health Museum**, a science-based institution with the mission of inspiring Americans to live healthier lives through access to knowledge and themed exhibits focused on the life sciences.

In 2008, biomedical scientists and researchers from throughout the state were conducting **2,314 clinical tests** of potential new medicines, including **709 trials** for anti-cancer drugs, more than **300 studies** of rare disease treatments, **134 tests** of medicines for heart disease and **118 trials** of anti-HIV/AIDS drugs.