



## News Release

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### **Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association Announces New Appointment of Board Chair**

**SEATTLE – October 30, 2014** – The [Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association](http://www.washbio.org) (WBBA), the state’s life science trade association, announced that John Wecker, Ph.D., President & CEO, Pacific Northwest Diabetes Research Institute (PNDRI), has been named chairman of the Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association. Wecker has been a board member of the WBBA since 2012 and assumes the position from outgoing chairman Thong Le. Le is CEO of the Accelerator Corporation, a Seattle incubator firm that invests heavily in the life sciences and medical device fields. Le will remain on the WBBA Board of Directors.

“I am extremely pleased and humbled to be chosen to serve the WBBA as Chair of the Board of Directors,” said Wecker. “As everyone knows, Washington state has a tremendously robust and diverse life science industry – including many of the world’s leading academic research institutions, global health organizations, biotechnology, medical device, bio-fuel and health care information technology companies! We have become a global leader in life science innovation, and we are on the forefront of the revolution that is occurring in biotechnology, medicine and health care delivery. It is an exciting time to be a part of the life sciences industry here in Washington state and I look forward to working with Chris Rivera and his talented team, the Board, and all of the members of the WBBA to help this great organization continue to meet its Mission.”

In making the announcement on behalf of the WBBA Board of Directors, Chris Rivera, President & CEO, said, “We are very pleased to have John as our board chair. John demonstrates the commitment that our state’s top leaders have in supporting the growth and innovation in Washington’s life science ecosystem. This is one of the most exciting times to be in the life science industry, as Washington is quickly becoming recognized for its global leadership position. Our new board members will add great value as we continue to support our mission, to help grow and support the life sciences in the state of Washington.”

### **About the WBBA**

The Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association (WBBA) has 650 member organizations and is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(6) trade association serving the life sciences industry in the state of Washington. It is completely resourced and supported by its members, including organizations engaged in, or supportive of, research, development and commercialization of life science innovation.

The WBBA's Mission; *"To support and help to grow Washington State's life science ecosystem"*, drives its core strategic focus on:

- **Commercialization** – mentoring start-up life science companies that eventually raise capital, commercialize IP and employ people.
- **Access to capital** – not just financial capital, but also intellectual, as well as human capital is a top priority for us on behalf of our members.
- **Human Capital** - initiatives focused on the recruitment, retention and the development of the talent needed to grow our life science community.
- **Public Policy** - we advocate for, and increasing the awareness about, our life science sector to our local, state and federal representatives.
- **Purchasing Power** - Our members save money by purchasing goods and services from our 18 purchasing partners.

### **About PNDRI**

Pacific Northwest Diabetes Research Institute: PNDRI is an independent non-profit biomedical and clinical research center dedicated to eliminating diabetes and its complications. Founded in Seattle in 1956 by Dr. William Hutchinson, Sr., who also founded the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, PNDRI is advancing basic and clinical knowledge to help predict, prevent, and treat diabetes in all its forms. The Institute's team of 100+ physicians, scientists and technical staff strive to realize scientific discoveries to improve the health of the 246 million people living with diabetes and the billions more who are at risk. For more information about PNDRI, visit [www.pndri.org](http://www.pndri.org).

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