

# People

## Appointments

### New President of BIO

Congressman James C. Greenwood was named the next President of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO; <http://www.bio.org>), which represents >1000 small and large companies, as well as academic and research centers worldwide that use biotechnology to develop medical, agricultural, industrial and environmental products.

BIO Chairman and Alkermes (<http://www.alkermes.com>) CEO Richard Pops said; '...Jim Greenwood was the Board of Directors' unanimous choice to lead BIO because of his commitment to improving people's lives through science and technology and his personal leadership skills.'

'Given my seniority in Congress, and my role on the Energy and Commerce Committee, had virtually any other organization approached me, I would have politely declined to interview. However, I passionately believe in the promise of biotechnology to find cures and treatments...' Greenwood said, continuing, 'the research and the science that BIO's members represent hold so much potential: regenerative medicine to enable us to repair our organs and spinal cords, biotech crops and foods which can help feed the hungry, and biofuels to help save the environment.'

Greenwood has been a leader on education and juvenile justice issues. He has also authored several pieces of critical legislation to ensure that Americans have access to the best healthcare in the world, including the Help Efficient, Affordable, Low Cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act to provide reasonable limits on non-economic damages in medical liability lawsuits to preserve patients' access to healthcare.

### New President and VC for Biochemical Society

Sir Philip Cohen from the University of Dundee will become the next President of the Biochemical Society in January 2006. Sir Philip, Royal Society Research Professor, is Director of the MRC Protein Phosphorylation Unit and Director of Research at the University's School of Life Sciences.

Commenting on the appointment, Peter Downes, current Chairman of the society said; 'Sir Philip is arguably the UK's leading biochemist and an iconic figure in UK science. His contribution to our understanding of the roles of protein phosphorylation in cell signalling is legendary. It is a privilege to have him as our president.'

Sir Philip obtained his PhD in biochemistry at University College London and joined the University of Dundee in 1971. Sir Philip has been essential in the development of world-class biochemistry at the University of Dundee.

The society has also announced that Martin Humphries is to take up the appointment of Vice-Chairman in January 2005. Humphries is Professor of Biochemistry and Wellcome Trust principal research fellow in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Manchester. His research focuses on a molecular dissection of cell-matrix interactions and in particular, structure-function studies on adhesion molecules and integrin receptors.

### Archemix names new VP, Business Development

Archemix, a biopharmaceutical company discovering and developing aptamer therapeutics, has announced the appointment of Augustine Yee as Vice President, Business Development. 'Archemix's business and commercial opportunities are continuing to expand rapidly. Augustine brings sophisticated business and corporate development skills, along with an expertise in law and science. This experience makes him an important addition to our senior management team,' said Errol De Souza, President and Chief Executive Officer of Archemix. 'We are delighted to have Augustine as a part of our team and look forward to his contributions to the development of aptamer therapeutic products and the generation of shareholder value.'

'Archemix is at an exciting stage of its development,' commented Yee. 'The company's aptamer technology has the potential to bring forth a new class of therapeutics for the treatment of acute and chronic diseases. The strength of our aptamer technology is evident in the significant product opportunities that are being generated. Business development is

an important component of Archemix's continued growth and I am looking forward to the challenge of helping to create and drive the market for our products.'

## Awards

### LBN awards: Sanjay Kakkar and Robin Coffin

London Biotechnology Network (LBN; <http://www.londonbiotechnology.co.uk>) has announced that Sanjay Kakkar, CEO of Trigen (<http://www.trigen.co.uk>), is winner of its annual Entrepreneur of the Year Award. In addition, Robert Coffin, CSO of BioVex (<http://www.biovex.com>), was chosen as Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

The awards were presented at a joint meeting of LBN, Oxfordshire Bioscience Network and Eastern Region Biotechnology Initiative (ERBI), held at the British Library in London, UK, and recognize outstanding contribution to the development of biotechnology in the city.

Sanjay Kakkar has been CEO of Trigen for seven years. The company is dedicated to the discovery and development of novel drugs for the management of occlusive and inflammatory cardiovascular diseases.

Robert Coffin is a founding scientist and CSO of BioVex. The company was spun out of the Institute of Child Health in London to develop a new class of potent vaccines for the prevention and treatment of cancer and chronic infectious disease.

Commenting on the awards, the Director of LBN, Tony Jones, said: 'London, with its high concentration of academic, financial and governmental institutions, is an important location for biotechnology, and it is people such as Sanjay and Robert, that show real entrepreneurship, that help the region continue to develop... We continue showcasing emerging companies and technologies at Genesis ensuring we provide a platform from which the smaller companies can get noticed.'

The LBN Entrepreneur of the Year Award has been held annually since 2001. London's biotechnology sector is largely derived from the enormous amount of research activity centred around the concentration of medical schools, teaching hospitals and medical research organisations.

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