

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OKBIO PRESENTS BIOSCIENCE TALENT SEMINAR

The Oklahoma Bioscience Association (OKBio) is conducting a seminar entitled “Where’s the Talent?” to address the issues and strategies surrounding the development and recruitment of bioscience talent. The half day seminar, slated for March 10, 2009, from 1:30 – 5pm at the Presbyterian Health Foundation Research Park Conference Center, 655 Research Parkway, Oklahoma City, will explore the local challenges, a national perspective and local responses to the issues.

Keynote speaker, Christopher Giffin, Bench International, Beverly Hills, California, will provide a national perspective on challenges and offer solutions to the quest for senior talent for bioscience companies. An Oklahoma native, Chris received his undergraduate degree in microbiology from the University of Oklahoma and has spent the last 20 years in management positions in biotechnology, including 16 with Amgen. He now specializes in the recruitment of executive talent for bioscience companies.

Speakers William Canfield, M.D., Ph.D., Chairman, Cytovance, and Rex Smitherman, Vice President of Strategic Development, i2E, will discuss the obstacles to acquiring talent faced by bioscience companies in Oklahoma today.

An interactive session on local efforts to grow a qualified bioscience workforce will focus on specialized degrees, training and programs. The session will feature Quyen Arana, the University of Oklahoma K20 Center; Sheryl Hale, Ed.D., the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technical Education; Joe Parli, Ph.D., Tulsa Community College; Fabiola Janiak-Spens, Ph.D., Oklahoma City Community College and Drew Dugan, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber.

A networking reception will take place following the seminar, from 5 - 6pm. The seminar and reception are sponsored by the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber.

There is no charge for this seminar, but reservations are required. For more information or to reserve space, contact Suzanne McCombs, OKBio, (405) 319-8650 or smccombs@okbio.org. Also, additional information is available at www.okbio.org.

OKBio is the statewide, not-for-profit membership organization exclusively dedicated to the growth of Oklahoma’s emerging bioscience cluster.

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