



UMBI
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
BIOTECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

NEWS

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University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute Celebrates 20 Years of Service at June 3 Gala

Baltimore, MD – University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute (UMBI) President Dr. Jennie Hunter-Cevera will be joined by Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. and a host of leading scientists and researchers to celebrate UMBI's 20th birthday Saturday, June 3, 2006. The anniversary gala begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel on Wincopin Circle in Columbia Md.

UMBI was established by Maryland lawmakers in 1985 as part of the University System of Maryland (USM). It is the only USM institution with a legislative mandate to promote the state's economic development through ground-breaking scientific research in fields such as agriculture, the environment, and human health and wellness.

When the term "biotechnology" was first heard in the early 1900's, it described the interaction of biology with human technology. Today, the term applies to the study of organisms and biological systems, and how to manipulate these systems at a molecular level to create new techniques and products to benefit society. For example, biotech research has advanced the knowledge of vaccines, drugs, diagnostic devices, biofuels, food safety, and DNA fingerprinting to name just a few.

"In 1985, UMBI consisted of a handful of scientists, working out of borrowed office space," said Hunter-Cevera. "Twenty years later, UMBI is recognized internationally as a center of excellence as we push the frontiers of biotechnology to meet society's needs."

In 2005, UMBI researchers filed 37 invention disclosures; 11 patents were issued and 56 new patent applications were submitted. UMBI entered into nine new license agreements in 2005, and managed 24 active license agreements. Hunter-Cevera predicts UMBI will spin-out several new companies this year, in addition to the successful spin-out last year of companies such as Profectus BioSciences, Inc. Now located at University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) TechCenter, Profectus develops technologies intended to reduce the morbidity and mortality caused by viral diseases.

UMBI's 20th anniversary gala June 3 is a celebration of past and present cutting-edge scientific research, and the contributions made by UMBI to Maryland's economic development.

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Celebrating our 20th anniversary year, UMBI is the first and only biotechnology research institute within the University System of Maryland and was established in 1985. The University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute (UMBI) consists of five major research and education centers and is dedicated to advancing the frontiers of biotechnology. UMBI's centers of research include: CARB, the Center for Advanced Research in

Biotechnology located in Rockville; CBR, the Center for Biosystems Research located in College Park; and COMB, the Center of Marine Biotechnology, MBC, the Medical Biotechnology Center, and IHV, the Institute of Human Virology, all located in Baltimore. For more information, visit www.umbi.umd.edu or comments: pubrel@umbi.umd.edu

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