

AMDeC Member Institutions

Albert Einstein College of Medicine
American Museum of Natural History
Beth Israel Medical Center
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Columbia-Presbyterian Campus of New York
Presbyterian Hospital
Columbia University College of Physicians and
Surgeons
Greater New York Hospital Association
Hospital for Special Surgery
Joan & Sanford I. Weill Medical College of
Cornell University
Lenox Hill Hospital
Maimonides Medical Center
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Montefiore Medical Center
Mount Sinai-NYU Medical Center and Health
System
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Nassau County Medical Center
New York Blood Center
New York-Cornell Campus of New York
Presbyterian Hospital
New York Eye and Ear Infirmary
New York Hospital Medical Center of Queens
New York Medical College
New York University School of Medicine
North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health
System
Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center
Rockefeller University
Roswell Park Cancer Institute
Saint Vincents Catholic Medical Centers of
New York, Manhattan Region
Saint Vincents Catholic Medical Centers of
New York, Staten Island Region
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center
State University of New York
SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn
SUNY at Buffalo, School of Medicine &
Biomedical Sciences
SUNY at Stony Brook, University Hospital and
Medical Center
SUNY Upstate Medical University at Syracuse
Strang Cancer Prevention Center
University of Rochester School of Medicine
Wadsworth Center, New York State
Department of Health
Westchester County Medical Center
Winthrop-University Hospital

Editor's note: For our non-scientist readers, "BIO SNPs" is a play on the acronym SNPs (pronounced 'snips'), single nucleotide polymorphisms, which are DNA sequence variations that occur when one of the structural components of DNA in the genome sequence is altered.

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Inside this Issue

- 2 NYCP Surpasses 10,000 Mark
- 2 Genomics Cores' Advisory Groups
- 2 4th Annual Revlon Run/Walk
- 3 State Funding Proposals for Biomedical Research and Biotechnology
- 4 New Target Program Tests Recruitment Strategies
- 4 Executive Committee Approves 2001-2003 Strategic Plan



Maurice R. Greenberg, Chairman
Maria K. Mitchell, Ph.D., President

BIO SNPs

ALFRED P. SLOAN FOUNDATION AND THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL FUNDS BIOTECH INDUSTRY ACTION PLAN

Based on recommendations made from numerous studies conducted over the last few years, AMDeC is implementing a multi-phase plan to strengthen New York State's image as a biotechnology-friendly state and to support its members in developing and expanding biotech incubators. Biotechnology industry leaders and biotech investors identify a primary reason that New York has had relatively few biotechnology start-ups: poorly organized channels for undertaking the process of beginning a biotechnology company here. Having established its ability to promote collaboration among the many institutions involved in New York's biomedical research enterprise, AMDeC is now well positioned to implement a multi-phase biotechnology industry action plan that will assist in organizing the many disparate biotech channels that exist in the State.

AMDeC now plans to leverage the significant momentum in the New York academic research environment to forge ahead in creating a biotechnology-friendly environment by involving individuals, institutions and organizations that extend beyond AMDeC's membership. Initial funding of \$250,000 from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and \$500,00 from the New York City Council will seed AMDeC's multi-phase plan to grow New York State's biotechnology industry through the following three primary strategies:

Strategy One: Venture Capital.

AMDeC's membership decided to create a venture fund, overseen by AMDeC's Business Advisory Group, to expand venture financing for biotechnology in New York. A venture fund focused exclusively on New York will serve as an incentive to start-up biotechnology companies here, enabling New York to reap the benefits of its investment in research and development. AMDeC's Business Advisory Group has committed to raising the \$200 million the fund will require, and has set a deadline of having the fund raised and operational by the end of 2001.

Strategy Two: Cultivation of Bioinformatics/Computational Biology.

Bioinformatics and computational biology, essential tools for biomedical research, vastly accelerates the pace of scientific research and discoveries. AMDeC is therefore developing a bioinformatics core facility to ensure that scientists in New York have access to state-of-the-art informatics technologies and services. This shared bioinformatics core facility, with centralized informatics services and technologies, will be operational and available to AMDeC member scientists by Fall 2001.

Strategy Three: Creation of a BioResource Network.

As biotechnology has grown in other parts of the nation, New York has lacked an organization to serve as a focal point for facilitating interaction among all of the stakeholders involved in a thriving biotechnology industry. First, AMDeC's BioResource Network will undertake a multifaceted marketing and public relations effort to assure that every biotechnology success and every step forward are fully leveraged and widely publicized. Second, the BioResource Network will work with AMDeC's membership to facilitate the development of incubator space as well as sponsor regular networking and interaction among important biotech stakeholders. Finally, the BioResource Network will provide an infrastructure for biotech start-ups including recruitment of executive, research and board personnel, patent, business, financial and legal services and referrals.

Never has New York been better positioned to attract this growing sector of the nation's economy. City and State leaders have demonstrated their commitment to growing this sector, and New York has recently undergone an economic and cultural "renaissance" that has made it substantially easier to attract top talent from the fields that are the base of biotechnology such as science, engineering, and business. AMDeC is prepared to build on these factors to catalyze the growth of New York's biotech industry.

THE NEW YORK CANCER PROJECT SURPASSES THE 10,000 ENROLLEE MARK

The New York Cancer Project has now recruited over 10,000 individuals in the study, well beyond the original targets set out for the pilot project. Enrollment has increased steadily over time as recruitment efforts at enrollment sites have intensified, with the past three months averaging 1,000 to 1,500 new enrollees per month. An impressive 30% of the samples thus far are foreign born, making for a rich data set. The New York Cancer Project's success in recruitment of a diverse sample within a relatively short timeframe demonstrates an ability to achieve two major goals of the pilot project – diversity and volume of a cohort sample.

Opportunities for Using Cancer Project Data

Data from the study are already being used with New York area scientists. One study led by Dr. Kenneth Offit, Chief of the Clinical Genetics Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering, in conjunction with colleagues from Weill Cornell Medical School and the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, uses a collaborative case control method to examine polymorphisms in genes involved in DNA damage response. Data from the NYCP provides matched non-cancer controls for the study's 4,000 samples drawn from individuals with four different types of cancers.

Future use of the database was addressed during a meeting convened by Dr. Arnold J. Levine, President of Rockefeller University and Chair of the NYCP Scientific Advisory Group. Dr. Levine invited 22 prominent New York molecular geneticists to a meeting in early June to discuss ideas for future uses of the cohort database through an NIH funded program project grant. At the meeting Dr. Ernest Beutler, Department of Molecular and Experimental Medicine, Scripps Research Institute, presented his work with Kaiser Permanente, involving the collection of genes and data from over 30,000 individuals. Dr. Beutler's presentation spawned ideas among the participants for using NYCP data as a resource for other studies.

ADVISORY GROUPS OUTLINE STRATEGIES FOR AMDc'S GENOMICS CORES

The 1999 genomics strategic plan approved by the Board of Directors called for establishing five Core Facilities in the areas of bioinformatics/computational biology, genotyping, microarrays, statistical genetics, and proteomics. The table on the right lists Advisory Committee members, nominated from AMDc institutions by the Board of Directors, for the first three of these Core Facilities. These Advisory Committees serve an integral role to the cores' success and meet frequently throughout the year. All recommendations from the Advisory Committee related to core equipment acquisition and use policies receive final approval by the AMDc Executive Committee. Please feel free to contact members of the Advisory Committees with specific questions or comments related to core facility implementation and operations.

Bioinformatics/Computational Biology Core Advisory Committee	
1. Albert Einstein College of Medicine Mark R. Chance, Ph.D., Department of Biochemistry	7. North Shore-Long Island Jewish Research Institute Martin Lesser, Ph.D., Division of Biostatistics
2. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Michael Zhang, Ph.D., Laboratory for Computation Biology and Bioinformatics	8. Roswell Park Cancer Institute John P. Cowell, Ph.D., Department of Cancer Genetics
3. Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons Conrad Gilliam, Ph.D., Columbia Genome Center	9. State University of New York at Buffalo Bruce Holm, Ph.D., Office of Research and Graduate Studies
4. Mount Sinai School of Medicine Fabien Campagne, Ph.D., Institute for Computational Biomedicine	10. State University of New York at Stony Brook Moises Eisenberg, Ph.D., Department of Pharmacology
5. New York Medical College Denton C. Brosius, Ph.D., Graduate School of Health Sciences	11. University of Rochester Mitsunori Ogihara, Ph.D., Department of Computer Science
6. New York University School of Medicine Stuart M. Brown, Ph.D., Dept. of Cell Biology & Research Computing Resource	12. Weill Medical College of Cornell University Diana Murray, Ph.D., Department of Biochemistry and Structural Biology
Genotyping Core Advisory Committee	
1. Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons Rudolph L. Leibel, M.D., Division of Molecular Genetics	6. Rockefeller University Markus Stoffel, M.D., Ph.D., Laboratory of Metabolic Diseases
2. Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Nathan A. Ellis, Ph.D., Department of Human Genetics	7. Roswell Park Cancer Institute Thomas Shows, Ph.D., Department of Cancer Genetics
3. Mount Sinai School of Medicine John A. Martignetti, M.D., Ph.D., Department of Human Genetics	8. State University of New York at Stony Brook John S. Kovach, M.D., Cancer Institute of Long Island
4. North Shore-Long Island Jewish Research Institute Peter K. Gregersen, M.D., Division of Biology and Human Genetics	9. University of Rochester Medical Center Andrew I. Brooks, Ph.D., Functional Genomics Center
5. Our Lady of Mercy Cancer Center/New York Medical College Peter H. Wiernik, M.D., Our Lady of Mercy Cancer Center	10. Weill Medical College of Cornell University Francis Barany, Ph.D., Program of Biochemistry and Structural Biology
Microarray Core Advisory Committee	
1. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Vivek Mittal, Ph.D.	9. Our Lady of Mercy Healthcare System Peter Wiernik, M.D., Our Lady of Mercy Comprehensive Cancer Center
2. Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons Anthony W. Ferrante, Ph.D., Russ Berrie Center	10. Roswell Park Cancer Institute Norma J. Nowak, Ph.D., Microarray Core Facility
3. Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Agnes Viale, Ph.D., Genomics Core Laboratory	11. State University of New York at Buffalo Norma J. Nowak, Ph.D., Microarray Core Facility
4. Mount Sinai School of Medicine James G. Wetmur, Ph.D., Department of Microbiology and Human Genetics	12. State University of New York at Stony Brook Anhil Dhundale, Ph.D., DNA Microarray Facility and Department of Scientific Affairs
5. New York Eye and Ear Infirmary Stimson P. Schantz, Ph.D., Division of Head and Neck Surgery	13. Strang Cancer Prevention Center Anthony M.C. Brown, Ph.D., Office of the Dean
6. New York Medical College Ira Schwartz, Ph.D., Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	14. University of Rochester Andrew Brooks, Ph.D., Functional Genomics Center
7. New York University School of Medicine Stuart Brown, Ph.D., Department of Cell Biology	15. Upstate Medical University Edward J. Shillito, Ph.D., Department of Microbiology and Immunology
8. North Shore-Long Island Jewish Research Institute Leslie Goodwin, Ph.D., Molecular Genetic Core Facilities	16. Weill Medical College of Cornell University Jenny Xiang, Ph.D., Cornell Microarray Core Facility

AMDEC VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATE IN THE 4TH ANNUAL REVLON RUN/WALK FOR WOMEN

Over 40,000 participants crowded the streets of Times Square for the 4th Annual *Revlon Run/Walk for Women* on May 5, 2001, organized by Lily Tartikoff, Ronald O. Perelman, and the Entertainment Industry Foundation. Among those 40,000 were more than 60 AMDc volunteers, who helped at both the Entertainment Industry Foundation Tent and the Information Booth. After giving out information and helping participants create signs to honor or memorialize a loved one with cancer, the AMDc volunteers joined the rest of the men and women on the race path. The Run/Walk culminated in Central Park's East Meadow with a health expo displaying exhibits from its beneficiary organizations and corporate sponsors, including AMDc.

AMDc receives 15% of the total money raised from the Revlon Run/Walk for Women in order to fund important research for women's cancers through AMDc's **Fund for Young Investigators**. The remainder of the proceeds provide diagnostic and treatment services for medically underserved women and deliver psychosocial services for women with and cancer and for their families. For more information on the Revlon Run/Walk for Women or to make a donation, please log on to www.revlonrunwalk.com.

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS SHOW BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR GROWTH IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

Following successful year long lobbying efforts to increase funding levels for biomedical research and biotechnology, funding proposals from New York State Executive and Legislative Branches, outlined in the table below, show considerable increases from past funding levels.

	Governor Pataki	Senate Republican	Assembly Democrat
Total Value	\$1 billion	\$ 500 million	\$ 151 million
Time	5 years	5 years	5 years
Matching Federal/Private Funds	\$ 700 million	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
State Funding	\$ 283 million	\$ 500 million	\$ 151 million
Average Annual Funding	\$56.6 million	\$ 100 million	\$ 30.6 million
Scope of Programs	High-technology	Biomedical research and biotechnology	Biomedical research and biotechnology
Specified Biomedical Research Funding	Establish a Center for Excellence in NYC, where 36 different medical schools, health centers and research institutions are developing collaborative research projects that will transform medicine in the future	\$ 150 million over 5 years for attracting/retaining researchers; funding laboratory construction and expansion; and, purchasing equipment.	\$ 10 million in SFY 2001-2002 for attracting researchers; and, \$ 10 million in SFY 2001-2002 for regional or statewide shared core facilities
Biotechnology/Technology Transfer Funding	Incorporated in Centers for Excellence Program	\$ 250 million over five years	\$125 million for NYS Biotechnology Commercial Capitalization Fund over five years. \$ 6.2 million in SFY 2001-2002 for SUNY Downstate Medical Center Advanced Biotechnology Incubator Facility.
Biotechnology/Technology Transfer Uses	Incorporated in Centers for Excellence Program	Technology transfer and development.	Investments in applied and commercial research facilities and development of incubator space.
Distribution Methodology		Funding released as matching grants after final approval of a business plan by the NYS Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research in conjunction with the Empire State Development Corporation.	Proposals subject to peer review process by an independent panel of scientists appointed by the NYS Economic Development Commission.
Specified Facilities		Over five years, the following programs would be funded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consortium including: SUNY Stony Brook, Cold Spring Harbour, Brookhaven National Labs and SUNY Farmingdale (\$30 million); • East River Science Park, involving New York University, the City of New York, and ImClone (\$30 million); • Consortium including: Westchester County Health Care Corporation (\$15 million) and academic medical centers located in NYC (\$15 million); • SUNY Albany East Campus involving Albany Medical Center and SUNY Albany (\$30 million); • Consortium including Cornell University and other research institutions for Genomics Technology (\$30 million); • University of Rochester Medical School and Rochester Technology Park (\$30 million); • University of Buffalo, Roswell Park Cancer Institute and Hauptman Woodward Medical Research Institute (\$30 million); • University at Binghamton to provide funding for the Advanced Biotechnologies Complex (\$15 million); and, • Syracuse University for the Environmental Health System program (\$15 million). 	Eligible projects for NYS Biotechnology Commercial Capitalization Fund include, but are not limited to: East River Science Park Project/NYU School of Medicine; New York Presbyterian/Cornell Medical School/ Columbia Medical School; Mount Sinai School of Medicine; Columbia University Audubon Research Park; and, Rochester Institute of Technology Center for Biotechnology Education and Training. \$ 6.2 million in SFY 2001-2002 for SUNY Downstate Medical Center Advanced Biotechnology Incubator Facility.
Centers for Excellence (biotechnology related)	Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics at Buffalo: University of Buffalo's Center for Computational Research, in partnerships with Roswell Park, the Hauptman Woodward Medical Research Institute, Praxair, Advanced Refractory Technologies (ART), Ethicon, Veridian, and Life Technologies, among others.		Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics at Buffalo (\$34 million in SFY 2001-2002).
Business Development		\$95 million over five years to support emerging biotechnology businesses through bioscience parks, equipment, working capital and worker training.	
Tax Incentives		\$45 million over five years for: increasing research and development tax credit to 20%; doubling the current qualified emerging technology wage and capital credits for biotechnology companies and removal of the alternative minimum tax limitation on emerging biotechnology companies.	



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NEW TARGET PROGRAM TESTS RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES AND PROMOTES BREAST CANCER SCREENING

Last year, Mayor Giuliani allocated an additional \$2 million to create the New York Cancer Project Target Program in response to the New York State Department of Health's findings identifying higher-than-average breast cancer rates in New York City's Upper East Side of Manhattan, the southern end of Brooklyn, a mid-section of Staten Island, and the Rockaway peninsula in Queens. The Target Program focuses on these high incidence areas for testing NYCP recruitment strategies and promoting breast cancer screening in these areas.

The Target Program's first phase promotes enrollment into the NYCP selected from a geographically stratified random sample of 100,000 households from the high incidence areas and from areas surrounding the NYCP Enrollment Sites. Individuals from the sample are assigned to one of four intervention groups to test various types of recruitment strategies including informational brochures and follow-up mailings in 5 languages, telephone calls, mailed letters and food/physical activity questionnaires, advertisements, or no direct contact at all. An evaluation of these recruitment strategies will begin over the next year and the most successful methods employed in the full-scale project phase of the study.

The Target Program's second phase promotes breast cancer screening. AMDeC is convening a focus group on June 27, 2001, with leaders from New York's various breast health organizations. The Breast Cancer Screening Focus Group will assess community needs and identify the barriers to breast cancer screening with special attention paid to New York City's high-incidence areas. Information derived from the focus group will help to shape a

request for proposals based on the identified needs and gaps in service and be distributed in July 2001. Five (5) one-year grants will be provided to organizations in the high-incidence areas to support programs that demonstrate

effectiveness in promoting breast cancer screening. For more information on the NYCP Target Program, please contact Stephanie R. Stein, Target Program Manager, at (212) 218-4612 or stein@amdec.org.

BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVES 2001 – 2003 STRATEGIC PLAN

AMDeC, working with the Board of Directors and key scientists, completed a strategic plan that identified goals for the next three years. The strategic plan, approved by the Board of Director's Executive Committee at its March 2001 meeting, capitalizes on New York's unique strengths for biomedical research including its population diversity, the prestigious institutions involved with AMDeC, and the media infrastructure that publicizes scientific and technological advances to the world. These unique strengths, combined with AMDeC's track record of accomplishments, foretell a promising future for biomedical research in New York State.



For more information on AMDeC's strategic plan, log on to AMDeC's website www.amdec.org or contact Ms. Ashley Williams, Director of Planning and Program Development, at (212) 218-5637.