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Intellectual Property Rights Spur Innovation
Recent Study Offers No Empirical Evidence to the Contrary

WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 14, 2008) – Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) President and CEO Jim Greenwood released the following statement regarding a recently released report entitled “Toward a New Era of Intellectual Property: From Confrontation to Negotiation”:

“The proposition advanced by this study--that the protection of intellectual property rights serves as an obstacle to innovation in the life sciences and hampers further research and collaborations among scientists-- has been repeatedly discredited and has no empirical basis in fact. According to a [report prepared for the National Academies of Science](#), intellectual property rights do not impede research: only 1% of the random sample of 398 academic respondents reported suffering a project delay of more than a month due to patents on knowledge inputs necessary for their research, and *none* of them had stopped a research project due to the existence of patents.

“Further, as BIO and other experts in this area have previously found, there is a lack of hard evidence, except for an occasional anecdotal example, to support the report’s exaggerated conclusions.

“To the contrary, a robust system for protecting intellectual property rights is critical to establish an environment in which biotechnology innovation can flourish. The presence of patents and strong IP rights in no way precludes collaborations and partnerships with companies, governments, non-governmental organizations, or others. Rather, it is precisely *because* of patents and strong IP rights that such collaborations and partnerships can, and do, take place at an ever increasing rate.

“Strong IP rights are not the reason that so many developing countries lack access to the products and technologies enjoyed by developed economies, particularly in the public health arena. While many factors play primary roles in this access problem, such as lack of infrastructure and capacity, lack of trained personnel, and trade barriers, patents are rarely an obstacle.

“BIO and its members recognize the need to continually enhance research on new biotech products and global access to them. Our members are highly supportive partners in facing the challenges of building a sustainable R&D framework to contribute to global needs. BIO is fully supportive of improving international coordination between industry, governments, and non-governmental organizations to achieve practical results to improve the lives of people around the world. To that end, BIO has participated in the World Health Organization as a ‘concerned entity’ and has provided constructive proposals on how industry can play a role in achieving this goal. BIO also has been actively engaged in the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding the sustainable use and benefit sharing of genetic materials.”

BIO’s full response to the report can be found at
<http://bio.org/ip/domestic/ResponseReportOct08.pdf>.

About BIO

BIO represents more than 1,200 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and related organizations across the United States and in more than 30 other nations. BIO members are involved in the research and development of innovative healthcare, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology products. BIO also produces the annual BIO International Convention, the world’s largest gathering of the biotechnology industry, along with industry-leading investor and partnering meetings held around the world.
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Upcoming BIO Events

Intellectual Property Counsels' Committee Fall Conference and Meeting

October 20-22, 2008
Orlando, Fla.

BIO HR Conference 2008

October 26-28, 2008
San Diego, Calif.

BIO-LES Advanced Business Development Course

October 27-29, 2008
San Francisco, Calif.

BIO Investor Forum 2008

October 29-31, 2008
San Francisco, Calif.

Advanced Business Development Course

November 14-16, 2008
Mannheim/Heidelberg, Germany

BIO-Europe 2008

November 17-19, 2008
Mannheim/Heidelberg, Germany

BIO National Venture Conference
March 31 - April 1, 2008
Boston, Mass.

2009 BIO International Convention

May 18-21, 2009
Atlanta, Ga.

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