



SoCalBio
Southern California
Biomedical Council

SoCalBio Honors Life Science Educator and Employee of the Year

Awards Announced During 2nd Annual SoCalBio Human Resources Conference

Los Angeles and Irvine, Calif. – March 6, 2008 – The Southern California Biomedical Council (SoCalBio or SCBC) awarded its 2008 Educator and Employee of the Year awards at a ceremony following the Second Annual SoCalBio Human Resource Conference, held February 29th at the Wilshire Grand Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

The Educator of the Year Award went to Martin Ikkanda, director of the Amgen-Bruce Wallace Biotechnology Lab Program. Mr. Ikkanda was recognized for helping create the program that introduces students to careers in the life sciences. Funded by the Amgen Foundation in collaboration with the Foundation for Pierce College and the Los Angeles/Orange County Biotechnology Center, the program also promotes scientific literacy and inquiry by exposing students to cutting edge techniques and facilities used by local biotechnology firms, agricultural companies and crime scene investigators.

”On behalf of the many dedicated educators and scientists who partner with the Amgen Bruce Wallace program, I want to thank SoCalBio for this award,” Mr. Ikkanda commented. “SoCalBio’s recognition validates the work of our program to bring science education into schools across the country. I also want to thank the Amgen Foundation for its dedication and commitment. Without the foundation’s support, there would not be a Bruce Wallace lab program.”

The Employee of the Year award went to Kent Smith, formerly with MannKind Corporation (Valencia, Calif.), who currently serves as chief scientific advisor to Coastal Marine Biolabs (Ventura, Calif.). Mr. Smith was recognized for creating an internship program at MannKind that provides qualified students with an opportunity to gain hands-on experience working in the biotechnology industry.

“I would like to commend the executive leadership at MannKind for recognizing the value of internship programs,” said Mr. Smith. “I would also like to thank SoCalBio for working hard to promote partnerships between academia and industry that provide life science workforce training to young scientists in our community.”

The awards ceremony capped the day-long SoCalBio HR Conference that focused on workforce development issues affecting the Greater Los Angeles medical device and biotechnology sector. Organized by SoCalBio’s Workforce Development Committee, the conference is the only event of its kind dedicated to addressing regional strategies for nurturing biomed/biotech human capital and employment needs.

The Southern California Biomedical Council thanks the following companies and organizations for sponsoring the HR Conference:

- ABD Insurance (www.abdi.com)
- Bench International (www.benchinternational.com)
- California Community Colleges Economic & Workforce Development Program (www.cccbitech.org)
- CSUPERB (www.csuchico.edu/csuperb)
- Davis Wright Termaine LLP (www.dwt.com)
- MannKind Corporation (www.mannkindcorp.com)
- Med Exec International (www.medexecintl.com)
- Medical Device Training Initiative of Orange County (www.mdtioc.org)
- Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP (www.morganlewis.com)
- Parkway Clinical Laboratories (www.parkwayclinical.com)
- Remedy Compensation Consulting (www.remedycomp.com)
- SDSU MBA for Executives Program (www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~emba/default.htm)
- Spencer Stuart (www.spencerstuart.com)

More information about SoCalBio's Second Annual HR Conference is available at http://www.socalbio.org/SoCalBio_HR_Conference/HR_Conference_Home.htm.

About the Southern California Biomedical Council (SoCalBio or SCBC)

The Southern California Biomedical Council is a nonprofit, member-supported trade association that promotes and supports life-science research, development, manufacturing, job creation and overall economic growth in the six counties of the Greater Los Angeles region (Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties).

The Council's programs help local firms gain access to capital, potential partners and business support services. The annual SoCalBio Investor Conference has grown to become the region's premiere showcase for emerging life-science companies and technologies. SoCalBio also promotes technology transfer and workforce training, and informs policy makers and the public at-large about the benefits of the region's life-science industry.

SoCalBio is open to membership by firms and organizations engaged in life-science technology development and commercialization. More information is available at www.socalbio.org.

SoCalBio Media Contact:

Erik Deutsch

ExcelPR Group

erikd@excelpr.com

213-236-4890