

# Bioscience inventing healing, smart-track futures

By Linda Gaber

It can pay to discover bioscience. Colorado and the Denver metro area are gaining jobs, companies, innovations, careers and life-saving ideas from the diverse bioscience industry. Government and private funding are pushing the field's progress here, targeted to keep everything bioscience incubating marketable, useful progress.

Its draw as a helping field also is appealing. That was a "personal driver" for John Collar, president and CEO of the Colorado BioScience Association in Denver. "Working in a bioscience company really does give you that extra kick of knowing that your work will positively affect the quality of life of many people, people that you will never even meet or know in your life. How great is that?"

Collar's colleagues are performing research to cure diseases, boost agricultural yields and modernize manufacturing. They are devising new veterinary, pharmaceutical and medi-



John Collar  
President/CEO  
Colorado  
BioScience  
Association

## SCIENCE IN THE SUMMER

Area high school science teachers can apply for a six-week paid summer externship working for an area bioscience company.

The goal is to gain insight into this career sector and into preparing students for careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

Contact CBSA for details. (303) 592-4073

cal products, researching biofuels, marketing new drugs and medical devices, and creating new companies.

### Ideas grow jobs

That equals 7 percent job growth in Colorado, he said. Employing more than 18,000 in bioscience, plus another 90,000 in related industries statewide, "We can expect over 1,200 new jobs directly in the industry with, perhaps, over 5,000 more in supporting firms."

There are about 500 bioscience-related companies here.

Workers can choose from diverse employment in four categories:

- Pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, drugs
- Medical devices and equipment
- Research, testing and medical labs
- Agricultural, feedstocks, chemicals

Careers requiring entry-level on-the-job training to innovation-driving Ph.D.s are available. There also are posts in support areas, such as marketing, human

resources, information technology, finance and accounting, facility maintenance, purchasing, quality assurance, regulatory affairs, manufacturing, distribution, and executive and administrative, among many others.

Prepare for them all in Colorado. Many require just a high school diploma, or an associate's technical degree or certificate. An internship also is a good start. Look on a company's Web site. CBSA lists area firms, as well as job openings. Check the bioscience association Web site to see vacancies and post a job, [www.cobioscience.com/](http://www.cobioscience.com/).

What's your interest? Look for openings in **research & development fields of engineering** (bio-medical, electrical, mechanical, chemical, packaging), **research lab functions** (chemical, clinical support, toxicology), **pharmacologists, formulation scientists, computer science** (software development, programming, validation), **medical specialists** including doctors, nurses and clinicians, and more.

"To be really effective in their roles, all these individuals need to have extensive training in the various regulatory compliance systems," Collar said. "So, skilled trainers are a big part of the skill sets that companies of all kinds require, too."

Average industry salary is almost \$70,000 annually.

### Town, gown partners

The majority of jobs are in the university-dotted corridor from Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, Denver to Boulder, as well as in Larimer County. Add to these research facilities and bioscience education centers the new Fitzsimons BioBusiness Incubator in Aurora. They help foster a "healthy partnership" between academia and the private sector to "speed basic science discoveries into novel treatments for patients," as well as into new companies and revenue.

For example, the CBSA lists University of Colorado's technology transfer performance for 2004 at

177 invention disclosures, 139 patent applications, 59 options and licenses, \$21.7 million revenue received and nine start-up companies.

Find out more about the sector's opportunities at two free programs open to the public:

■ **4th Annual Bio Tech Connect** – Biotechnology industry can meet with students and faculty to learn about partnerships and opportunities to collaborate on research, employment and biotech innovations. April 21, 8 a.m. to noon, Lory Student Center, Fort Collins. [www.natsci.colostate.edu/career/biotech](http://www.natsci.colostate.edu/career/biotech)

■ **Biobootcamp** – Open to investors, bioscience company professionals and entrepreneurs, Learn to design a company and commercialize bioscience technologies. April 30 to May 1, Holland & Hart Conference Room, Denver. Apply by April 3. See [www.biobootcamp.com](http://www.biobootcamp.com) to apply.

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