The Convergence Guide Names Ten Most Influential Life Sciences Leaders in New England

-Jim Tobin, CEO of Boston Scientific, Heads List-

- Group Includes Scientists, Business Leaders and Politicians Marking Recent Achievements-

Boston, MA, September 22, 2006 – The ten most influential people in New England's life sciences community were named today based on their contributions to science, business and politics, according to an advance report from The Convergence Guide. Jim Tobin, CEO of Boston Scientific of Natick, Massachusetts, tops the list. This group of visionaries is responsible for driving the ongoing success of the New England life sciences hub.

"New England has solidified its position as one of the leading life science communities in the world, based on the convergence of the key elements required for the growth of this innovation-driven industry," commented Tom Finneran, President of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council. "New England offers all of these qualities: a super cluster of world-renowned institutes, teaching hospitals, and universities, revolutionary scientific research, primacy in venture capital and technology transfer, ground-breaking therapeutic and medical device development, as well as a favorable economic development environment to create and maintain the atmosphere conducive to this pioneering work."

According to The Guide, New England is home to pioneering life sciences individuals from every key phase of industry development, beginning with basic research to product development through legislation. Members of the list include leaders from academia, represented by Susan Hockfield, Ph.D., President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; powerhouse pharmaceutical executives like John LaMattina, Ph.D., President of Global Research and Development at Pfizer; and policymakers like Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts. The Guide will contain the full list of the top 25 members of the New England life sciences community when the full book is published in October.

Looking forward to major events on the horizon in the New England life sciences community, members of the Top Ten list will play key roles in an upcoming industry-wide event. In May, Boston will again host the annual meeting of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, BIO 2007. Jim Mullen, CEO of Biogen Idec, and one of the ten most influential people in New England Life Sciences, is the Chairman of BIO and a member of the BIO 2007 Host Committee. BIO 2007 is expected to attract approximately 20,000 members of the life sciences community to the hub of New England life sciences to participate in a forum showcasing life sciences' progress and promise.

Recent Achievements in New England Life Sciences Include:

- New England welcomed the announcement by Bristol-Myers Squibb that build a $1.1 billion biologics manufacturing plant at the former Fort Devens Army Base that will create up to 550 jobs when it is scheduled to open in 2009. Massachusetts emerged as the victor in a highly demanding competition between states including Rhode Island, New York and North Carolina to house the new facility.

- New England's biggest life sciences IPO in five years: $105 million raised by Altus Pharmaceuticals of Cambridge, Massachusetts in January 2006.

- New England's record-setting sum of $430 million paid for the acquisition of a private biotech company, GlycoFi of Hanover, New Hampshire in May of 2006.

- New England's three biggest medical device clusters gained critical mass and demonstrated their contributions to the workforces of their respective communities: Greater Boston/Southern New Hampshire leading the list with 9,921 employees in the life sciences; the Providence, RI and Fall River, MA cluster with 3,861 employees and New Haven/Milford, CT with 3,260 employees.

About The Guide

The Convergence Guide is the definitive resource on life sciences activity in New England for investors, entrepreneurs, executives, policy-makers, and members of the media. The Ten Most Influential People in Life Sciences was compiled by entrepreneurs and executives at New England life sciences companies. Additional content in the Guide, to be published in October 2006, includes the full list of 25 leading life sciences individuals in New England, interviews with the chief executives of Novartis, Genzyme, and Millennium Pharmaceuticals; an interview with MassMedic president Tom Sommer; perspectives from New England VCs on what they invest in and why; a report on stem cell activity in New England, and data about life sciences employment, venture capital investing, and initial public offerings.

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The Top Ten Most Influential People in New England Life Sciences

1. Jim Tobin
CEO, Boston Scientific
Natick, MA

In January 2006, Tobin emerged triumphant from a bidding war with Johnson & Johnson, paying $27 billion to acquire Indiana-based Guidant Corp. But now, Tobin is being pressed to deal with the more mundane aspects of running a 28,000-employee company, like increasing sales of Boston Scientific's Taxus drug-coated stents and dealing with the aftermath of a major recall of implantable cardiac defibrillators made by Guidant. But Tobin continues to invest in the future; for example, Boston Scientific is developing implantable electrical stimulators to help patients manage chronic pain and cochlear implants to enhance hearing.

2. John LaMattina, PhD
Pfizer's president of global research and development New London, CT

Pfizer, the world's largest drug company, spends about $7 billion each year developing new medicines. LaMattina oversees it all, including 6,000 scientists in Groton and New London, CT. His continuing challenge is making the most of that $7 billion annual allowance, bringing to market new drugs like Exubera (inhalable insulin), Sutent (a new cancer drug), and Lyrica (a treatment for nerve pain) as older Pfizer drugs lose their patent protection. As of August 2006, LaMattina reports directly to Pfizer's new CEO.

3. Douglas Melton, Ph.D.
Co-director, Harvard Stem Cell Institute
Cambridge, MA

Melton began educating the U.S. Senate about the scientific potential of stem cell research in 1999, well before ethical debates began making headlines. The father of two teenagers who suffer from type-1 diabetes, Melton is trying to use stem cells to cure the disease, which affects about one million Americans. Along with co-director Dr. David Scadden and executive director Brock Reeve (Christopher Reeve's brother), Melton has helped raise $50 million in private funds to support the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, which allow it to avoid federal restrictions on research. The Institute has so far sent out over 600 shipments of stem cells to other researchers around the world.

4. Jim Mullen
CEO, Biogen Idec
Cambridge, MA

Mullen steered his company through a difficult 15 months, after a multiple sclerosis drug that had received approval from the FDA was pulled from the market. In a single day, the company's stock lost 40 percent of its value. The drug, Tysabri, was made available again in June 2006, with new restrictions and tighter patient monitoring. In 2005, Biogen Idec had its highest net income in recent memory, partly on the strength of Avonex, another multiple sclerosis drug.

5. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy
Democrat - Massachusetts

As the ranking Democrat on the Senate's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Kennedy has spent much of the last five years advocating for a permanent chief to be installed at the Food and Drug Administration – the FDA has been without one for all but 18 months since President Bush took office in 2001. In August 2006, Kennedy co-sponsored a bill that would give the FDA expanded authority to monitor the safety of new prescription drugs over their first three years of availability.

6. Eric Lander, Ph.D.
Director, Broad Institute
Cambridge, MA

Lander was one of the principal leaders of the Human Genome Project and now, at the Broad Institute, he and his colleagues are using that project's vast trove of genomic information to better understand and treat diseases, from cancer to obesity to malaria. The Broad is a partnership between MIT and Harvard, with $200 million in funding from Los Angeles philanthropists Eli and Edythe Broad.

7. Henri Termeer
Chairman and CEO, Genzyme
Cambridge, MA

Termeer oversaw the construction of Genzyme's new environmentally-friendly headquarters in Kendall Square, and Fortune honored the company as one of the 100 best places to work in the U.S. Genzyme's 2005 revenues were up 24 percent, to $2.7 billion, and in April 2006, the company won FDA approval to market a new drug for a rare genetic disorder called Pompe's disease.

8. Richard Meelia
President and CEO, Tyco Healthcare
Mansfield, MA

Meelia runs one of the biggest manufacturers of disposable medical devices in the world, and New England's biggest med device employer, with 4,800 employees in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Among Tyco's products: surgical staplers, anti-microbial bandages, and contrast dyes used for x-rays. In 2007, Tyco will be spinning off from its New Jersey-based parent company and adopting a new name.

9. Cleve Killingsworth Jr.
CEO, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
Boston, MA

In 2004, Killingsworth pledged $50 million to help kick-start the Massachusetts eHealth Collaborative, a non-profit initiative to improve the quality of healthcare and reduce its cost by creating an electronic health record for every patient. Killingsworth frequently quotes estimates that at least 30 percent of the $1.9 trillion spent on health care in the U.S. each year is wasted. He'd like to see that money spent delivering healthcare to those who today don't receive it.

10. Susan Hockfield, Ph.D.
President, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA

The first biomedical researcher to head MIT, Hockfield hailed the convergence of life sciences and engineering in her 2005 inaugural address.
"Combining our historic strength in engineering and our newer strengths in biology and the brain and cognitive sciences," she said, "we are already opening unprecedented opportunities for educational innovation, invention, and discovery." Though Hockfield's first major initiative as president deals with alternative energy, most expect her to increase the Institute's focus on life sciences during her tenure.