

BIO 2011 SPEECH

6/29/11 FINAL

Stephen Sherwin, Former Chairman of BIO

THANK YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN AND MAY I ONCE AGAIN ADD MY WORDS OF WELCOME TO THOSE WHO HAVE PRECEDED ME ON THIS PODIUM.

IT IS A GREAT PRIVILEGE TO ONCE AGAIN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH ALL OF YOU, MY FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE GLOBAL BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMUNITY. – AS WELL AS ANY DEADHEADS WHO MAY BE IN ATTENDANCE TODAY.

WELL, AS YOU MAY KNOW, TODAY BRINGS AN END TO MY TWO YEAR TERM AS THE CHAIRMAN OF BIO'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

I WAS GREATLY HONORED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AS YOUR CHAIR DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS, AND WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO USE THE NEXT FEW MINUTES TO REFLECT ON SOME OF WHAT HAS BEEN ACOMPLISHED DURING MY TENURE AS CHAIR, AND AT THE SAME TIME ACKNOWLEDGE THE CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD FOR THE BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY.

AND FINALLY, BEFORE I LEAVE THE STAGE TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME PARTING THOUGHTS AND A MESSAGE FROM THE HEART THAT DRAWS UPON MY OWN EXPERIENCES IN MEDICINE AND BIOTECHNOLOGY.

WHEN I BEGAN MY TERM AS CHAIR IN 2009, DECIDED TO FOCUS ON THREE PRIORITIES:

- FIRST, TO DO WHAT I COULD TO SUPPORT OUR DIVERSE POLICY AGENDA ACROSS HEALTHCARE, AGRICULTURE, AND ENERGY, INCLUDING POLICIES IMPORTANT TO BOTH OUR LARGEST MULTINATIONAL AND SMALLEST STARTUP COMPANY MEMBERS.

IN SO DOING I HOPED TO STRENGTHEN THE UNITY WITHIN BIO ACROSS ITS DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP.

- SECOND, TO ADVOCATE TIRELESSLY FOR THE TRANSPARENT AND SCIENCE-BASED REGULATION OF OUR INDUSTRY, AND
- THIRD, TO ENHANCE THE INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLE OF BIO IN WHAT HAS INCREASINGLY BECOME A GLOBAL BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY.

SO NOW AS I END MY TERM AS CHAIR I WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT WHAT WE HAVE AND WHAT WE HAVE NOT ACCOMPLISHED WITH RESPECT TO THESE THREE PRIORITIES:

- IN THE HEALTH AREA, WE ADVOCATED FOR HEALTHCARE REFORM THAT EXPANDS ACCESS TO QUALITY MEDICAL CARE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME SUPPORTS AN ENVIRONMENT FOR INNOVATION.

MORE SPECIFICALLY WE ADVOCATED FOR AN APPROPRIATE REGULATORY PATHWAY FOR BIOSIMILARS AND A \$1 BILLION THERAPEUTIC PROJECT TAX CREDIT.

THAT SAID, MUCH WORK CLEARLY REMAINS TO BE DONE WITH RESPECT TO ENSURING THE OPTIMAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

- IN AGRICULTURE, WE HAVE CONTINUED TO ENGAGE IN WHAT WE HOPE IS SEEN AS A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH USDA AND OTHER AGENCIES TO ENSURE THAT WE CAN CARRY OUT SAFE AND EFFICIENT DEVELOPMENT OF OUR PRODUCTS.

HOWEVER, THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY AND THE REST OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY REMAINS SIGNIFICANTLY POLARIZED, THEREBY IMPEDING OUR SHARED EFFORTS TO SUPPLY HIGH QUALITY FOOD TO THE WORLD'S HUNGRY.

- FINALLY IN THE ENERGY AREA, WE HAVE ADVOCATED FOR MUCH NEEDED GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED BIOFUELS AND BIOMATERIALS, AND HAVE OBTAINED HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN LOAN GUARANTEES AND RESEARCH GRANTS. HOWEVER, MUCH MORE RESOURCE FOR THIS CRITICAL WORK IS CLEARLY NEEDED.

AS I MENTIONED, MY SECOND PRIORITY AS CHAIR WAS TO SUPPORT OUR ADVOCACY AGENDA FOR THE SCIENCE-BASED REGULATION OF OUR INDUSTRY.

HERE I CAN POINT TO OUR CONSTRUCTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH FDA DURING THE PAST YEAR IN THE PDUFA V PROCESS, AS WELL AS OUR ONGOING DIALOGUE WITH USDA AND EPA.

YET THIS TOO IS AT BEST JUST A WORK IN PROGRESS.

AND FINALLY WITH RESPECT TO MY THIRD PRIORITY OF SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ENHANCE BIO'S GLOBAL PRESENCE, WE NOW HAVE ESTABLISHED DEDICATED FUNCTIONS WITHIN BIO AND THE BIO BOARD TO PURSUE OUR INTERNATIONAL AGENDA.

IN ADDITION, WE HAVE LAUNCHED THE FIRST EVER BIO INDIA AND BIO CHINA CONFERENCES WHICH COMPLEMENT OUR LONG STANDING BIO ASIA AND BIO EUROPE MEETINGS.

THAT SAID, I BELIEVE THERE WILL BE EVEN MORE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FUTURE TO ENHANCE BIO'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE GLOBAL BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY.

CLEARLY BIO'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING MY TIME AS CHAIR ARE THE RESULT OF THE HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT OF THE PEOPLE WHO COME TO WORK EVERY DAY AT BIO.

TO THAT END I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ENTIRE BIO TEAM AND IN PARTICULAR RECOGNIZE OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO, JIM GREENWOOD.

WITHOUT JIM'S LEADERSHIP WE WOULD NOT HAVE ACCOMPLISHED WHAT WE HAVE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, AND FURTHERMORE WITHOUT HIS VISION WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEGUN THE WORK OF DEVELOPING OUR FIRST EVER 5 YEAR PLAN, AND BLUEPRINT FOR BIO'S LONGER TERM ADVOCACY AGENDA WHICH JIM TOLD YOU ABOUT YESTERDAY.

JIM, THANK YOU FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND FOR ALL OF WHAT YOU HAVE DONE AND I KNOW WILL CONTINUE TO DO FOR BIO.

YOU MADE MY JOB AS CHAIR AN EASY ONE.

[PAUSE FOR APPLAUSE]

AND NOW, FOR MY PARTING THOUGHTS...

IT IS MY BELIEF THAT ALL OF US WHO HAVE CHOSEN CAREERS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY, HAVE DONE SO BECAUSE WE BELIEVE PASSIONATELY IN THE ABILITY OF OUR INDUSTRY TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN CONDITION.

FOR MANY OF US THIS MEANS DEVOTING OUR CAREERS TO IMPROVING THE TREATMENT OF INCURABLE DISEASES.

FOR OTHERS THIS MEANS EMPLOYING THE POWER OF BIOTECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY AND HEALTHY FOOD FOR EVERYONE--

EVERYONE--

WHO LIVES ON THIS PLANET.

AND FOR STILL OTHERS THIS MEANS ADDRESSING THE PRESSING NEED TO CREATE NEW AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE SOURCES OF ENERGY AND MATERIALS.

WHETHER OR NOT A CAREER IN BIOTECHNOLOGY TURNS OUT TO BE FINANCIALLY REWARDING, I FIRMLY BELIEVE WE ARE ALL HERE TODAY BECAUSE AT SOME POINT IN THE PAST WE MADE COMMITMENTS AS INDIVIDUALS TO HELP HEAL, FUEL OR FEED THE WORLD.

PUT SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY, WE ALL BEGAN OUR JOURNEY IN BIOTECH WITH A SET OF GOALS AND A MORAL COMPASS TO GUIDE US TOWARDS ACHIEVING THOSE GOALS.

MY MESSAGE TO ALL OF YOU TODAY IS TO STEAL A MOMENT FROM YOUR BUSY SCHEDULES AND REMIND YOURSELF OF THOSE GOALS.

INDEED THERE IS NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT TO DUST OFF YOUR MORAL COMPASS AND MAKE SURE IT IS STILL POINTING YOU IN THE SAME POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE DIRECTION YOU EMBRACED, AT THE START OF YOUR JOURNEY.

WE MUST NEVER FORGET AS WE READ AND HEAR ABOUT HUMAN SUFFERING EVERY DAY, HOW VERY FORTUNATE WE ARE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE OUR CAREERS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY,

AND TO SPEND OUR DAYS WORKING TO HEAL, FUEL AND FEED THE WORLD, RATHER THAN WAKING UP SICK, COLD OR HUNGRY.

IN MY OWN CASE, THE PATH TO BIOTECHNOLOGY BEGAN AT THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE AS A PRACTICING MEDICAL ONCOLOGIST CONDUCTING CLINICAL TRIALS OF NEW CANCER THERAPIES.

I CAME TO BELIEVE EARLY IN MY CAREER THAT BIOTECHNOLOGY COULD CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TO IMPROVING THE TREATMENT OF CANCER, AND I HAVE NOT BEEN DISAPPOINTED.

MY GOAL WAS TO BE PART OF THAT EFFORT AND I HAVE ALWAYS TRIED TO POINT MY OWN COMPASS IN THE DIRECTION OF WORKING TO USE BIOTECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOP INNOVATIVE CANCER THERAPIES.

RECENTLY I HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO RETURN TO CLINICAL WORK AS A PART-TIME VOLUNTEER PHYSICIAN IN THE ONCOLOGY DIVISION AT SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL, A PUBLIC HOSPITAL IN THE CITY WHERE I LIVE.

THIS IS THE HOSPITAL IN OUR CITY WHERE THOSE WITHOUT ECONOMIC MEANS, AND SOMETIMES EVEN WITHOUT A ROOF OVER THEIR HEAD, SEEK THEIR MEDICAL CARE.

AS ONE OF MY FELLOW PHYSICIANS PUT IT SO ELOQUENTLY:

STEVE, WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THAT CANCER IS THE LEAST OF THE PROBLEMS THAT MANY OF OUR PATIENTS FACE EVERY DAY OF THEIR LIVES.

IN MY CLINIC AT SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL,

I SEE CLEARLY THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY TO THE IMPROVED CARE OF PATIENTS WITH CANCER.

YET I CAN ALSO SEE HOW TRULY IMPERATIVE IT IS TO ENSURE THAT

ALL PATIENTS--

ALL PATIENTS--

HAVE ACCESS TO OUR GROUNDBREAKING AND INNOVATIVE TREATMENTS, INCLUDING THE VERY UNFORTUNATE SOULS I HELP CARE FOR IN MY CLINIC.

I FEEL VERY PRIVILEGED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AS A VOLUNTEER PHYSICIAN IN THIS HOSPITAL AND TO DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP PEOPLE SO CLEARLY IN NEED.

INDEED, I AM GLAD THAT MY OWN JOURNEY IN BIOTECH HAS NOW LED ME TO THIS NEW CHAPTER AT SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL.

SO MY PARTING MESSAGE TO ALL OF YOU TODAY, IS TO PLEASE REMEMBER WHY YOU CHOSE TO WORK IN BIOTECHNOLOGY IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND TO PLEASE BE SURE YOUR MORAL COMPASS IS STILL POINTING YOU IN A DIRECTION THAT SPEAKS TO YOUR HEART,

A DIRECTION WHICH I HOPE INCLUDES GIVING BACK SOME OF THE GOOD FORTUNE YOU ENJOY TODAY.

DO THIS SO THAT THE BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IS ALWAYS SEEN FIRST AND FOREMOST AS A GROUP OF DEDICATED AND GIVING INDIVIDUALS, UNIFIED ABOVE ALL BY OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO HELP HEAL, FUEL AND FEED THE WORLD.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING AS YOUR CHAIR THESE PAST TWO YEARS

(PAUSE)

AND NOW THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO PASS THE GAVEL TO OUR VERY ABLE INCOMING CHAIR, TOM WATKINS, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF HUMAN GENOME SCIENCES.

WITH NEARLY THIRTY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE BIOTECHNOLOGY AND PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY, TOM HAS BUILT AN OUTSTANDING TRACK RECORD.

UNDER TOM, HUMAN GENOME SCIENCES HAS BECOME ONE OF THE PREMIER BIOTECH ENTERPRISES IN THE WORLD AND A PILLAR OF THE MARYLAND BIOTECH COMMUNITY, AND THIS PAST SPRING, THE COMPANY RECEIVED FDA APPROVAL FOR BENLYSTA, THE FIRST NEW LUPUS TREATMENT IN 50 YEARS.

I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF WORKING WITH TOM OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AS A MEMBER OF BIO'S BOARD AND MOST RECENTLY IN HIS ROLE AS VICE CHAIR OF THE HEALTH SECTION OF THE BOARD.

HE HAS BEEN AN ENGAGED, PASSIONATE AND THOUGHTFUL VOICE AS WE DEVELOPED STRATEGIES FOR CRITICAL ISSUES IN HEALTH CARE, BUT I KNOW TOM SHARES MY PASSION FOR THE INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE AND WILL CHAMPION OUR AGENDA IN AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY JUST AS STRONGLY AS HE HAS ADVOCATED ON BEHALF OF HEALTHCARE.

CONGRATULATIONS, TOM, AND ALL THE BEST.

##

[PASS GAVEL TO TOM - PAUSE FOR APPLAUSE]