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## Business and Bioscience Leaders to Gather in Tampa for BioFlorida's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

*Nationally recognized speakers to focus on advancing biotechnology, medical devices and diagnostics industries*

TAMPA, Fla.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Registration opens today for [BioFlorida's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference](#) scheduled for Oct. 23-25 at the Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina in Tampa, Fla. 500 business leaders, scientists and investors are expected to attend the three day conference, which is the premier business development, investing and networking event for those associated with Florida's burgeoning bioscience industry.

"The time is right for the bioscience community to come to the Tampa Bay area," said Russell Allen, president & CEO of BioFlorida. "There's great momentum here, and as the statewide trade association for the industry it's our job to connect entrepreneurs, scientists, investors, strategic partners and service providers together. Not only will we be in Tampa in October, but we've launched a new Tampa Bay Chapter that will offer programs to support area medical device, life science and health IT companies throughout the year."

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**"The BioFlorida Annual Conference helps to advance Florida's strategy of building a diversified, knowledge-based economy"**

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Tampa was chosen as the site of this year's conference because of its growing reputation as a 'hotspot' for biotechnology, medical device and information technology companies. Anchored by more than 60 innovative bioscience companies such as [M2Gen](#), [Smith & Nephew](#) and [Accentia Biopharmaceuticals](#) as well as leading research institutions including the [University of South Florida](#), [Moffitt Cancer Center](#), [Draper Laboratory](#), [SRI International](#) and [Johns Hopkins Medicine](#), the life science sector is one of the fastest growing industries in the Tampa Bay area.

"The BioFlorida Annual Conference helps to advance Florida's strategy of building a diversified, knowledge-based economy," said Tom McLain, CEO of [Claro Scientific](#), BioFlorida board member, chair of this year's conference and co-chair of the Tampa Bay Chapter. "The conference program will focus on providing access to capital and introduce the latest advancements in technologies. With more than 18 sessions, entrepreneurs, scientists and business partners engaged in companies at every stage of development will benefit."

This year's conference is organized into three session tracks: BioInvestor, BioBusiness and BioScience. During the BioInvestor track, companies will hear presentations from equity analysts, investment bankers, venture capitalists and successful bioscience companies. Florida industry leaders will also present company and product overviews to an audience of investors and business development executives. The BioBusiness track is focused on other bioscience-related business opportunities, establishing successful collaborations and driving business growth. The BioScience track, organized for the second year by the [Florida Center for Universal Research to Eradicate Disease](#) (FL CURED), will feature panels and presentations about the latest technology and product advances from Florida companies, universities and research institutes.

The conference also features [biopartnering.com](#), an online system that allows registered conference attendees to set up one-to-one meetings and develop new business opportunities before, during and after the conference.

And on Sunday, October 23, prior to the opening of the conference, the [BioFlorida Institute](#) will host its first statewide Bioscience Career Fair for job seekers, graduate students, post-docs and employers. Free to attend, fair workshops will focus on creating a high-impact resume; effective interview strategies; analyzing job postings; and asking the right questions of prospective employers. Bioscience companies and institutes will be on-hand to discuss their hiring needs and to conduct initial interviews on site.

Online registration for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual BioFlorida Conference is now open and can be accessed at [www.bioflorida.com](#). Early registration (before August 12) is \$399 for BioFlorida Members, \$599 for Non-Members and \$150 for students and post-docs.

### **About BioFlorida**

BioFlorida is the voice of Florida's bioscience industry, and represents more than 200 member companies and research organizations in the biotechnology, pharmaceutical and medical device fields. BioFlorida's leadership and programs positively influence the growth of the industry through networking and initiatives related to capital formation, business development, business climate, marketing and public policy. The BioFlorida Institute is focused on improving Florida's science education and creating a strong workforce for industry.

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