



## Hudson-Alpha Institute for Biotechnology to Locate in Cummings Research Park Governor Riley Pledges \$50 Million in State Support

August 9, 2005

**FOR RELEASE AFTER 1:30 P.M.**

Huntsville, Ala. - Alabama officials gathered today to formally announce the location of the Hudson-Alpha Institute for Biotechnology (HAIB) in Cummings Research Park and the creation of a 120-acre biotechnology site to be named the CRP Biotech Campus. "With a \$50 million commitment from the state, we're gaining \$80 million in private investments that together will help create 900 direct new jobs. We are actively and aggressively positioning Alabama to become a world-wide leader in biotech research and one of the premier places in the nation for these high paying jobs that can't be exported overseas," said Governor Riley. "The door to greater economic opportunity is opening wider than ever before throughout our state," he added.

The governor noted successful biotech research requires access to cutting-edge technology, venture capital, technology parks, a strong public-private partnership and a well-educated workforce. "The Huntsville area has all those elements in place," he remarked. "However, this project is not just a Huntsville project. It is a boost for all of Alabama, and we will work to ensure that our long-term plans to foster the growth of high-tech and biotech research across the state continue," Riley acknowledged. HAIB's main building, which should be complete in the last quarter of 2007, will house the Institute and some associated biotech companies.

"We initially anticipate between five and six hundred jobs in the 2007 to 2008 period, and by the end of 2008 having an estimated combined annual payroll of \$37 million," noted Jim Hudson, president of HAIB. Within ten years he estimates employment on the CRP Biotech Campus, including HAIB and associated biotech companies, at close to 1,600 with a combined annual payroll of more than \$83 million.

Hudson outlined the three-fold mission of the Institute – biotechnology based research into why disease occurs and cost effective ways to treat it; commercializing biotechnology discoveries to stimulate economic development in Alabama; and inspiring Alabama's youth to seek careers in science by offering them access to cutting edge biotechnology courses through distance learning. He explained that Institute scientists would develop and use a genomics-based approach to accelerate discovery. "A practical application of understanding genetic variation is the ability to personalize medical treatments and lower the cost of health care," noted Hudson.

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U.S. Congressman Bud Cramer, who also took part in the announcement, remarked that scientists at HAIB, working hand-in-hand with their partners across the state, will help physicians move from one-size-fits-all drugs to medicines targeted for specific patients.

Cramer was enthusiastic in his support of the initiative. "It was exciting and gratifying to work with the governor and other leaders from across the state to help make this project a reality," he said. "This effort will increase Alabama's involvement in the advancement of the biotechnology frontier, creating a future for ourselves that we hadn't even imagined until now." Cramer reflected upon a recent tour of a biotechnology facility in Arizona that made him realize, "It's about creating and sustaining an environment that will nurture science and allow scientists to translate their work into valuable medical applications." He also was inspired by what he called the bold, innovative vision of the Hudson-Alpha Institute and the principals involved. "Their generosity and determination has led Alabama to this opportunity."

"The Institute will bring a new type of notoriety to Cummings Research Park and will enhance its reputation as a center of scientific research and discovery," declared Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer. Spencer is confident HAIB will bring ongoing, positive national exposure to the city. "By laying the foundation for this campus today, we are ensuring that future generations will benefit from the research that will be done there," she concluded.

Jim Link, chairman of the board for the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County, noted the announcement is a good example of how partnerships between the private and public sectors – local, state and federal – can raise the state's image and expectations for the future.

In his congratulatory comments, Mike Gillespie, chairman of the Madison County Commission, remarked, "The Hudson-Alpha Institute for Biotechnology is a major step in expanding the economic base in both the county and the state." He added the educational outreach initiatives which are part of HAIB's mission are key to supporting ongoing economic development.

Alabama State Senator Roger Bedford, a cancer survivor, remarked, "I have a personal interest in new developments in medical sciences. I am delighted to help facilitate this extraordinary initiative to use the relatively new science of genomics to improve our citizens' health, while at the same time creating jobs and providing the children of Alabama the opportunity to have advanced biotechnology courses."

Hudson extended the Institute's gratitude to a long list of individuals – Governor Riley, Congressman Cramer, Mayor Spencer, Chairman Gillespie, Senator Roger Bedford, Representative John Knight, Senator Tom Butler and the other members of the Madison County delegation, as well as local businessman, Peter Lowe – for their dedication and assistance in making this project come to life in Alabama.

The Hudson-Alpha Institute for Biotechnology is the fourth expansion or new building project announced for Cummings Research Park so far this year. Charlie Grainger, chairman of the city-appointed Cummings Research Park Board, hopes the advent of this major biotech development sparks even more economic development opportunities in the park. Groundbreaking ceremonies are anticipated for this fall.

More information on the Hudson-Alpha Institute can be found at [www.haib.org](http://www.haib.org)

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#### Resource Note

*The Human Genome Project (HGP), which began in 1990 and was completed in 2003, has significantly accelerated the pace of both the discovery of human genes and the development of new health care strategies based on knowledge of a gene's structure and function. The ultimate source of genetic variation is differences in DNA sequences. Some of those variations can be associated with disease, while some genetic variation can be positive. Consequently, understanding the genetic factors will lead to increased diagnosis, prevention and treatment of disease. A 1987 report that led to formal sanctioning of the HGP by one of the leading sponsors – the U.S. Department of Energy – proclaimed, "Knowledge of the human genome is as necessary to the continuing progress of medicine and other health sciences as knowledge of human anatomy has been for the present state of medicine."*