



BioTechCircle News®

May 2008

We're pleased to announce the addition of a new category, People Profiles, bringing the total number of major Articles categories to 19. Several new subcategories also have been added to the Articles database, including education and employment under the Biobusiness Management category. We hope these additions will help you locate more quickly information that is of particular importance to you.

Featured May articles:

Lab-on-a-Chip Made of Paper

By taking advantage of the natural movement of liquid through paper, researchers may have found a way to make microfluidics technology much cheaper. Disposable diagnostic tests could be simple and abundant enough for use in the developing world.

<http://www.technologyreview.com/Biotech/20771/>

Foldit

Foldit is a revolutionary new computer game enabling you to contribute to important scientific research. Describes the science behind Foldit and how your playing can contribute to combating HIV/AIDS, cancer and Alzheimer's diseases.

<http://fold.it/portal/info/science>

In this articles section: links to 65 free Web articles in 14 major categories.

The major categories are in alphabetical order and further subdivided to make it easy for you to locate news and developments in technology, the business and the markets in the life science areas of interest to you.

Note: if the links don't connect you directly, please copy and paste the entire URL into your web browser.

House Cleaning

Sophie L. Rovner

Chemical & Engineering News

26-May-08

When assigning credit for a citation to a particular author, institution, or journal, one of the toughest things to deal with is citation errors in the original publication. Discusses methods for coping with errors, ambiguity, and fudging of citations.

http://pubs.acs.org/cen/science/86/8621sci1_web.html

Subcategory: Clinical Trials

Cancer Research Group Releases Data

Catherine Arnst

Business Week

16-May-08

To curtail data leaks that can affect drugmakers' stock prices, the American Society of Clinical Oncology discloses trial outcomes before its annual meeting.

http://www.businessweek.com/technology/content/may2008/tc20080515_186920.htm

Subcategory: Government/ Approvals

An Underfunded FDA Fights Back

Jill Wechsler

BioPharm International

01-May-08

Discusses FDA's difficulty in meeting the high expectations of all its constituencies because of an ever-expanding portfolio of oversight and regulatory responsibilities, coupled with depleted resources and a decimated work force.

<http://biopharminternational.findpharma.com/biopharm/GMPs%2FValidation/ArticleStandard/Article/detail/512658>

Cancer's Cruel Economics

Catherine Arnst

Business Week

21-May-08

Researchers, companies, and patients complain that the FDA is using outmoded and overly rigorous methods for evaluating a new generation of cancer treatments, rather than doing everything possible to get better drugs to sick patients.

http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/08_22/b4086000467675.htm

Scientific Integrity On The Line

Cheryl Hogue

Chemical & Engineering News

05-May-08

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommends that Congress force EPA to suspend a policy that gives other federal agencies formal opportunities to delay and influence the content of the EPA's assessments.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/86/i18/8618notw5.html>

Subcategory: Privacy/ Records Management

Google, Microsoft Want to Own Personal Health Records Market

Clint Boulton

eWeek

20-May-08

Google Health and HealthVault are vying to help people manage their PHRs (personal health records) from a single portal. The companies are tackling the challenge in such different ways that they are poised to complement each other.

<http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Search/Google-Microsoft-and-the-Online-Health-Divide/>

CLINICAL TRIALS

Subcategory: Collaboration

Top Academic Medical Centers, Research Institutions, and Partners Gather at Velos eResearch Annual Meeting

Applied Clinical Trials

19-May-08

South Korea is deploying the Velos eResearch system in an unprecedented countrywide initiative that allows seamless clinical trials collaboration and information sharing among all South Korean cancer centers.

<http://appliedclinicaltrialsonline.findpharma.com/appliedclinicaltrials/eClinical/ArticleStandard/Article/detail/517741>

CONTRACT SERVICES

Subcategory: Biomanufacturing

Biomanufacturing Pendulum Swings Toward Overcapacity

Jim Miller

BioPharm International

01-May-08

The biomanufacturing building boom is merging with several industry trends to create a looming overcapacity situation, Miller warns, although It's too early to tell whether the overcapacity situation is a long- or short-term phenomenon.

<http://biopharminternational.findpharma.com/biopharm/ArticleStandard/Article/detail/512668>

Biopharma CMO Market Report

William Downey

Contract Pharma

01-May-08

The biopharmaceutical contract manufacturing market will continue to grow as a result of the increased demand for biologics coupled with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies' plans to increase the use of outside contractors, Downey predicts.

<http://www.contractpharma.com/articles/2008/05/biopharma-cmo-market-report>

Bio-Capacity in 2012

Eric S. Langer

Contract Pharma

01-May-08

Outsourcing to CMOs is increasing, regardless of expression system; trend looks like it will continue at least through 2012 according to the

results of the 5th Annual Report and Survey of Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing Capacity and Production.

<http://www.contractpharma.com/articles/2008/05/biocapacity-in-2012>

Paradigm Change in Bio-Manufacturing

Donald F. Gerson

Contract Pharma

01-May-08

Contract manufacturing of biopharmaceuticals promises to open the pipeline for new biopharmaceuticals, reduce the cost of manufacturing to the innovator and increase the availability of new and more varied products to health care providers and patients.

<http://www.contractpharma.com/articles/2008/05/paradigm-change-in-biomanufacturing>

Subcategory: Geographic focus

Sourcing From China

Jean-François Tremblay

Chemical & Engineering News

19-May-08

Despite recent problems, Chinese suppliers remain an essential source of fine chemicals and pharmaceuticals, observers say. The challenge is to implement the best methods for sourcing high-quality and reliable materials from China.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/coverstory/86/8620cover.html>

Japan's Contract Manufacturing Awakening

Kirsty Barnes

in-Pharma Technologist

13-May-08

2005 marked the real beginning of contract manufacturing in Japan, which had been held back by an overly-cautious regulatory environment and significant and unique quality and specification demands in the marketplace.

<http://www.in-pharmatechnologist.com/news/ng.asp?id=85183>

INDUSTRY

Subcategory: Disease Prevention

Nanotube Inflammation

Bethany Halford

Chemical & Engineering News

21-May-08

Rigid multiwalled carbon nanotubes (MWNTs) longer than 20 μm elicit the same toxic response in mice that asbestos does, research shows.

Scientists speculate that nanotubes might also have asbestos'

Devastating health effects.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/86/i21/8621notw4.html>

INVESTMENTS/ GOV. SUPPORT

Subcategory: Collaboration

EU Rolls Out New Medicines Initiative

Peter O'Donnell

Applied Clinical Trials

01-May-08

The EU's Innovative Medicines Initiative is going to address improved understanding of disease mechanisms, predictive pharmacology, the identification and validation of biomarkers, patient recruitment, and benefit-risk assessment.

<http://appliedclinicaltrialsonline.findpharma.com/appliedclinicaltrials/ArticleStandard/Article/detail/513702>

Subcategory: Epigenetics

Will Stars Align Again for Biotech Backer?

Todd Wallack

Boston Globe

29-Apr-08

Describes startups seeking to pioneer new drugs by harnessing epigenetics, research into ways genes can be switched on or off through chemicals without altering the underlying DNA sequence.

http://www.boston.com/business/healthcare/articles/2008/04/29/will_stars_align_again_for_biotech_backer/?page=1

Subcategory: Federal

Farm Bill Moves Ahead

Jeff Johnson

Chemical & Engineering News

26-May-08

Discusses U.S. farm bill proposing a wide range of subsidies and support to farmers, more spending on nutrition and conservation programs, \$1 billion in agricultural energy funding to encourage biofuels development from nonfood cellulosic feedstocks.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/86/i21/8621notw3.html>

PEOPLE PROFILES

Subcategory: Computing Systems

Pursuing the Next Level of Artificial Intelligence

JOHN MARKOFF

New York Times

03-May-08

Daphne Koller is creating a set of computational tools for artificial intelligence that can be used by scientists and engineers to do things like predict traffic jams, improve machine vision and understand the way cancer spreads.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/03/technology/03koller.html>

Subcategory: Oncology

AIDS "Dissident" Seeks Redemption... and a Cure for Cancer

Jeanne Lenze

Discover

15-May-08

Lenze reports on how and why biologist Peter Duesberg was all but banished from science for his views on HIV. Now aneuploidy, the basis of his theory about the cause of cancer, is winning serious attention.

http://discovermagazine.com/2008/jun/15-aids-dissident-seeks-redemption-and-a-cure-for-cancer/article_view

PERSONALIZED MEDICINE

Subcategory: Collaboration

23andMe: Avey Proposes New Personal Genomics Paradigm

Kevin Davies

Bio-IT World

13-May-08

Company foresees cancer survivors and adverse event patients sharing information online, looking for people with similar experiences, perhaps displaying badges on their Facebook pages when they contribute to future medical publications.

<http://www.bio-itworld.com/headlines/2008/05/avey-keynote-bitw-expo.html>

Subcategory: Genomics

You 2.0: Closing the Genetic Gap

David Ewing Duncan

Wired Science

07-May-08

As new, direct-to-consumer genetic testing sites begin delivering this fresh and sometimes incomplete DNA news to customers online, how will Big Medicine and government regulators react? And how will they shape what DNA testing sites look like?

http://www.wired.com/medtech/genetics/news/2008/05/portfolio_0407

Subcategory: Oncology

Matching Tumors to Drugs

Courtney Humphries

Technology Review

27-May-08

One of the first diseases expected to benefit from a personalized approach is cancer, which appears in many genetically distinct forms. Study offers initial demonstration that cancer treatment can be tailored to the genetic profile of a patient's tumor.

<http://www.technologyreview.com/Biotech/20822/>

PHARMACEUTICALS

Subcategory: Test - Misc.

Heparin Undone

Jyllian Kemsley

Chemical & Engineering News

12-May-08

<http://www.technologyreview.com/Biotech/20771/>

Subcategory: Proteomics

Research Shines Spotlight on a Key Player in the Dance of Chromosomes

University of Illinois

13-May-08

Researchers report on how a key motor protein, centromeric protein E (CENP-E), orchestrates chromosome movements at a critical stage of cell division.

<http://www.news.uiuc.edu/news/08/0513proteins.html>

RESEARCH ADVANCEMENTS

Subcategory: Epigenetics

Silencing of the lambs: Abuse in Childhood May Change the Way Genes Work

Economist

08-May-08

Although people are born with a complement of genes that they are stuck with for life, those genes can be switched on and off. Intervention for those suffering abuse in early life could be social, he says, or nutritional, or with drugs.

http://www.economist.com/science/displaystory.cfm?story_id=11326195

Subcategory: Immunology/ Infectious Diseases

New Discovery on Role of Vital Protein That Fights Meningitis

EurekaAlert!

06-May-08

A researcher has discovered how Properdin, a protein in the blood linked to defense against meningitis, plays a more vital role than previously understood. Advances medical understanding of how the body defends against disease and heals itself.

http://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2008-05/uol-ndo050608.php

Microfiltering Sepsis

Jennifer Chu

Technology Review

23-May-08

Scientists are developing a miniature filtration device that can rapidly pump blood out of the body, clearing it of infectious agents before delivering the blood back to the body. Severe sepsis hospitalizes nearly 750,000 patients in the U.S.

<http://www.technologyreview.com/Biotech/20816/>

Subcategory: Oncology

Proteins Locate and Repair Genetic Material

Drug Discovery & Development

01-May-08

Scientists determined the crystal structures (showing the 3-D framework of atoms) of 2 related DNA-repair proteins bound to

double-stranded DNA: a bacterial protein called AlkB, and a corresponding human protein, ABH2. May help improve cancer treatment.
<http://www.dddmag.com/News-Proteins-Locate-and-Repair-Genetic-Material.aspx>

Subcategory: Ophthalmology

Altered Viruses Reversed Progressive Blindness, Studies Say

Rick Weiss Washington Post 28-Apr-08

Three young adults barely able to see because of a congenital and progressive form of blindness have regained modest amounts of vision after getting genetically engineered viruses injected into their eyes.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/27/AR2008042702105.html>

RESEARCH TOOLS

Subcategory: Bioterrorism

Analytical Chemistry Comes To The Fore

Jyllian Kemsley Chemical & Engineering News 12-May-08

The question increasingly facing drug and food manufacturers and regulatory agencies is how to guard against smart, chemically savvy saboteurs intent on thwarting existing testing protocols for preventing and detecting contamination of drugs, food.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/science/86/8619sci1.html>

Subcategory: Computing Systems

Up From Desktops

Rick Mullin Chemical & Engineering News 26-May-08

Personal computing giants Microsoft, Dell, and Google are moving beyond their traditional roles of providing desktop tools to researchers in drug discovery and development, introducing products designed to enable collaborative research.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/coverstory/86/8621cover.html>

Adding Informatics to HCS

Mike May, PhD Drug Discovery & Development 01-May-08

In high content screening (HCS), scientists dig out data with informatics. Describes a system that allows Merck, other companies to easily mine, manage, and share data from high content screening across relevant groups.

<http://www.dddmag.com/Article-Adding-Informatics-to-HCS.aspx>

Biology's Next Breakthroughs

Katherine Bourzac Technology Review 02-May-08

Biotech pioneer Leroy Hood explains how systems biology will impact medicine. Systems biologists, often using computer models, try to understand how genes, proteins, cells, and tissues interact to create complex organisms.

<http://www.technologyreview.com/Biotech/20709/>

Subcategory: Gene Sequences

DNA Sequencing in a Snap

Emily Singer

Technology Review

19-May-08

A novel sequencing technology being developed allows scientists to take photographs of the sequence of a DNA molecule. Will allow scientists to read long stretches of DNA, enabling the sequencing of hard-to-read areas.

<http://www.technologyreview.com/Biotech/20790/>

Subcategory: Genome Sequence

Superbug Genome Sequenced

University of Bristol

07-May-08

The genome of a newly-emerging superbug, commonly known as Steno, has just been sequenced. Understanding the genome of this bacterium will help researchers discover how to deal with this particularly resistant organisms.

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/news/2008/212017945300.html>

Subcategory: Imaging

Gene Regulation Visualized In Living Cells

Bioscience Technology

26-May-08

Applied advanced imaging methods, computer simulations allow scientists to glance at the regulation of a cancer-related gene in a living cell, shedding new light on the means by which living cells regulate gene activity.

<http://www.biosciencetechnology.com/ShowPR~PUBCODE~090~ACCT~9000000100~ISSUE~0805~RELTYPE~RLSN~PRODCODE~00000000~PRODLETT~AV.html>

Sugars Imaged In Live Animals

Stu Borman

Chemical & Engineering News

05-May-08

A new technique, based on cell-friendly fluorescent-labeling chemistry, is said to provide a 'global positioning system' for tracking carbohydrates through organisms to help more closely probe the functional roles of carbohydrates during development.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/86/i18/8618notw1.html>

Doctor On Call

Economist

15-May-08

Reports on a cheap attachment to turn the digital camera on many of today's mobile phones into a microscope. Called a CellScope, it can show individual white and red blood cells. Could apply to remote diagnosis and monitoring.

http://www.economist.com/science/displaystory.cfm?story_id=11367989

Looking into Live Cells at Nanoscale Resolution

Katherine Bourzac

Technology Review

20-May-08

A super-high-resolution 3-D light microscope will allow biologists to watch the workings of the tiniest organelles and even individual clusters of proteins in living cells. Potential important applications in dissecting exactly how drugs impact cells.

<http://www.technologyreview.com/Biotech/20803/>

Subcategory: Materials

Faster 3D Test Method for Biomaterials

Drug Discovery & Development

01-May-08

A novel, three-dimensional (3D) screening method for analyzing interactions between cells and new biomaterials could cut initial search times by more than half, enabling rapid assessment of the biocompatibility and other properties of materials.

<http://www.ddmag.com/News-Faster-3D-Test-Method-for-Biomaterials.aspx>

STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS

Subcategory: Collaboration

Lilly's Science Grid Goes Open Source

Kevin Davies

Bio-IT World

16-May-08

Eli Lilly has made its Discovery IT platform – known internally as the Lilly Science Grid (LSG) – open source. The initiative could spark new interest within the biopharma community for sharing pre-competitive content and software.

<http://www.bio-itworld.com/headlines/2008/05/lilly-grid-goes-open-source.html>

Subcategory: M&A Activities

DSM Invests In Medical Polymers

Melody Voith

Chemical & Engineering News

05-May-08

Dutch firm DSM has identified biomedical materials as an important growth area and is planning to acquire Polymer Technology Group (PTG), a privately held maker of biomedical polymers.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/86/i18/8618notw4.html>

Subcategory: Oncology

Subcategory: Neurology

All On the Mind

Economist

22-May-08

By creating compounds that benefit the sick, researchers are offering a mental boost to the healthy, too. Such drugs, known as cognition enhancers, work on the neural processes that underlie such mental activities as attention, perception, learning.

http://www.economist.com/science/displaystory.cfm?story_id=11402761

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