

## Oregon Bioscience Association (OBA) Cluster Submission

- **Key Cluster Participants:** Oregon bioscience companies, representing medical devices, research and development, and pharmaceutical and reagent firms. Partners include IBM Life Sciences, Preston Gates Ellis LLP, OHSU, OECDD, SAO, Oregon Science and Technology Partnership (OSTP), & Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS).
- **Cluster Contact:** Mary Erichsen Gimigliano, IBM Healthcare and Life Sciences (OBA 2006 Chair) 503-708-6040, [erichsen@us.ibm.com](mailto:erichsen@us.ibm.com)
- **Geographic Location:** Portland, OR, serving statewide bioscience interests & companies
- **Structure:** OBA is a non-profit trade association, staffed by an Executive Director.
- **Mission:** Promote the growth and quality of the biotech industry in the Oregon and ensure achievement of its full economic and social potential. Purposes include: Industry promotion; Networking, collaboration, and partnering; Informing/partnering with government agencies regarding industry priorities and initiatives.
- **Background:** The OBA was organized in 1989 as the Bioforum Foundation. The organization started doing business as the Oregon Bioscience Association in 2000. OBA has expanded from a focus on biotechnology to include a comprehensive spectrum of bioscience companies and service providers with a current membership of 53.

### Perception of Oregon's Overall Business Climate

*Best Ranking:* Recreation, Environmental Quality, Quality Communities, Public Safety

*Worst Ranking:* K-12 Education, Personal Taxes, Technical Training, Infrastructure

**Top Core OBP Initiative Priorities:** Expand Oregon's capacity for economic innovation; Achieve a higher return of investment in K-12 education; Improve healthcare and control its costs; Improve public finance and services; Simplify and streamline regulation and permitting.

### Cluster Action Ideas

1. Increase access to capital for bioscience research and business
  - a. Fully fund the Oregon Commercialized Research Fund (SB 838) to make grants and loans to Oregon emerging businesses for proof of concept, development of intellectual property and related expenses.
  - b. Task the Oregon Innovation Council/OECDD with exploration of specific bioscience incentives, referenced in the full OBP/OBA document.
  - c. Provide bioscience & healthcare regulatory business management education and training.
2. Seek resources from the Governor's Strategic Workforce Training Fund, and state Workforce Response Teams, for regulatory/FDA training, as identified in the April 2005 OECDD/PCC industry survey.
  - a. Support OHSU's initiative to develop a full-scale graduate program in the Management of Health Care and Bioscience.
  - b. Develop methods to deliver healthcare/bioscience training on a statewide basis.
3. Improve bioscience industry marketing out of state.
4. Develop an Oregon Health Information Infrastructure to improve the safety, efficiency, & quality of healthcare and stimulate healthcare IT industry growth.