



For Immediate Release

Contact: Anne Wein, Executive Director

434.293.5678

***Southeast BIO (SEBIO) Accepting Applications for
Investor Forum 2006***

2005 Participants Attracted \$31 Million Since December

Charlottesville, VA, May 26, 2006 — With its 2005 conference participants having raised more than \$31 million since the last Forum in December 2005, Southeast BIO (SEBIO) is now accepting early-stage and presenting company applications for its eighth annual Southeastern BIO Investor Forum 2006 set for November 2006.

To be held in Atlanta at the InterContinental Buckhead Hotel November 8-10, the SEBIO Investor Forum is expected to attract more than 500 industry participants, including investors from the Southeast and from across the nation. The deadline for both early-stage and presenting companies to apply is July 7.

More than 100 companies are expected to apply for the 32 slots available for 16 presenting and 16 early-stage companies. As many as 150 investors are also expected in Atlanta.

“The call for applications is extremely important so these leading entrepreneurs have an opportunity to present to the excellent group of national and regional investors we fully expect to have on hand,” said Will Brooke, chairman of Southeast BIO and managing director of Harbert Venture Partners in Birmingham, Alabama.

Brooke added, “Among last year’s attendees in Charleston, S.C, we are delighted to report that Alveolus (Charlotte, N.C.), Argolyn (Charleston, S.C.), AxoGen (Gainesville, Fla.) and Metabolon (Durham, N.C.) have raised \$31 million. That’s the kind of performances we’ve come to expect from our participating companies.”

Metabolon Chief Executive Officer John Ryals commented, “We raised \$8 million in a Series B round and there is no question that our attendance at the Investor Forum was beneficial to us.”

Anne Wein, SEBIO Executive Director, said of the application process, “The applications come in electronically so we always know where we stand as far as a good cross-section of stage and focus. We showcase the very best assortment of companies possible to our investors.”

In announcing the call for applications, Wein also noted the creation of a new Investor Forum website, where both the forum registration and opportunities for sponsorship are detailed.

The Southeastern BIO Investor Forum is an annual event of Southeast BIO, a regional nonprofit organization that fosters the growth of the life sciences industries in the Southeastern United States from its headquarters in Charlottesville. The Forum was first held in 1999; SEBIO presenters have raised more than \$1.2 billion in venture capital funding and \$500 million in public offering proceeds since the inaugural conference.

SEBIO organizes efforts that promote entrepreneurship and bring together companies, investors, universities, and support organizations active in the development of technology. The target region of SEBIO includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. However, interested companies from other states are invited to apply to present at SEBIO 2006.

For more information, go to www.sebio.org/investorforum/2006 or e-mail info@sebio.org.

###