



From the desk of

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California Life Science Alliance Update Tevi Troy's Recent Visit to Southern California

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SoCalBio Members and Friends:

On August 7, the California Life Science Alliance -- a partnership between California's regional trade associations SoCalBio, BIOCOM and BayBio -- hosted a meeting with Mr. Tevi Troy (photo right), Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, for an informal discussion regarding issues affecting our industry including device user fee, reimbursement, comparative effectiveness, and medical device pre-emption.

This meeting was held at BIOCOM's office in San Diego and included about 15 Southern California participants. In addition to myself as the representative of the SoCalBio Board of Directors, a number of Los Angeles/Orange County companies, such as Tensormed and Verity Associates, were in attendance.

Mr. Troy gave an update of his view of the future of medicine which, he believed, centered around personalized health care. He told us about a report regarding this issue published by HHS in September of 2007. You can access this report online at: <http://www.hhs.gov/myhealthcare/news/phc-report.pdf>.

The gist of this approach is that genotyping is expected to take a more central role in determining which treatments are appropriate for an individual patient.

Mr. Troy called on industry to help educate the public that it was not possible to produce drugs or devices with 100% safety profile. He blamed congress' pressure for 'perfectly safe' drugs for the record low FDA drug approvals and felt that industry could play a larger role in helping to educate the public in this regard.

The meeting also raised a number of issues centered around biotech deals not getting done because of the high level of uncertainty with FDA and CMS. Participants asked for greater guidance from the agencies specifying requirements for approval to decrease the risks associated with unknown regulatory and reimbursement hurdles.

This meeting was -- in summary -- an intimate discussion with a very senior government official that I'm sure was just the beginning of the kind of relationships SoCalBio's new partnership with the California sister organizations, BIOCOM and BayBIO, will bring to the life science community in our region.

Please let us know your comments by blogging at the newly created "SoCalBio Community of Innovators" Bulletin Board at: <http://www.socalbio.org/community/>.

We hope to see you at the SoCalBio Investor Conference on September 19: <http://www.socalbio.org/SoCalBio2008/home08.htm>

Sincerely,

Rob
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