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Three NCBIO members serving on National BIO Committees

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Research Triangle Park, NC -- NCBIO members Dr. Christy L. Shaffer, President and CEO of Inspire Pharmaceuticals and Dr. J. Donald deBethizy, President and CEO of Targacept, Inc., have been elected to the Emerging Companies Section Governing Body of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO). In addition, Mr. Peter Young, President and CEO of AlphaVax will serve another term on the BIO Board of Directors. Young serves as Chairman of NCBIO and deBethizy serves on NCBIO's Executive Committee.

The Emerging Companies Section serves the needs of small to medium size BIO member companies most of which do not yet have major products approved and on the market. This section has its own governing body and fills one-third of the seats on the board of directors. This section operates to bring members' opinions to bear on major issues affecting smaller companies, and to construct programs to enhance their development.

"We're extremely proud to have CEOs from three of North Carolina's most successful bioscience companies serving on the BIO board and committees," said NCBIO President Sam Taylor. "The election of these individuals reflects the depth and strength of North Carolina's growing bioscience community."

BIO represents more than 1,100 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and related organizations across the United States and 31 other nations. BIO members are involved in the research and development of healthcare, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology products.

Dr. deBethizy has served as President and CEO of Winston-Salem-based Targacept since its spin-out from R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company in August 2000. Targacept is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company engaged in the design, discovery and development of a new class of drugs to treat central nervous system diseases and disorders by selectively targeting neuronal nicotinic receptors, or NNRs. Targacept completed its initial public offering in April 2006.

Dr. Shaffer joined Inspire as the first full-time employee from Burroughs Wellcome in 1995 as Director of Clinical and was appointed rapidly to VP of Development, Chief Operating Officer and, in 1998, President and Chief Executive Officer and Board member. Under Dr. Shaffer's tenure, Inspire became a publicly traded company in 2000 and has grown to a base of 160 employees, including a specialty sales force calling on ophthalmologists, optometrists and allergists. Dr. Shaffer is a former member of the NCBIO Board of Directors.

Young has 25 years of experience in the global pharmaceutical industry, including senior commercial, general management, and development positions at Abbott International and Glaxo Wellcome. Young has been President and CEO of AlphaVax since 1999. He is in the second year of his term as Chairman of NCBIO.

NCBIO is the trade association for North Carolina's bioscience industry with more than 170 members. The Organization supports the growth of its member companies and advocates for state, local and national local public policy allowing the industry to fulfill its extraordinary promise for improved quality of life and economic opportunity. For more information, go to www.ncbioscience.org.

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