

**BIOTECH FACILITIES**

# NEW JERSEY OPENS BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER

PISCATAWAY, N.J.—“We are in a new world, where the advances in medicine and biotechnology are unfolding new possibilities and new hopes with every passing day. Many of those hopes are going to be born right here in this building. When we read of the revolutions in biotechnology, this center’s name will be part of

that history.”

That was how New Jersey Governor Jim Florio opened dedication ceremonies for the new \$35 million, 112,000-square-foot Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine (CABM) here.

When fully staffed, the facility will house 180 researchers under the di-

rection of 18 principal investigators—making the center one of the largest of the scores of state biotechnology initiatives launched in this country over the past decade. The *Directory of Biotechnology Centers 1990* (published last May by the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, Research Triangle Park) lists CABM’s total budget at \$12.4 million—making it the best-supported among the 70 state biotech centers listed. (The combined budgets of the six University of Maryland biotech institutes, however, total \$21 million.) The center itself quotes its 1990-1991 operating budget at \$8.4 million.

All of the speakers present at the dedication—notably Florio, P. Roy Vagelos (chief executive of nearby Merck and chairman of CABM’s advisory board), and Aaron Shatkin (director of CABM)—noted that the center is conceived of as a unique pure-research collaboration among universities, government, and industry: CABM is an academic joint venture between Rutgers University and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of the State of New Jersey. And the center has made abundant use of the state’s acknowledged pharmaceutical strength: in addition to Vagelos, executives of Johnson & Johnson, Hoffmann-La Roche, and Pharmacia LKB (all New Jersey-based) sit on CABM’s scientific advisory board, and companies like Sandoz, CIBA-Geigy, Lederle, Schering-Plough, SmithKline Beecham, and Bristol Myers Squibb have headquarters or major facilities nearby.

Ironically, the dedication of the facility (conceived and begun under the previous governor, Thomas Kean) came as Florio was under increasing fire from factions throughout the state for levying massive tax increases while redistributing budgets for education—a move which has left some of the state’s premiere public schools and institutions gasping for cash.

At the dedication, Florio called the state’s investment of \$90 million in high-technology research—most of it split between CABM and Princeton’s Lewis Thomas Center—an investment in the future.

Vagelos echoed the governor, noting that this substantial investment comes at a time when the U.S. economy is sputtering and the state’s economy needed “some tough medicine.” Still, he said, the arguments for a substantial biomedical research facility are compelling.

—Douglas McCormick



## Make **TEKTAGEN** Your Center for Safety Testing

Tektagen is more than just testing. We are independent QA experts with a unique mixture of technological know-how in safety testing of biologicals and precise awareness of regulatory compliance issues. Our MWCB characterizations and mammalian virus testing produce accurate, reliable results. And Tektagen’s continued relations with federal regulatory agencies can help make your process development efforts more efficient.

- ▲ Cell certification
- ▲ Mycoplasma
- ▲ Bioanalytical testing
- ▲ Retrovirus
- ▲ DNA testing
- ▲ Adventitious agent testing

Our services also include a complete line of bioanalytical testing.

**CALL CLIENT SERVICES 800-648-6682**

**TEKTAGEN**

Tektagen, Inc.  
358 Technology Drive  
Malvern, PA 19355

Write in No. 310 on Reader Service Card  
**See Us At BioTech USA, Booth #209**