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GOVERNOR EHRLICH ANNOUNCES APPROVAL OF FINANCING FOR UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BIOTECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

*Investment will support workforce training program designed to meet the diverse needs
of the State's biopharmaceutical manufacturing industry*

ANNAPOLIS, MD (June 8, 2006) – Continuing his commitment to support and grow Maryland's biotechnology industry, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., announced the General Assembly's Legislative Policy Committee approval of a \$1.6 million investment for the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute (UMBI). The funds, coming from the State's Sunny Day Fund and the Governor's nanotechnology initiative, will be used to expand UMBI's Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) Training and Biomanufacturing Program at the CARB II facility in Shady Grove to meet the diverse needs of Maryland's biopharmaceutical manufacturing industry.

"Maryland is currently home to more than 350 biotechnology companies and as many of these companies move from the research and development phase to clinical trials there is an increased need for skilled technicians," said Governor Ehrlich. "This investment in our biotechnology workforce is a part of our long-term strategic plan to develop strong linkages between scientists in the business, academic and government communities."

The University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute (UMBI), established in 1985 by the State of Maryland, is a center of intensive study into the basic science of biotechnology and its application to human health, the marine environment, agriculture, and protein engineering/structural biology. Its mission is to conduct groundbreaking research in key areas of biotechnology, to make fundamental discoveries, generate innovative solutions to practical problems, and develop new technologies for commercial application. The requested Sunny Day funds will enable UMBI to provide more capacity for contract manufacturing in cell culture, fermentation and biopharmaceutical production much sooner, and will ensure the availability of state-of-the-art equipment in workforce training

programs. The two main program areas that will be expanded are cell culture and nanotechnology.

“Support from the Sunny Day Fund and the Governor’s nanotechnology initiative will dramatically accelerate expansion of our capabilities to provide manufacture of cell culture derived biological products suitable for early phase clinical trials. Additionally, a greater variety of state-of-the-art equipment will be available to enhance Maryland’s Biomanufacturing workforce training programs,” said Dr. Daniel Kuebbing, Director of UMBI’s GMP Training and Biomanufacturing Program.

Maryland’s biotechnology sector is maturing, and many of its companies are moving from the research and development phase to clinical trials with their products. These companies face the critical challenge of manufacturing biopharmaceuticals for use in clinical trials under extensive FDA regulations using current Good Manufacturing Practices. In response to these challenges, UMBI has initiated a program that addresses two critical issues for Maryland’s biopharmaceutical manufacturing sector: the need for affordable contract manufacturing services to produce biologics for preclinical studies and early phase clinical trials, and the need to provide a variety of training programs to meet the diverse needs of the growing workforce in biopharmaceutical manufacturing. Utilizing its new facilities located on the Shady Grove campus in the heart of Maryland’s I-270 technology corridor, UMBI has an unprecedented opportunity to provide new capabilities for biotechnology companies in Maryland, and at the same time provide critically needed technical training for the growing workforce in biomanufacturing.

“UMBI’s biomanufacturing training program at the CARB II facility is a great resource for the State. The training scientists receive in state-of-the-art manufacture of biological pharmaceuticals is well suited to meet the needs of the many and expanding biotechnology businesses in the region,” said Craig Rosen, Chairman and Chief Scientific Officer, CoGenesys, a biopharmaceutical company located in Rockville, Maryland.

The Sunny Day Fund, also known as the Economic Development Opportunities Fund, was created in 1988 and is administered by the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development. The Sunny Day Fund provides financial assistance to projects that have the potential to create extraordinary economic development opportunities.

“By providing significant and relevant infrastructure for biopharmaceutical manufacturing and training, we are making a critical investment in the State’s existing biotechnology companies,” said Aris Melissaratos, Secretary of Business and Economic Development. “Thanks to the support of Governor Ehrlich and the Maryland General Assembly, Maryland will remain competitive in the fast-paced biotechnology industry sector.”