Community Colleges and the California Biotechnology Industry

Alexion Antibody Technologies, Inc.

Presenter: Martha A. Wild, Ph.D.

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Who We Are

- R&D arm of Alexion Pharmaceuticals
  - Located in Cheshire, CT
  - Approximately 200 employees
- Located in Sorrento Valley
- Approximately 30 employees

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What We Do

- Generate therapeutic antibodies
  - Oncology
  - Hematology
  - Cardiovascular disease
  - Autoimmunity
  - Biodefense
- Phase III clinical trials underway

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Types of Positions at AAT

- Science-related
  - Lab services
  - Research Associate
  - Scientist
  - Safety
- Non-science related
  - Receptionist
  - Accountant
  - Administrative Aide
  - Intellectual Property (Patent Liaison or Agent)
  - Information Technology

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Community College Biotech Program Benefits to Students

- Hands on experience
- Theoretical background
- Math practice/refresher
- Familiarity with current technologies
  - e.g. FACS
- Current references from program teachers and administrators

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Community College Program Benefits to Biotech

- Skilled entry level (or higher) employees
- Hands on experience with current techniques
- Focused individuals who know what they want and what the job requires
- Biotech industry maturing, requires specialized training in:
  - Quality assurance
  - Manufacturing
  - Quality control
  - GMP/GLP

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Keeping Current

- Bioprocessing Program at Mira Costa College
  - As mentioned, manufacturing and related technologies (bioreactors, process development)
  - Protein purification techniques
- Needed: High throughput technology program
  - Molecular biology C.C. background required
  - Operators needed
  - Script programming a plus
  - Expensive technology for community college

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Our Own Experience

- Mary Jean Nolan hired entry level
  - Promoted three times
  - Presently Research Associate II
  - Also Safety Officer for AAT
    - Includes representation on IRB and IBC committees
- Another employee has taken CC courses to increase skill level, recently promoted
- Two employees involved in teaching modules
- I learned FACS analysis

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