

## MicroBioLogics Hires PhD Researcher to Propel Growth

MicroBioLogics Inc. prepares to expand its research and production capabilities with the recent addition of a researcher with a doctorate degree in biochemistry and molecular biology.

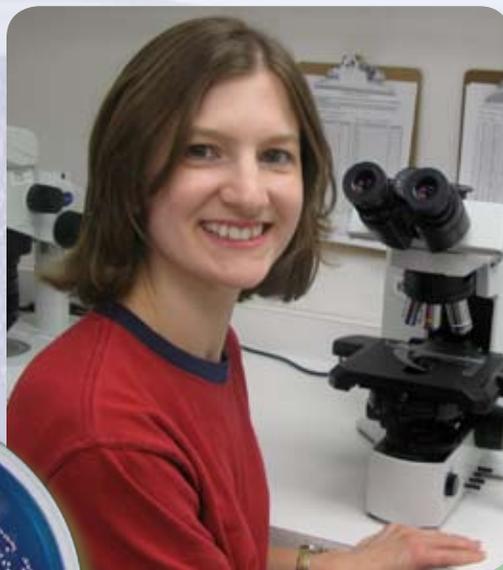
Karla Fjeld, a graduate of the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University, returned to Central Minnesota this spring to join the international distributor as an industrial quality control technologist and later this year will lead a research development team.

In the past, MicroBioLogics solely depended on the companies it receives its collections from to provide this high-level technical knowledge. "We now have the opportunity to have this level of expertise in our research and laboratory facility," MicroBioLogics CEO Robert Coborn said.

By reducing its reliance on outside advisors, the company can further protect its proprietary information, enhance the development of its line of collections and increase its production capacity.

MicroBioLogics specializes in manufacturing lyophilized microorganism preparations for quality control and diagnostic testing. It works with 130 qualified distributors in 100 countries and works primarily in the clinical, food, pharmaceutical and environmental industries.

Fjeld received her PhD from Michigan State



Karla Fjeld joins MicroBioLogics.

University. She has expertise in molecular biology, biochemistry and computational tools, and has a U.S. patent pending.

A desire to move closer to her family in Central Minnesota led her to explore opportunities at MicroBioLogics. She was drawn to the company's stability, strong reputation and growth potential. "It's a very good company to work for," she said. "Everyone is really nice and they treat their employees very well."

MicroBioLogics has posted double-digit sales growth for the past five years and now employs 50 people. With a recent investment from Granite Equity Partners in St. Cloud, the company expects to double its business in the next five years. Expanding its research capabilities will play a key role in fueling that future growth, Coborn said. "We have an obligation to our end-user customers to stay at the top of technology and ensure we're providing the best quality product," he said.



## SCSU Prepares To Attract S.T.E.M. Workforce

Central Minnesota is quickly achieving a prime position in the national and global marketplace of the science, technology, engineering and math (S.T.E.M.) industries. This spring St. Cloud State University received \$900,000 in state bonding to jumpstart the planning process for a new, state-of-the-art science and engineering building.

The project once was in jeopardy of being substantially cut, but local business and economic development leaders and science alumni helped to lobby MnSCU officials and legislators on the need to fund the entire project. University and city officials expect this facility and its cutting edge equipment to draw a larger STEM workforce to Central Minnesota, attract more biotechnology businesses to the area and stimulate the local economy.

The new 100,000-square-foot building will serve mainly upper division and graduate students and is designed to promote interdisciplinary cooperation and intermingling of students and faculty. The facility will consist mainly of laboratories and classrooms and will take the current place of the 801 Building.

A total project cost of \$42 million will come mainly from state funds, with St. Cloud State raising \$2 million on its own. The university expects to start construction in 2011.



# Science Initiative

OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA

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## SICM Core Team

### CentraCare Health System

-David Borgert

### CentraCare Health System

-John Frobenius (Retired)

### College of Saint Benedict

-Frank Rioux

### Granite Equity Partners

-Pat Edeburn

### Gray Plant Mooty

-Stan Weinberger

### Initiative Foundation

-John Kaliszewski

### MedTech Leadership Inc.

-Brian Rembish

### Rasmussen College

-Pam McIntosh

### Stearns-Benton Employment & Training Council

-Kathy Zavala

### St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce

-Teresa Bohnen

### St. Cloud Area Economic Development Partnership

-Henry Fischer

### St. Cloud Area Economic Development Partnership

-Dorothy Kantor

### St. Cloud Area Economic Development Partnership

-Tom Moore

### St. Cloud State University

-David DeGroot

### St. Cloud State University

-Bruce Jacobson

### St. Cloud Technical College

-Jonathan Parker

### St. Cloud Technical College

-Jeremy Reisinger

## Recruitment Efforts Ramp Up

Since its inception, the Science Initiative of Central Minnesota has been dedicated to strengthening the region's position to attract science-related businesses and aid in recruitment efforts. Recently, SICM ramped up its efforts to promote the region and assist bioscience businesses in expanding here by creating a Business Recruitment Committee.

Members meet monthly to assess opportunities, connect with Minnesota science-based businesses looking to expand and develop incentive packages to encourage firms to start or expand in Central Minnesota.

Among the most promising prospects includes a bioscience company that is looking for a rural location to locate a new production facility. They are in the midst of clinical trials and will decide later this year on the location

of the new facility. The SICM team is working diligently to convince them that central Minnesota is the place they should select.

The company plans to acquire land once it completes its second phase of clinical trials in July. The facility would become operational by next year.

The expansion would represent a capital investment of between \$17 million and \$23 million. The company would bring up to 124 jobs to the region with an average annual salary of \$60,000.

Help us make Central Minnesota a destination for booming bioscience businesses. Share any business prospects with us by emailing Tom Moore at [t.moore@scapartnership.com](mailto:t.moore@scapartnership.com) or calling (320)656-3815.

## Inside BIO '08

Minnesota Bioscience Leaders, including representatives from the Science Initiative of Central Minnesota, unveiled a new Minnesota Pavilion at the BIO' 08 Convention June 17-20 in San Diego, Calif. The International BIO Convention is the world's largest gathering within the biotechnology industry. It drew more than 2,200 companies and 23,000 people worldwide.

The Minnesota Pavilion represented 35 companies and organizations from

throughout the state. The 1,000-square-foot display provided bio stations for specific sectors, a presentation area and a timeline of Minnesota Innovations. DCI Inc., based in St. Cloud, was among the featured presenters.

The pavilion also showcased a new Internet-based mapping tool aimed at highlighting the state's bioscience-related resources. With the help of SICM, the 14-county Central Minnesota area became among the first regions to populate the map with comprehensive company data.



## Top Executives Guide Regulatory Affairs Program

St. Cloud State University has recruited the state's foremost regulatory affairs executives to serve on the advisory board for its Regulatory Affairs and Services graduate program. The board's 11 members come from leading medical device companies such as Medtronic and 3M and bring extensive experience and expertise in the industry. These advisory board members are:

**David Cannistraci**, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs — ev3 Inc., Peripheral Vascular Division

**Suzanne Danielson**, Director of Regulatory Affairs and Quality — 3M Medical Division

**Steve C. de Baca**, Vice President of Quality — Boston Scientific

**Mark Duval**, Attorney — DuVal & Associates, P.A.

**Larry Getlin**, Senior Vice President — American Medical Systems

**Timothy Kappers**, Vice President of Regulatory & Clinical Affairs — Orasi Medical Inc.

**Debra Kridner**, Former Vice President of Regulatory Affairs — St. Jude Medical

**Michael Morton**, Senior Director of Regulatory Affairs — Medtronic

**Steve Norsted**, President and CEO — Regulatory and Clinical Research Institute Inc.

**Brian Rembish**, President — MedTech Leadership, Inc.

**Chuck Swanson** (RAS Program Director), Vice President of Regulatory Affairs (retired) — Medtronic

## Leading Expert Charts Success of RAS Program

The chance to help develop a first-of-its-kind regulatory affairs masters program led Charles Swanson to dedicate part of his retirement to charting its path for success. Swanson, recognized worldwide as a leading expert in medical device regulatory affairs, joined St. Cloud State University earlier this year as director of its new Master of Science in Regulatory Affairs and Services Program.

"It's an opportunity for me to pay back what I've learned and continue to advance the profession," Swanson said.

During nearly 30 years of leading regulatory affairs at Minneapolis-based Medtronic, Swanson played an influential role in both the establishment of government policies in this area and many of the guidelines and procedures in use today by the FDA.

As director of St. Cloud State's MS-RAS, he is charting the direction and continued evolution of the program that welcomed its first cohort of students last fall.



"The need for this program is tremendous," said Swanson, who had to train his own regulatory affairs team at Medtronic. "FDA regulations have been growing steadily. All companies in the medical device and pharmaceutical industries need good, qualified regulatory professionals and there just aren't enough of them."

Two students in the first cohort already have advanced into regulatory affairs positions before even finishing their first year of classes. "(The companies) already recognize the potential is there," he said. "These graduates are going to be snatched up."

Along with developing and refining the curriculum, Swanson manages the delivery of the program and has helped attract some of the industry's leading experts as adjunct instructors and advisory board members. "These are pros and they are giving their trade secrets to the students coming in," Swanson said.

For the next year, Swanson will focus on welcoming the second cohort of students, implementing all of the program's courses and finding ways to further improve the quality of the training. He hopes to expand the program in coming years to include elective courses and allow students to specialize in regulatory, reimbursement or clinical.

The next cohort of classes will begin this fall. To learn more, visit [www.msras.com](http://www.msras.com).

## Join us for *SICM* After Hours

*Hosted with LifeScience Alley*

**What:** Leading Regulatory Affairs Expert and RAS Program Director Chuck Swanson will speak about the growth of St. Cloud State University's masters program in regulatory affairs and services and the vast changes in the regulatory process for bioscience companies.

**When:** 4:30-6:30 p.m. Sept. 10th

**Where:** Gray Plant Mooty, St. Cloud

**Register:** Email

[d.kantor@scapartnership.com](mailto:d.kantor@scapartnership.com) or call (320) 252-2177.

# SAVE the DATE...

## Sept. 10

4:30-6:30 p.m.

**Science Initiative After Hours,**  
hosted with LifeScience Alley  
Gray Plant Mooty, St. Cloud

## Sept. 11

7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

**The Partnership's Annual  
Real Estate Seminar,  
Tour & Golf Outing**  
Eagle Trace Golfer's Club,  
Clearwater

## Sept. 16

11 a.m.-5 p.m.

**St. Cloud Area Job Fair**  
St. Cloud Civic Center, St. Cloud



## World Leader in Stainless Steel Tank Manufacturing Thrives in St. Cloud

DCI Inc., an employee-owned company, is a world leader in the manufacturing and servicing of stainless steel storage and processing tanks. Since 1955, the St. Cloud-based company has served the food, dairy, beverage, pharmaceutical, chemical and cosmetic industries, through design and fabrication services.

DCI offers ASME code certification, CRN registration, mechanical and electro-polished product contact surfaces, Clean-in-Place (CIP) spray ball testing with required validation/documentation, mixers/agitators designed for specific applications, Computer-Aided Design (CAD), as well as many other services.



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