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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WINNER OF EARLY-STAGE COMPANY SHOOTOUT NAMED  
SEBIO ANNOUNCES SUCCESS OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL  
SOUTHEASTERN BIO INVESTOR FORUM**

**Charlottesville, VA November 16, 2006** – An Atlanta company emerged as the winner of the Early-Stage Shootout at the 2006 Southeastern BIO Investor Forum, which took place earlier in November at the InterContinental Buckhead Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia.

The winner, Transfusion & Transplantation Technologies, Inc. (3Ti), a spin-out from Emory University, focuses on the design, patenting, and licensing of the next generation of specialized automated multianalyzers and other instrumentation for use in blood banks and blood centers.

Southeast BIO (SEBIO) officials reported that 430 people attended the Eighth Annual Southeastern BIO Investor Forum, one of the largest turnouts in the Forum's history. The Forum, designed to stimulate venture investment, is the Southeast's premier annual life sciences venture capital conference.

Rebecca Kaufman of the King & Spalding law firm and Chair of SEBIO, stated, "We are especially pleased that nearly 1 in 4 attendees at this year's Forum was an investor, and that so many high quality venture capital funds were represented. Both suggest to us that the Southeast is becoming an important center for the life sciences, and more particularly, for new company formation."

The Investor Forum, held November 8-10, offered an "early-stage" event focused on best practices for newly emerging companies and a "presenting companies" event which showcases a second group of companies that have already completed one "round" of institutional financing.

Early-stage participants introduced their companies to selected advisory teams which then chose four of the best to participate in the Early-Stage Shootout. During the Early-Stage Shootout, the companies had the opportunity to present to the entire conference and a panel of celebrity judges, made up of venture capitalists.

Jack Spencer, the Forum Co-Chair along with Hamilton Jordan, said, "The SEBIO Investor Forum was created to bring together regional life science companies with potential investors. Investors came to the Forum actively looking for investments. I am confident we will learn of new investments as a result of the Forum during the months ahead."

The two and a half day event explored research, market, and financing trends with nationally recognized leaders from the investment and biosciences industries. Participants included biotechnology executives, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, investment bankers and other industry professionals.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach, acting commissioner of the Food & Drug Administration and former director of the National Cancer Institute, opened the day on November 10 with his presentation, "Modernizing the FDA in the Era of Molecular Medicine."

Dr. von Eschenbach discussed the importance of biotechnology and his desire to make the FDA more efficient so drugs could reach patients more quickly and safely.

The 2007 Southeastern BIO Investor Forum will be held November 6-8, 2007, at the Pinehurst Resort in Pinehurst, NC. Further details will be posted on the SEBIO web site soon.

#### **About Southeast BIO**

Southeast BIO (SEBIO) is a regional nonprofit organization that fosters the growth of the life sciences industry in the Southeastern U.S. through efforts that promote entrepreneurship and bring together companies, investors, universities, and support organizations active in the development of the industry. Today, the Southeast is recognized as one of the fastest growing life sciences regions in the U.S. and home to more than 220 life sciences companies. A public/private partnership formed in 1999, SEBIO is committed to conducting activities that create regional leverage and facilitate the common interests and goals of constituents in the life sciences industry. The geographic footprint of SEBIO presently includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. For more information on SEBIO, go to [www.sebio.org](http://www.sebio.org).

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