



## **Maine Biotechnology Information Bureau**

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# **Maine BioNews**

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Editor

### ***JAX plans to lay off 55, cites recession***

[The Jackson Laboratory](#) plans to lay off 55 employees and cut the working hours of another 315 hourly workers. "This action is necessary to keep the laboratory on solid financial footing in an increasingly challenging world economy," said Rick Woichik, president and CEO of JAX.

[According to a news release](#), sales of the lab's mice have slowed as the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and academic labs have cut back on spending. JAX depends on sales of its mice to fund the cost of research programs not covered by grants. Compounding the problem, the lab's endowment has dropped by \$30 million to less than \$50 million due to declines in the financial markets.

### ***BAM hosts legislative reception***

The [Biotechnology Association of Maine](#) is playing host to the newly organized [New England Biotechnology Association](#) at a legislative reception in Augusta. The reception is being held at the Senator Inn on Tuesday, March 24, from 4 to 7 pm.

[According to the program flyer](#), Commissioner John Richardson of the Department of Economic and Community Development will be commenting on the

"surprising growth of the biotechnology industry" in Maine.

Industry insiders might quarrel with the Commissioner's assertion. An e-mail making the rounds hopes for a "lively discussion" on how anti-business legislation is forcing life-sciences companies out of the state.

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