



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Massachusetts Update

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick signed into law the 10 year, \$1 billion Life Sciences Investment on June 16, 2008. Aimed at attracting and strengthening the life sciences industry in Massachusetts, the investment includes:

- **\$500m in Capital Funding to be spent over a 10 year period;** \$299.5m for targeted infrastructure projects and the balance - \$200m in unrestricted funds for investment in public infrastructure projects, at the discretion of the MA Life Sciences Center (MLSC).
- **\$25m each year for 10 years for the MA Life Sciences Investment Fund,** held at the MLSC, for loans, grants, fellowships, and investments to stimulate increased research and development in the life sciences sector.
- **\$25m each year for 10 years in tax incentives to be awarded to certified life sciences projects.**

The law also:

- **Creates the MLSC Life Sciences Investment Program** to expand employment in the life sciences sector in MA and to promote health-related innovations by supporting research and development, manufacturing and commercialization in life sciences.
- **Creates 5 Regional Technology and Innovation Centers** to be identified from among existing life science regional centers.
- **Adds an 18 member advisory board** to be appointed by the Governor, including 10 members of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Collaborative, 5 chancellors of the UMass system, and 3 patient advocates. The Secretary of Labor & Workforce Development and 5 directors of Regional Technology Innovation Centers shall all be non-voting members.
- **Creates four additional funds to be administered by the MLSC:**
  - Dr. Craig C. Mello Small Business Equity Investment Fund;
  - Judah Folkman Higher Education Grant Fund for grants to graduate students;
  - MA Small Business Matching Grant Fund; and the
  - MA Life Sciences Education Fund for vocational and technical school equipment purchases.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health received an inquiry from the research community as to allowing the practice of egg-sharing for research under Massachusetts law. This issue was presented to the Biotechnology Research Advisory Council ("BRAC") at its July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. A draft analysis of this issue is currently under review by the BRAC and the Department. The next meeting of the BRAC will be held in mid-November.