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## **SUNY DOWNSTATE OPENS BIOTECH INCUBATOR**

In a June 24 ribbon-cutting ceremony, SUNY Downstate Medical Center celebrated the opening of SUNY Downstate's Advanced Biotechnology Incubator. Elected officials, business leaders and SUNY Downstate community attended the event, which marked the establishment of the first biotechnology business incubator in New York City in a decade, and only the second in the City's history.

The 11,000 square-foot building – the first phase in a multi-phase project – is home to four biotech businesses, and negotiations are proceeding with others. Future phases are under development, and the Incubator will offer 50,000 sq. ft. of space after it is fully built-out.

“This marks the first installment on a dream,” said Downstate's president, John C. LaRosa, M.D. in his opening remarks. “I believe that biotechnology will be to the 21<sup>st</sup> century what information technology was to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This industry holds great promise for New York City.”

Other speakers included: SUNY Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Peter D. Salins, representing Chancellor Robert L. King; New York City Council Speaker Gifford Miller; New York State Senators Marty Golden and John Sampson; Assemblyman William Boyland, Jr.; City Councilmembers Yvette D. Clarke, Tracy Boyland, and Kendall Stewart; Una Clarke, Executive Director of the Brooklyn Community Network Office for New York's Empire State Development Corporation, representing Governor George Pataki; Bob Lipinsky, Director of Health and Human Services in Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz's Office; Bill Fair, Vice President, New York City Economic Development Corporation; Peter Bohlen, Ph.D., Senior Vice President of Research, ImClone Systems Inc.; and Kathryn Wilde, President and CEO of the New York City Partnership.

A room in the new incubator building was dedicated to another speaker at the event, former New York State Assemblyman William Frank Boyland, Sr., whose leadership was a key factor in bringing the biotechnology incubator project to fruition.

The biotech incubator, part of a larger Advanced Biotechnology Park, includes laboratories and office spaces. The Park's anchor tenant is ImClone Systems, which established its new Small Molecule Compounds division adjacent to the Incubator. The incubator and the biotech park provide affordable space, as well as access to SUNY Downstate's faculty researchers, the medical/scientific library, a vivarium, and other specialized facilities – in short, everything new biomedical companies need to succeed.

Long a source of educational and economical opportunities for the people of Brooklyn, Downstate is poised to become an instrument of revitalization for the borough. To ensure that this happens, Downstate established the Brooklyn Biotechnology Consortium in cooperation with local institutions, elected officials, and community leaders. As biotech businesses grow, they will be able to secure manufacturing space in the Borough in the nearby Brooklyn Army Terminal.

“Brooklyn is a perfect place for biotech,” says Eva Cramer, Ph.D., Vice President for Biotechnology and Scientific Affairs at SUNY Downstate. “The biotech park provides an affordable scientific and business environment and the Consortium will help companies expand into a wide range of low-cost industrial space elsewhere in Brooklyn.”