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**Bioscience Industry Organization Opens Regional Member Office at the Tampa Bay Technology Incubator (TBTI)**

*A partnership between USF CONNECT and BioFlorida advances life sciences industry in Tampa Bay*

**TAMPA, Fla. (June 15, 2012)** – USF CONNECT welcomed its newest partner, BioFlorida, to the Tampa Bay Technology Incubator (TBTI) Tuesday, June 5. The statewide bioscience association has opened a regional member office within the TBTI, providing a valuable resource for life science companies in the area. Tom McLain, President of Claro Scientific and Scientific Co-chair of the Tampa Bay Chapter said, “The new BioFlorida office is another example of the numerous benefits offered by the Tampa Bay Chapter of BioFlorida.”

For more than 15 years, BioFlorida has been supporting the advancement of life sciences. Together, with its membership, BioFlorida is shaping the future of Florida biosciences through networking, advocacy, promotion, workforce development and more. Through this strategic partnership, BioFlorida is able to address industry needs in the Tampa Bay Area and align the region with statewide efforts to advance Florida’s life sciences cluster. Michael Van Butsel, Project Executive of DPR Construction and Business Co-chair of the Tampa Bay Chapter said, “The Tampa Bay Chapter has grown to over 60 members and it includes many of the statewide leaders in the life sciences.”

BioFlorida is the voice of Florida’s bioscience industry representing more than 3,000 companies and research organizations in the biotechnology, pharmaceutical and medical device fields employing 61,000 Floridians. BioFlorida’s member-driven initiatives provide a strong business climate for production of quality, life-improving technologies and promote economic benefits to the state. Visit [www.bioflorida.com](http://www.bioflorida.com) for more information.

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*[USF CONNECT](#) focuses on the needs of Tampa Bay's technology and bio/life sciences entrepreneurs throughout the business life cycle, providing the facilities, partners and resources for successful business development. USF CONNECT offers access to technologies, workforce programs, technology commercialization, critical research equipment, and incubator facilities, adding value and delivering targeted, high level expertise to its member businesses.*

*[The Tampa Bay Technology Incubator](#) (TBTI) is one vehicle through which USF CONNECT grows successful companies. TBTI supports technology research as a catalyst for economic*

*development and advocates the creation and development of facilities for high-technology companies and related support functions.*

*The [University of South Florida](#) is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success. USF is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in the top tier of research universities, a distinction attained by only 2.2 percent of all universities. It ranks 50th in the nation for federal expenditures in research and total expenditures in research among all U.S. universities, public or private, according to the National Science Foundation. The USF System has an annual budget of \$1.5 billion, an annual economic impact of \$3.7 billion, and serves 47,000 students in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland.*

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