

# Local Biotech Companies Recognized

CURE, a statewide coalition of educational and research institutions, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, recently presented awards to several area companies and individuals at its annual meeting.

The CURE Award for Excellence, Connecticut's premier life science award, was presented to Cheshire-based Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Paul R. Pescatello, CURE's president and CEO, cited Alexion as the first Connecticut biotechnology company to have a product approved for marketing. Earlier this year, Alexion launched Soliris, a pharmaceutical for the treatment of a rare blood disorder.

CURE also presented David I. Scheer of Branford-based Scheer and Company with the first-ever CURE Atlas Award for Venture Capital Achievement. The Atlas Award was established to recognize venture capitalists who have made an outstanding contribution to the success of Connecticut bioscience.

Pescatello noted that Scheer and his company have founded eight biotech

companies since 1981, including Achillion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Sopherion Therapeutics, Inc. of New Haven.

Most recently, Scheer helped launch Ophtherion, Inc. of New Haven, an early-stage biotechnology company that is developing diagnostic and disease-modifying products for the management and treatment of dry and wet age-related macular degeneration.

Also recognized at the CURE annual meeting with the Award of Merit were 14 individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the Connecticut

bioscience community during the past year.

Among these, honorees in Greater New Haven included:

- Bruce Alexander of Yale University for his "tireless efforts in the economic development of New Haven."
- Joseph Catino of Bayer Corporation in West Haven for his "consistent work" in bringing together state biotechnology



CURE President/CEO Paul Pescatello, center, presents the CURE Award for Excellence to Alexion Chief Operating Officer David Keiser, right, and CEO Dr. Leonard Bell, left.

and pharmaceutical firms.

- Sandy Oliver of Bayer Corporation in West Haven "for tireless support of CURE programs and expert management of Bayer's changing presence in Connecticut."
- Winstanley Enterprises of New Haven, "whose real estate prowess has developed 300 George Street in New Haven into a hub of bioscience activity, and who is now also developing a building at Science Park in New Haven."
- The Yale Stem Cell Center in New Haven, which CURE states is attracting world-class experts in the area to New Haven, including the center's new director Haifan Lin.

At the annual meeting, Pescatello also announced that David Keiser, president and chief operating officer of Alexion, has agreed to serve as co-chair of CURE, along with Peter Farina of Boehringer Ingelheim.

Farina is also assuming the duties of CEO of Developing World Cures, a newly-organized subsidiary of CURE that will focus on the development of medicines for the often neglected diseases of the developing world.

For more information visit [www.curenet.org](http://www.curenet.org).

## Madison's Duques Unveils TutaPoint.com

Three local entrepreneurs have launched TutaPoint.com, a site that features live Internet-based tutoring sessions in math and science for high school students nationwide.

After one year of research, development and focus group testing, TutaPoint.com allows high school students to log in quickly and schedule a future session or request immediate help.

Upon connecting with a tutor catering to a student's specific needs, the student enters an online classroom, which provides an electronic white-board, a live text chat and a live audio/video connection. Tutapoint.com tutors are available on demand and for scheduled sessions, seven days a week, from 2 p.m. to midnight, EST.

Tutors are selected using the highest criteria, and background checks and web monitoring take place to ensure that students receive only optimum and safe instruction.

The online venture is the brainchild of Ryan Duques, Michael Callaghan and Beth Kelly. "Some people have asked about the name," says Duques. "Well, 'tuta' has Latin roots to education, tutoring and teaching."

As part of its overall goals, TutaPoint.com's online tutoring is aiming to create a level playing field for:

- Special needs students and teaching professionals
- Students and teachers living in remote communities
- Students with many extracurricular activities
- Students without transportation
- Students affected by weather or disasters

TutaPoint.com also offers a complete curriculum in each subject, enabling students and tutors to work from a common set of problems. TutaPoint has published two textbooks, available on TutaPoint.com and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). ◇