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For Immediate Release

**BioForward, Wisconsin's Biotechnology Association, Announces New Executive Director**

**MADISON, Wis.**, August 28, 2009 – BioForward, the member organization that represents the state's biotechnology industry, today announced that Bryan Renk has accepted the position of Executive Director and will be starting October 1, 2009.

Bryan Renk comes to BioForward with over 20 years of progressively responsible management expertise, most recently as President and Director of aOva Technologies. Previously he has held positions as Director of Licensing at Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, and Director at Wm. F. Renk and Sons. Mr. Renk currently sits on the Board of Directors for Maple Leaf Farms, the largest vertically integrated duck producer in the United States, as well as FluGen, an emerging leader in influenza vaccines. He is also on the board of the Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Association (WALSAA). Mr. Renk holds MS and BS degrees in Meat and Animal Science and Muscle Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"I'm excited to join BioForward in this leadership role," said Renk. "As our biotechnology industry moves ahead in these challenging times, we are focused on promoting the growth of Wisconsin's biotechnology companies by expanding the value of our offerings."

"I am pleased to have Bryan join BioForward. The breadth of Bryan's experience across many areas of biotechnology as well as his demonstrated ability to grow organizations is an excellent match for the potential for growth in our organization and our industry," said Laura Strong, Board President of BioForward. "I'm also delighted with the timing," said Dr. Strong, "as this will give him the opportunity to meet many of our members at our Biotechnology Vision Summit in October."

**About BioForward:**

BioForward is the member-driven state association that is the voice of Wisconsin's biotechnology industry. We provide a means for our members to be heard regarding creation of investment and partnership opportunities, attraction and retention of the best talent, and support of public policy that fosters continued growth. We also provide member-support services that include networking opportunities through a variety of conferences and events, online resources and group purchasing programs. BioForward will host the 2009 Biotechnology Vision Summit on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Madison, Wisconsin.