



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
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May 2, 2004

Dear participants of the *RNAi-2004-Boston*:

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the *RNAi-2004-Boston*, an important forum for discussing progress in the applications of RNA interference in the biomedical field. The conference, integrating scientific leaders from academia, biotech and pharmaceutical industries, is an outstanding opportunity to foster bio-business in a world of rapidly changing technology. I am confident that this meeting will serve as an excellent venue for the exchange of ideas and information about opportunities that promise to bring important breakthroughs in drug discovery.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a recognized leader in the field of biotechnology – an industry that is both vital to the health and well-being of people, and to the future growth of our economy. Massachusetts is home to trail-blazing academic and research institutions and to many biotech and pharmaceutical companies that nurture advancements in the biotech and healthcare industry. Your participation in this conference represents a wonderful expression of support from the biotechnology community and others who pursue the quest for scientific knowledge and leadership.

I congratulate the keynote speakers of this meeting including Drs. Craig Mello of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Gary Ruvkun of Harvard University and Ken Reed of Benitec Australia in joining the efforts of GeneExpression Systems, Inc. to make it a successful gathering. I would like to thank Dr. Krishnarao Appasani and his staff for organizing such a high quality and cutting edge technology event in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and productive conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Berke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barbara Berke, Director  
Department of Business and Technology  
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts