



**JOHN A. IRICK JOINS BIOLEX, INC.**  
**AS SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,**  
**CORPORATE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

**PITTSBORO, NC, JAN 9, 2002** - Biolex, Inc., a company with proprietary plant-based recombinant protein development and manufacturing technology announced today the appointment of John A. Irick to the newly created position of Senior Vice President, Corporate and Business Development. Mr. Irick has extensive senior management experience in the bioscience industry as a corporate executive and as an entrepreneur. Prior to Biolex, he was a co-founder of Merix Bioscience, Inc., a successful immunotherapy venture based in Durham, NC, where he served as Executive Vice President and Director.

"We are excited to have John join our management team at Biolex. He brings world-class biopharmaceutical experience and he will be instrumental as we identify and sign-on key biotechnology and pharmaceutical partnerships for our Lemna System™ technology," states Jan Turek, President and CEO, Biolex, Inc. "We have already manufactured nine proteins using Lemna. John's appointment will enable us to continue to meet our milestones, and develop and commercialize additional proteins in multi-therapeutic areas."

Mr. Irick has over 25 years of senior management experience in the bioscience industry. In addition to his entrepreneurial experience at Merix Bioscience, he was the founding President and Chief Executive Officer, and Director of Apex Bioscience, Inc., Research Triangle Park (RTP), NC, a clinical development-stage bioscience company. Prior to relocating to the RTP area, Mr. Irick was Vice President and Principal, The Shaw Group, a private life sciences incubator holding company in San Francisco.

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Earlier in his career, Mr. Irick held various increasingly responsible management posts at Baxter Healthcare Corporation, including Vice President in the Baxter Blood Therapy Group, Managing Director of Baxter Spain, and Vice President of Business Operations at Baxter's Hyland Therapeutics Division. He is the current Chairman and President of the North Carolina Biosciences Organization (NCBIO), the state chapter of the influential industry organization, BIO and serves on a number of biopharmaceutical industry boards and councils. Mr. Irick received his A.B. in Mathematical Economics from Brown University and his MBA from The University of Chicago.

Biolex, Inc. is a biotechnology company devoted to discovering, developing and commercializing proteins derived from proprietary plant-based technology for the development of human therapeutics, and other biotechnology applications. The company's headquarters and laboratory facility are based in Pittsboro, NC, strategically located near Research Triangle Park. Visit the company's web site at [www.biolex.com](http://www.biolex.com)

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