

## Brian Moldover

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## Turning research data into knowledge for new discoveries

### Happy Holidays!

This was a great year and I want to thank you all for your support. Starting a company is never easy, and the economic climate of this past year made it even more difficult. In spite of that, B-Tech not only survived but thrived and grew.

It's a pleasure to announce that Sean Collins has joined the company. Sean is a Computer Science major at Temple University, where he will be graduating this spring. He will be responsible for systems administration and software development.

So what's next? First, to continue to grow in the scientific domain. The major projects so far for the coming year are focused on high throughput sequencing, SNP analysis using clinical data, and a chemoinformatics project analyzing small compound libraries for drug discovery. I'm sure the list will expand as we actually get into 2010!

### Support for the Greater Philadelphia Research Community

Now that we have dedicated IT support, we can move forward with making tools and database available to the community. In the next few weeks we will make available a web interface to a suite of bioinformatics tools and databases. The service will be free to researchers in the Greater Philadelphia region. Now is the time for your input. If there is something you would like to see as part of the suite, please email me at; [brian@b-techconsulting.com](mailto:brian@b-techconsulting.com).

### Chemical Biology in Brief

### About the Company:

B-Tech, Ltd. provides contract research, consulting, and analytical services. We have worked extensively on the identification of differentially regulated genes using the Affymetrix and Illumina platforms, high-throughput DNA sequencing, SAGE and pathway analysis.

B-Tech has extensive experience in chemoinformatics, especially in structural databases and small molecule libraries.

We are also highly skilled in data integration, statistical analysis, and data presentation and visualization.

We are able to accommodate both large scale long-term projects as well as an individual experiment. All work is tailored to the needs of the researcher, and is a highly interactive process. In this way we ensure that the analytical methods will provide the best answer to the scientific questions being asked.

A typical analysis is completed within 2 weeks from receipt of data. If you have special needs, such as grant or meeting deadlines, we will do our best

Chemical Biology is a relatively new branch of science that spans both the biology and chemistry disciplines. In practical terms, most often it is focused on identifying and understanding the interaction of a small molecule ("drug") with a receptor or other protein ("target").

My first experience in this domain was at in 2001 at Aventis Pharmaceuticals. Dr. Frank Douglas, who was head of drug discovery, launched a company-wide project to advance the concept of Chemical Biology, and to get chemists and biologists working closely on the identification of new targets and compounds, and to accelerate drug discovery in existing therapeutic areas.

This led to the development of what we called the *Drugable Genome*. We mined the human genome to identify all proteins and their splice variants which were members of known protein classes involved in human disease. Kinases, GPCR's, proteases, etc., kind of old hat now, but at the time it was cutting edge and we designed Affymetrix arrays and did quite a lot with the data. There was a tremendous effort to focus on one target family and integrate all the biological and chemical knowledge within the organization into a comprehensive picture.

I believe the focus now will be on linking the chemistry knowledge back to the target, not just as a ligand-receptor pair but as a tool for understanding the complex relationships within the organism. Anyone who has worked in drug discovery is well aware that the off-target effects are often as important (more sometimes!) than the intended interaction.

A prediction: 2010 will be the year when Systems Biology meets Chemical Biology. Small molecules will be more actively used as a research tool to study network perturbation in biological systems. This is already being widely used to study drug toxicity and in cancer research, but expect NIH to promote this heavily in the coming year. NIGMS is promoting this as a [New Frontier for Therapeutics](#) - can funding be far behind?

**Have a Safe and Joyous Holiday Season, and Happy New Year!**

- Brian

to accommodate your requests. Our work is affordable, professional, and presented in a format designed for the bench scientist.

We currently perform contract research and support for several major universities, and we welcome reference checks. We have also worked closely with several top-tier pharmaceutical companies, which can also provide references.

#### **About the Founder:**

*Brian Moldover, Ph.D.* I have worked in bioinformatics since 1993, where I was a Research Fellow at NIH working in the Human Genome Project. Since then I spent 15 years working in the pharmaceutical industry for companies such as Warner-Lambert, Pfizer, Aventis, and Schering AG. I have held positions from Sr. Scientist through Vice-President of Global Research Computing. I have extensive knowledge of genomics and bioinformatics research, as well as significant business experience.

Because of my long industry experience, you can expect any work we perform to be done professionally, securely, and timely.

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