



## **Introductory Statement**

**Members of the American BioIndustry Alliance (ABIA) appreciate the opportunity to participate in ABS WG-5 as an industry observer. The ABIA is a non-profit, non government organization founded by its members in 2005 to engage pro-actively in the work of the ABS Working Group.**

**Members of the ABIA include Avanti Therapeutics, Bristol Myers-Squibb, Eli Lilly, Excel Life Sciences, General Electric, Hana Biosciences, Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Pfizer and Tethys Research.**

**In preparation for the work this week, ABIA Members have reached consensus on ABS Negotiating Principles, including areas where we find common ground with CBD Members, and those areas, like mandatory patent disclosure, where we have continuing difficulties.**

**ABIA Members hope to play a constructive role to identify areas for practical steps all stake-holders may take to improve systems for access and benefit sharing, and in particular the front-loaded benefits, from commercialization of genetic resources and commercially valuable, related traditional knowledge, through this process.**

**We look forward to contributing actively on the agenda this week.**