

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008

THE NEWS & OBSERVER



# Business



**DON'T YOU WANT TO SAVE MONEY?**

Retail reporter Sue Stock is online, highlighting the deals.



GO TO [HTTP://TAKINGSTOCK.NEWSOBSERVER.COM](http://takingstock.newsobserver.com)

# Familiar faces at the helm as B3Bio hunts for cancer drugs

BY SABINE VOLLMER  
STAFF WRITER

Dani Bolognesi will take another run at developing a novel, blockbuster drug, an accomplishment that eluded him when he led Trimeris.

As chief executive and chairman of B3Bio, a startup, Bolognesi is looking for a new class of medicines that promises to better treat cancer, inflammation and infection. At Trimeris, a troubled Morrisville drug development company, Bolognesi had a similar goal with AIDS drug Fuzeon.

B3Bio's first home will be the incubator at Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park.

The company plans to work with genetic information found in every cell, using technology that was developed at Duke University and the University of Texas.

Bolognesi founded B3Bio a year ago when he lost his job at Trimeris in a radical restructuring driven by investors.

Also in on the B3Bio venture is Robert Bonczek, Trimeris' former chief financial officer, and the two sci-

entists who helped develop the gene-based technology: Duke professor Bruce Sullenger and Andrew Ellington, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

Bolognesi had been a part of Trimeris from the company's start in 1993. Fuzeon, the AIDS drug that put Trimeris on the map, was discovered at Duke while Bolognesi taught there.

Fuzeon came to market in 2003, but sales were lackluster, and it didn't live up to investors' expectations.

By the time Bolognesi and Bonczek

were forced to resign, annual Fuzeon sales had climbed to \$383 million worldwide. Trimeris reported its first annual profit in 2006.

But Fuzeon, which is sold by Swiss drug maker Roche, was facing competition in the U.S. market.

In the fourth quarter, Fuzeon sales dropped 25 percent in the U.S. and Canada. A large investor is pushing for Trimeris to be sold.

---

sabine.vollmer@newsobserver.com  
or (919) 829-8992



Bolognesi and a former Trimeris colleague have plans.