

# Top 10 Women in Biotech

by John Carroll and Maureen Martino

It's a well-worn cliché that men dominate the top ranks of the biotech industry. But over the past decade a group of extraordinary women has put that cliché to the test. Perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of our selection of 10 women who have excelled in the industry is that there were so many outstanding women in biotechnology to choose from.



One of this year's group runs a large cancer drug business. One not only founds biotech companies, she also places some savvy venture bets on future stars. Several are CEOs pursuing excellent science and top clinical trial prospects. Some came up through the scientific ranks, others through the business development side of the business.

In an entrepreneurial business like biotech, results are all that matter. So in some respects it's the ideal climate for women who want to reach the top ranks, where the old boy network helps but certainly doesn't rule. And as more women break into these ranks in the years to come, as is certain to happen, this group will become even harder to narrow down to a top 10.

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# Tina Nova - Top 10 Women in Biotech

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**Name:** Tina Nova

**Current Company:** Genoptix Medical Laboratory

**Title:** Co-founder and CEO

**Profile:** Tina S. Nova, Ph.D., is president and CEO of the molecular diagnostics company Genoptix, a position she has held since 2000. Oncologists who specialize in blood cancers send their samples to the company, which then uses its diagnostic capabilities to rapidly determine the best course of treatment for the patient. The company has been profitable since 2007, and *Forbes* ranked Genoptix 15th on its 2009 list of the growing companies. The company believes it can capture 15 percent of the bone marrow testing market by 2015--nearly double its current market share of 8 percent.

Prior to her involvement in Genoptix, Nova was CEO of Nanogen and also did a stint as CEO of Selective Genetics. She currently serves as a member of the board of directors of Arena Pharmaceuticals and Cypress Bioscience. She holds a B.S. degree in Biological Sciences from the University of California, Irvine and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of California, Riverside.

