

Published: Mar 06, 2008 12:30 AM  
Modified: Mar 06, 2008 06:40 AM

## Raleigh native to be Liquidia's leader

### Company focuses on nanotechnology

#### From Staff Reports

DURHAM - Liquidia Technologies, a Durham company that develops medical products using microscopic particles, has hired a new CEO from Johnson & Johnson, the world's largest consumer-health corporation.

Its new leader, Neal F. Fowler, is a Raleigh native and graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill. He most recently was president of Centocor, a Johnson & Johnson biotechnology division.

"I look forward to guiding the strategic direction of a dynamic organization, advancing a novel technology platform toward commercialization and returning home to North Carolina," Fowler said.

Fowler, 46, replaces Steve Nelson, who had been Liquidia's interim CEO since September 2006. Nelson is a partner in venture capital firm the Wakefield Group, part of a team of investors that has given Liquidia \$24.5 million in funding.

Liquidia was founded in 2004 by Joseph DeSimone, a professor of chemistry and chemical engineering at UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University.

Using technology developed by DeSimone and his researchers, Liquidia is working on products based on nanotechnology. The technology helps make tiny particles that could improve how medicine is administered to patients, among other potential uses.

Liquidia officials had to find a new top executive after losing former CEO Todd Pope to J&J in 2006. Pope also was a Raleigh native and UNC-Chapel Hill alumnus.

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Fowler ran Centocor, a division of Johnson & Johnson.