

## **Investment Forum Program for Wednesday, April 4 at 11:30**

**Strategies:** Investors badly need better strategies than reacting to the latest investment advice freely dispensed via the media. An example of one day's conflicting cable-TV commentary will be presented.

**Follow-Up:** (1) The forum may be guilty of giving commodities a bum rap. There is a relatively easy and obvious way to profit from rising commodity prices. Some members have already practiced it with success. All will be revealed. (2) Last week it was mentioned in the context of discussing Amgen that biotechnology drugs (biologics) do not face generic competition and will not face such competition anytime soon. The current issue of *BusinessWeek* features an article on this subject. Biotechnology is a very different business than traditional pharmaceuticals in some significant aspects.

**Stock Talk:** The argument is being widely made that the sweet spot in equities can be found among out-of-favor large-capitalization growth stocks. The latest publication to express this point of view is the April 9 issue of *Forbes*. The specific stocks recommended include Applied Materials, Dell, Goldman Sachs, Home Depot, Johnson & Johnson, Microsoft, Oracle, and Wal-Mart. In the same vein, on March 21 *CNNMoney.com* recommended Coca-Cola, General Electric, Eli Lilly and Wells Fargo. The problem with this argument is that it has been made for several years and many such stocks remain "flat-liners." Patience is a virtue.

**Group Discussion:** There is a great deal happening in financial markets these days that is of concern to individual investors. A handout has been prepared which attempts to summarize major issues. It lies beyond the "pay grade" of the forum to resolve such matters, but at least members can be informed regarding both potential opportunities and concerns that will play out in the months ahead. Member contributions to the discussion are hereby solicited.

**On the Website:** New topics added over the past week include biotech stocks, mutual funds and financial planners. These articles can be read in their entirety from links at <http://www.olligmu.org/~finforum/>.