

# Biotech progress report

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According to the [Flinn Foundation](#)'s Arizona Bioscience Roadmap, there are four main strategies the state needs to focus on to develop a strong bioscience hub. Here are those strategies and how Arizona fared in the fourth quarter of 2004.

## Strategy 1: Build research infrastructure

- Staff members at the [Translational Genomics Research Institute](#) and the [Biodesign Institute](#) at [Arizona State University](#) prepare to move into their new headquarters. The two facilities account for nearly 350,000 of the 1.3 million square feet of scientific labs and related office space currently under construction in the Phoenix metro area, Tucson and Flagstaff.
- University of Arizona and Tucson leaders raise pledges of \$7.5 million to form the new Institute for Global Pharmaceutical Development. The firm plans to study ways to speed the drug-development process. It is a partnership between UA, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and SRI International
- Gov. Janet Napolitano appoints a blue-ribbon commission to oversee implementation of the UA medical school's expansion into Phoenix in partnership with ASU. The Phoenix City Council passes a resolution to reaffirm its intention to donate land to the Arizona Board of Regents for the biomedical campus.
- Cox Communications awards \$3 million to the TGen Foundation to support research activities.
- A handful of Arizona scientists receive major national recognition, including Biodesign Institute Director George Poste being named R&D Magazine's Scientist of the Year.

## Strategy 2: Build critical mass of firms

- The city of Phoenix approves first-phase development of P-Bio, a new accelerator offering 12,000 square feet of space for fledgling bioscience firms in downtown Phoenix. Parent firm Ribomed also will move to the site adjacent to the TGen campus.
- An ASU study identifies more than 1.4 million square feet of cleanroom space in the Phoenix metro area that can be converted into wet labs. The excess space from the semiconductor industry could provide a cost-effective means to ease the state's shortage of wet lab space.
- A failed constitutional amendment to permit universities to take equity in spin-off companies provides valuable lessons in proposing the measure again in 2006.

### **Strategy 3: Enhance business environment**

- Organizers land the first \$25 million of a proposed \$100-million, private-sector Knowledge Economy Capital Fund to spur development of early-stage tech companies.
- The Arizona Angel Investment Conference debuts, replacing the annual venture capital conference. The move reflects the state's increasing need for funding of high-tech firms in the formative stage preceding venture capital investment.
- ASU receives a \$5.4 million gift to establish a program to encourage student entrepreneurship. Students can land awards of up to \$20,000 to develop their ventures.
- The Arizona BioIndustry Association signs partnership agreements with the Bioindustry Organization of Southern Arizona and the Arizona Technology Council, pooling their strengths and resources.

### **Strategy 4: Prepare work force, educate citizens**

- Voters approve a bond issue for Maricopa Community Colleges that includes more than \$100 million for future facilities and equipment to expand bioscience and health care training programs. The community college system also announces plans to open a downtown Phoenix campus, in part to further partnerships with the universities and TGen.
- Pulitzer-winning author Jonathan Weiner kicks off the Arizona Consortium on Medicine, Society and Values, a collaborative group that aims to raise awareness of the ethical, humanistic, legal and policy facets of medicine through noted lecturers and conferences. The group involves a partnership between ASU, the Flinn Foundation, Mayo Clinic Scottsdale, TGen and UA College of Medicine.
- The Arizona Town Hall devotes its fall 2005 project to exploring the state's developing bioscience industry.

*Compiled by the Flinn Foundation, [www.flinn.org](http://www.flinn.org).*