

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 an overview of how Arizona fared in 2004.

Strategy 1: Build research infrastructure

- [Arizona State University](#) and [University of Arizona](#) agree to work together to launch an extension of the UA medical school in downtown Phoenix. The unique arrangement involves the UA colleges of medicine and pharmacy and ASU's College of Nursing. Gov. Janet Napolitano appoints a commission to guide its formation.
- UA and Tucson leaders raise pledges of \$7.5 million to form The Critical Path Institute. The firm will study ways to speed the drug-development process and involves a partnership among UA, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and SRI International.
- The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community announces plans to build a biomedical research campus involving four buildings totaling 240,000 square feet of lab and office space.
- Staff at the Translational Genomics Research Institute and the Biodesign Institute at ASU move into their new headquarters. More than 1.3 million square feet of scientific lab-related office space opens or is under construction in the Phoenix metro area, Tucson and Flagstaff.
- TGen forms extensive research alliances, launches its Center for Translational Drug Development (TD2), and announces five major genetic discoveries. Plans are unveiled for a TGen Foundation to support research activities. The International Genomics Consortium debuts its cornerstone project, expO, intended to accelerate cancer research to bring new therapies to patients.

Strategy 2: Build critical mass of firms

- ASU and the city of Scottsdale establish the ASU Scottsdale Center for New Technology and Innovation to enhance and expand the commercialization of high-tech research. The planned 1.2-million-square-foot facility is expected to employ up to 4,000.
- The UA Science and Technology Park announces plans to potentially triple in size, to 6 million square feet, over the next 10 years. Additional wet-lab space would be included.
- The city of Phoenix approves first-phase development of P-Bio, a new incubator 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.

Strategy 3: Enhance business environment

- Lokoya Advisors, a top life sciences broker dealer, opens a Scottsdale office and signs an agreement to work with TGen. Lokoya has been involved in more than 40 transactions, creating the formation of \$7 billion in capital for life sciences firms.
- A private-sector Knowledge Economy Capital Fund is established to spur development of early-stage tech companies. Organizers land the first \$25 million of a proposed \$100 million pool.
- The Arizona Angel Investment Conference replaces 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.
- The Arizona BioIndustry Association signs partnership agreements with the Bioindustry Organization of Southern Arizona and the Arizona Technology Council, pooling their collective strengths and resources.

Strategy 4: Prepare work force, educate citizens

- A successful bond issue for the Maricopa Community Colleges designates 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.
- The Arizona Department of Commerce awards more than \$1 million in Arizona Job Training Grants to 10 bioscience companies to support customized training of 786 new and incumbent employees.
- ASU introduces a master's program in genomics and biotechnology law -- the first of its kind in the nation.
- A Columbia University-based science policy group, the Consortium for Science, Policy & Outcomes, moves its operations to ASU. A similar group, the Infotech Institute, debuts in Tucson to study issues involving technology, education, health care and government.

Compiled by The Flinn Foundation, www.flinn.org.