

# BIOTECH PROGRESS REPORT

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*According to the Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap, commissioned and coordinated by the Flinn Foundation, 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 second quarter of 2007.*

## Strategy 1: Build Research Infrastructure

- A Tucson city council vote gives the green light to the development of the Arizona Bioscience Research Park on Tucson's South Side. The 65-acre plot is planned to eventually house up to 2.4 million square feet of office and lab space.
- Thanks to a windfall of state sales tax revenue, Arizona universities will receive an extra \$79.9 million in funding for research and technology programs over the next five years. The additional funds will allow Arizona to recruit more researchers, bolster initiatives, and accelerate new programs.
- Nine leading research institutions across the state form a statewide consortium called the Arizona Proteomics Alliance. The effort aims to improve medical diagnostics and human health through greater understanding of the biological role of the complete set of proteins in the human body.
- TGen North, a pathogen genomics and biodefense research facility, opens its doors in Flagstaff. The 4,500 square-foot facility involves a collaboration between TGen and Northern Arizona University. In Sun City, Sun Health Research Institute opens a second medical research building of 36,000 square feet.
- The Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium launches a registry that could lead to earlier diagnosis of and new treatments for Alzheimer's disease. The Alzheimer's Research Registry, a database aimed at recruiting participants and matching them with studies, is expected to reduce by 300 percent the time it takes to complete study enrollment.
- The Phoenix campus of the University of Arizona College of Medicine in partnership with Arizona State University receives a \$5 million grant from the Virginia C. Piper Charitable Trust to recruit faculty and match future private gifts. The medical school also learned that it earned accreditation in record time.

- Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) awards a second wave of grants totaling \$3.75 million to 26 statewide projects among the three state universities, Barrow Neurological Institute, Sun Health Research Institute, and TGen. Called "competitive-advantage awards," the grants are designed to provide seed money to researchers with proposals that hold the promise of federal funding. SFAz also announces a partnership with the Arizona Community Foundation to distribute \$500,000 to support scientific research, innovation, and teacher internships.

### **Strategy 2: Build Critical Mass of Firms**

- Illinois-based Cancer Treatment Centers of America announces plans to build its newest hospital facility in west Phoenix. The national for-profit hospital chain will build its fifth center—a \$70 million, 210-square-foot facility—on 15 acres at Thomas Road and Loop 101 that will eventually employ an estimated 420 workers.
- Agilent Technologies, a global manufacturer of measurement systems, will more than triple the size of its local facility by relocating its atomic force microscope operations from Tempe to a new facility in Chandler.
- The University of Arizona receives clearance from the Arizona Board of Regents to allow professors and researchers to move forward with six new scientific startup companies. New ventures approved for further development include a system for analyzing disease and bioterrorism threats and a potential new drug to combat valley fever.
- Tucson's economic development group—Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities—releases an economic blueprint that includes strengthening the region's science and technology base through collaboration with the University of Arizona.

### **Strategy 3: Enhance Business Environment**

- Two bioscience firms help boost Arizona to its best quarter since 2001 in generating venture capital. Helping to achieve the total of \$74.7 million is Zounds, a Mesa hearing aids firm which generated \$25 million, and medical-device-maker Cayenne Medical of Scottsdale receiving \$12.7 million.
- An Arizona delegation of more than 50 science and economic development leaders represents the state in Boston at the BIO international convention, the world's largest biotechnology trade show that attracts 20,000 attendees. The Arizona booth in the exhibition hall was redesigned and branded under the state's "Biozona" identity.
- Eighteen Arizona bioscience leaders traveled to Washington, D.C., for an annual trip to inform Arizona congressional members and their staffs on the importance of the biosciences and current developments within the state. The

group also met with staff from key committees and senior administrators from the National Science Foundation's Directorate for Biological Sciences and the National Institutes of Mental Health.

#### **Strategy 4: Prepare Workforce, Educate Citizens**

- Salt River Project launches High Tech U, a three-day program to encourage local high school students to consider jobs in biotechnology. The pilot effort involved students from Scottsdale's Coronado High School, though additional schools will soon participate. Since 2001, more than 1,600 students in 10 states have participated in the program. SRP partnered with Maricopa Advanced Technology Education Center and high-tech manufacturing industry association SEMI.
- Chandler Hamilton High School junior Rachel Ginn places fourth at the Sanofi-Aventis International BioGENEius Challenge in Boston, part of the BIO convention. The honor and \$1,000 cash prize rewarded her research on extracting hydrogen from crops and wastewater.
- A new report on high school bioscience education programs in Arizona shows that diversified efforts are scattered throughout the state, though relatively few established programs exist, little funding is available, and coordination of programs at the statewide level is lacking. The study was co-sponsored by the Flinn Foundation and Salt River Project.