

Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap: Progress Report

January-March 2011

Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap, commissioned and coordinated by the Flinn Foundation, calls on the state to focus on four strategies to develop a globally competitive bioscience hub. Here are those strategies and how Arizona fared in the first quarter of 2011.

Build research infrastructure

- Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon announces that Phoenix will be the headquarters for the nonprofit Institute for Advanced Health, founded by billionaire biotech entrepreneur Patrick Soon-Shiong.
- St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center's Barrow Neurological Institute receives a \$10.1 million donation to create the Barrow Center for Neuromodulation, for research in psychiatric and motor disorders.
- The University of Arizona's department of immunobiology and its Arizona Center for Aging earns the lion's share of an \$11.8 million NIH contract to study declining immunity among the aging.
- An FDA advisory committee recommends approval of a brain scan developed in part by Banner Alzheimer's Institute researchers that can identify plaques characteristic of Alzheimer's disease.

Build critical mass of firms

- Phoenix Children's Hospital opens its new 11-story, \$588 million facility, accommodating additional patients and new opportunity for recruitment of subspecialist researcher-physicians.
- Scottsdale-based Carefx, a maker of health-care information-technology software used in hundreds of hospitals and health-care systems, is sold to Harris Corp. for \$155 million.
- Tucson-based HTG Molecular Diagnostics Inc. closes a \$15.7 million round of financing to expand adoption of its multi-plex gene expression testing platform.
- Maricopa-based Yulex Corp. announces that it has closed on a \$15 million round of financing to expand its production of guayule-based natural rubber and feedstocks for bioenergy.
- Scottsdale-based TGen Drug Development (TD2) signs a partnership agreement with Syracuse-based Oncoholdings Inc. to become the exclusive developer of Oncoholdings's oncology drug-candidate portfolio.
- TD2 and Flagstaff-based Flagship Biosciences establish a strategic alliance under which Flagship will provide high-throughput multiplexed immunohistochemistry expertise to support TD2's drug-development projects.
- Scottsdale-based Aphera Inc., which has developed drug candidates for breast cancer and other cancers, is purchased by Worcester, Mass.-based RXi Pharmaceuticals Corp. for \$7.2 million.

Enhance business environment

- The Arizona BioIndustry Association hires Joan Koerber-Walker, previously head of the Arizona Small Business Association, as its new president and CEO.
- President Barack Obama signs the America COMPETES Act, co-sponsored by Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, which includes funds for the National Science Foundation to support graduate students in STEM fields bound for non-academic careers, plus a \$7.5 million fund to develop tech parks.

Prepare workers, educate citizens

- Mayo Clinic and Arizona State University announce an enhanced collaboration in bioscience-related fields, including the relocation of ASU's Department of Biomedical Informatics to Mayo's Scottsdale's campus.
- ASU launches the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network (STEMnet), a NSF-supported effort to introduce middle-school and high-school teachers to cutting-edge research in STEM fields and to innovative coursework and teaching methods.
- Scott Boisvert, a senior at Chandler Basha High School, wins \$20,000 for his 10th-place finish in the Intel Science Talent Search. Boisvert's project examined how water chemistry affects the growth of a fungus that is harmful to amphibians.