

# Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap: Progress Report

July-September 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 third quarter of 2011.

## **Build research infrastructure**

- The Phoenix-headquartered Chan Soon-Shiong Institute for Advanced Health announces that it has made a \$100 million commitment and assumed financial responsibility for National LambdaRail, a national fiber-optic network enabling exceptionally rapid transmission of health data.
- The FDA approves Anascorp, an antivenom for scorpion stings shepherded through the clinical-trial process at the University of Arizona.
- The National Institutes of Health award an \$8 million grant to Banner Sun Health Research institute and Mayo Clinic Arizona to help fund a brain and tissue bank for research on Parkinson's disease and related disorders.
- Two researchers at the Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University receive NIH grants worth more than \$5 million to pursue development of a next-generation DNA sequencing device.
- A team led by Paul Keim of TGen North and Northern Arizona University report that they have successfully used whole-genome sequencing to trace a cholera outbreak in Haiti to United Nations peacekeepers from Nepal.
- An economic-impact report finds that for every \$1 invested in Science Foundation Arizona by the state of Arizona, SFAz has returned \$3.15 in investments from the private sector, venture capital, federal grants, and other sources.
- The final mission of the U.S. space shuttle program carries with it crucial infectious-disease experiments led by Cheryl Nickerson and Roy Curtiss of Biodesign.

## **Build critical mass of firms**

- Oro Valley-based Ventana Medical Systems hires veteran cancer-diagnostics executive Mara Aspinall as its new president.
- The \$109 million Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center opens in Gilbert on the Banner Gateway Medical Center campus.
- Cardinal Health Inc. opens an \$11 million molecular imaging center in Phoenix, enabling the firm to conduct radiopharmaceutical and PET biomarker studies for contracting firms.

## **Enhance business environment**

- Gov. Jan Brewer announces 17 appointments to the board of directors of the Arizona Commerce Authority, including numerous executives with close ties to SFAz and the biosciences.
- The ACA signs a consulting contract with William Harris, president and CEO of SFAz, under which Dr. Harris will advise the ACA on science and technology issues.

## **Prepare workers, educate citizens**

- Mayo Clinic announces that it will expand Mayo Medical School to its Arizona campus, collaborating with ASU on an embedded master's-degree program in the science of health-care delivery.

- J. Lyle Bootman, previously the longtime dean of UA's College of Pharmacy, is appointed to become UA's senior vice president for health sciences, overseeing the Arizona Health Sciences Center on UA's Tucson and Phoenix campuses.