

# 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 second quarter of 2004.

## Strategy 1:

### Build research infrastructure

- A University of Arizona faculty committee recommends devoting up to 100 tenured faculty posts, including 20-30 new positions, to bioscience research, addressing recommendations outlined in Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap.
- Arizona State University hires world-renowned microbiologist Roy Curtiss, Ph.D., and obtains approval from the Board of Regents to add a \$3.8 million lab for Curtiss to the Arizona Biodesign Institute's new facility. ASU President Michael Crow announces that \$50 million will be needed to hire core faculty for the new institute.
- TGen continues to add to its scientific team, headlined by the hiring of Dr. Ellen Feigal, a leading researcher at the National Cancer Institute, who will serve as deputy scientific director and vice president of clinical sciences.
- TGen announces plans to create a foundation to raise \$250 million over eight years for bioscience research, to be led by Valley developer and philanthropist Bennett Dorrance. Sen. John McCain will chair its advisory committee.
- Mayo Clinic Scottsdale breaks ground on its Collaborative Research Building, a biomedical research facility at the Scottsdale campus that will include research labs for TGen's Center for Translational Drug Development. The Clinic also begins construction on an outpatient care facility at its northeast Phoenix hospital campus, making available additional space for biomedical research on its Scottsdale campus.
- ASU establishes the Office of Clinical Partnerships to help its researchers strengthen and expand connections to biomedical institutions in Arizona. The new office, to be directed by Kathleen Matt, Ph.D., will facilitate the university's translational research component by linking basic scientists with scientists in the clinical community.
- The University of Arizona's new bioscience institute, the Institute for Biomedical Sciences and Biotechnology, concludes a national search for its first director by hiring one of its own -- interim co-director and plant sciences professor Vicki Chandler, Ph.D.
- The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community plans a biomedical research campus of up to 390,000 square feet, half of which would be devoted to wet-lab space, near Loop 101 and Shea Boulevard.

- ASU and Mayo Clinic Scottsdale announce plans to collaborate in medical research and education, potentially including joint research in bioinformatics and bioengineering.

#### Strategy 2:

##### **Build critical mass of firms**

- Tucson-based High Throughput Genomics announces a multimillion-dollar licensing and supply agreement with pharmaceutical giant Merck.
- Scottsdale and ASU announce plans to transform the old Los Arcos mall site into a research and business park, including programs to focus on bioscience. Up to 4,000 new jobs and \$175 million in city revenue are expected.
- Tucson lands a new VA pharmacy, employing up to 200, as well as an optics firm from Santa Fe, N.M., and a small pharmaceutical company from Pittsburgh.

#### Strategy 3:

##### **Enhance business environment**

- Arizona hosts international visitors from The Netherlands, Sweden, Great Britain, Canada and Germany interested in developing bioscience partnerships.
- Tucson hosts the Southwest BioPartnering Expo and Conference, and Photon Forum 2004, a premier optics conference that placed significant emphasis on optics technologies for biotechnology and biomedical applications.
- Arizona's floor space at BIO 2004 doubles from the previous year. The event, in San Francisco in early June, is the world's largest trade show on bioscience and biotechnology.

#### Strategy 4:

##### **Prepare work force, educate citizens**

- Several Arizonans testify before a U.S. Senate subcommittee on the nation's readiness to detect and respond to a bioterrorism attack, including TGen's Jeffrey Trent, Ph.D., Northern Arizona University's Paul Keim, Ph.D., and UA's Dr. Harvey Meislin.