

Efforts to build bioscience hub under way in 2Q

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According to Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap, 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 2006.

Strategy 1 – Build research infrastructure

- Bill Harris leaves his post as director general of [Science Foundation Ireland](#) to lead the newly formed [Science Foundation Arizona](#). Harris has been credited with playing a major role in Ireland's transformation to a knowledge-based economy and leader of innovation and scientific discovery.
- Banner Health recruits a world-renowned researcher to serve as associate director of its new [Banner Alzheimer's Institute](#). Pierre Tariot, an Alzheimer's expert from the [University of Rochester Medical Center](#), will join Eric Reiman in directing the institute, which will be one of the largest of its kind in the world.
- [St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center](#) signs a six-year research agreement with [GE Healthcare](#) to improve MRI scans. GE Healthcare will work with new technology being developed by Jim Pipe, a bioengineer at St. Joe's Barrow Neurological Institute.
- The [Translational Genomics Research Institute](#) announces plans to open a lab in Flagstaff in the fall in collaboration with Northern Arizona University. TGen's Center for Pathogen Diagnostics, or TGen North, will study the genetic makeup of disease-causing pathogens in an effort to develop faster diagnostic tests.
- Groundbreaking ceremonies mark the beginnings of two research facilities.
- In downtown Phoenix, a host of dignitaries commemorate the upcoming 85,600-square-foot building of the [Arizona Biomedical Collaborative](#), to be completed in April 2007. The facility, on the [Phoenix Biomedical Campus](#), will house research space for [University of Arizona College of Medicine](#) faculty in Phoenix and Arizona State University's Department of Biomedical Informatics.
- In Sun City, more than 600 people celebrate the future three-story research tower at the [Sun Health Research Institute](#), to open in early 2007.
- The [Stardust Foundation](#) awards grants totaling \$7.5 million for cancer, autism, and bipolar disorder research, including \$5 million to Scottsdale Healthcare, \$1.5 million to TGen, and \$1 million to the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center.
- R&D Magazine names the [Biodesign Institute](#) at ASU its 2006 Lab of the Year and features it in its May issue.

Strategy 2 – Build critical mass of firms

- Chicago-based [Insys Therapeutics](#), a biotechnology firm that specializes in rapid development and commercialization of drugs, commits to moving its corporate headquarters and research facilities to the Phoenix area, creating 30 jobs.

- [Humana](#), a Fortune 500 company, announces plans to open its first national mail-order drug facility in Phoenix. The 117,500 square-foot facility could employ as many as 150 people.
- C-Path signs a collaborative agreement with eight major pharmaceutical companies to share their drug-testing methods. This unprecedented move advances efforts to improve the safety of new treatments.
- In addition, C-Path expands beyond its Tucson headquarters by opening offices in Phoenix and Washington, D.C.
- ImaRx Therapeutics, Tucson, files for a \$75 million initial public offering.
- Tucson-based [BioVigilant](#), developer of products for use in homeland security, completes a \$4 million round of financing led by Battelle Ventures LP.

Strategy 3 -- Enhance business environment

- Communications and marketing professionals from organizations integrally involved in the biosciences create "Biozona," a new brand identity for Arizona's growing bioscience sector. The brand will aid in-state education and awareness efforts and marketing to out-of-state audiences.
- The [Arizona BioIndustry Association](#) holds its second-annual Bioscience in Excellence Awards Dinner. Among the winners:
 - John W. Murphy, president and chief executive of the Flinn Foundation, was named Bioscience Leader of the Year.
 - Tianwei Jing, of [Agilent Technologies](#), was named Bioscience Executive of the Year. He co-founded Arizona State University spin-out company [Molecular Imaging Corp.](#), bought by Agilent in late 2005.

Strategy 4 – Prepare work force, educate citizens

- Phoenix voters pass seven bond propositions worth \$878.5 million, including funding for bioscience efforts: the ASU downtown campus, UA colleges of medicine and pharmacy, [Phoenix Biomedical Center](#), research and infrastructure improvements, and small high schools focusing on nursing, science, technology and engineering.
- Two schools slated to open in August begin accepting applications: the Bioscience High School in downtown Phoenix and the Copper Ridge Math and Science Academy of the Scottsdale Unified School District.
- A new agreement allows students completing the Molecular Biosciences and Biotechnology program at [Maricopa Community Colleges](#) to transfer all 60 credit hours to ASU, cutting down time required to graduate and enter the work force.

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