



THE LATEST PROGRESS OF THE
Biosciences in Arizona



Arizona's bioscience success depends on all of us

THIS YEAR'S PROGRESS REPORT arrives at an exciting time, just a few months after the Flinn Foundation released the new Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap. The document outlined a bold vision to accelerate discovery, innovation and economic growth across the state through 2030.

Even in changing times, much work is being done toward that vision – as this report details.

- Major federal grants, including a \$43.6 million award to the new Southwest Center for Advancing Clinical and Translational Innovation, are strengthening our research engine.
- Arizona companies secured significant capital investments and national attention. Caris Life Sciences, which established its Arizona ties with a purchase of a TGen spinout, had a \$494 million IPO.
- ASU's new med school and a Yuma branch for the U of A College of Medicine-Phoenix will strengthen the talent pipeline.

At the same time, leaders across institutions have united to better tell Arizona's bioscience story and amplify our shared successes. The delegation of leaders joining the city of Phoenix's booth at the BIO International Convention — stationed alongside Taiwan's booth — is just one example of the state's rising profile.

Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap was first commissioned in 2002, and updated in 2014 and again in 2025. Over more than two decades, growth has been positive and impactful. Still, more can be done.

As you read this year's Progress Report, we invite you to do so with a sense of possibility. Look for the places where you — or your organization — might contribute to Arizona's next chapter in bioscience. You may discover a research initiative, startup, education program, or community partnership you hadn't encountered before.

One way to get involved: show up. Attend convenings. Visit an innovation hub. Support emerging talent. Connect with groups advancing health innovation across our state.

Arizona's bioscience community has been built through collaboration — and the acceleration envisioned in the new Roadmap will depend on more people finding their place in this growing ecosystem.

Read this Progress Report with a sense of possibility. Look for places you might contribute to Arizona's next chapter in bioscience.



Jenny Barton

Jennifer Barton, Ph.D.
Chair, Bio Steering Committee
Interim Vice Provost for Health Programs
University of Arizona



Kyle R. Jardine

Kyle Jardine
Vice Chair, Bio Steering Committee
Vice President, Market Executive
Wexford Science and Technology

Arizona's investment in bioscience delivers results

The Flinn Foundation commissioned the first Roadmap in 2002 after deciding that the privately funded foundation could lead the way in developing a life science ecosystem. Since then, state and local decision makers have used the document to guide the sector's growth throughout the state. The latest Roadmap data shows:

144,000+
people are employed in
bio-related fields.

Salaries for bio-
related jobs are
30% higher
than the state's
average wage.

At **8.1%**,
Arizona bioscience jobs
grow faster than the
national rate.

Venture capital funding is
approaching a record-high
\$289 million.

\$397 million
of NIH funding in
2025 sets a new
state record.

Bioscience R&D exceeds
\$855 million
as growth continues to
outpace the nation.





ROADMAP GOAL

Amplify the Collaborative Gene

Roadmap Steering Committee announces new leaders: University of Arizona's Jennifer Barton and Wexford Science & Technology's Kyle Jardine will serve two-year terms as chair and vice chair of the statewide leadership group that advocates for the bioscience sector.

Phoenix Bioscience Core hosts third State of the PBC: The third annual State of the PBC highlights the state's bioscience and health innovation community with an event at 850 PBC, which hosts Connect Labs by Wexford, Arizona State University, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, and several bio startups.

Mayo Clinic, ASU partner on degree: A five-year grant from the Flinn Foundation supports a full-time, three-semester program held on ASU and Mayo Clinic campuses. The program, which welcomes its first class, immerses bio engineering students in clinical settings at Mayo where they receive hands-on experiential learning. Separately, Mayo and ASU researchers partner on numerous research initiatives, including one to develop a rapid Valley fever test.

Arizona launches Community Neuroarts Coalition: Arizona becomes the 11th region or state in a network of neuroarts coalitions, with Arizona philanthropies and the Arizona Commission on the Arts uniting to explore how the arts can be used to improve the health and well-being of individuals and communities.



ROADMAP GOAL

Accelerate Research into Impact

U of A receives joint \$43.6 million federal grant: The seven-year NIH grant under the prestigious Clinical and Translational Science Awards Program enables U of A and the University of New Mexico to support translational science to help drive research into clinical practice. The award funds a new Southwest Center for Advancing Clinical and Translational Innovation, or SW CACTI.

Exact Sciences, with ties to TGen, sells for \$23 billion: Exact Sciences, whose Phoenix presence is based in the TGen building in downtown Phoenix and is the maker of Cologuard, is purchased by Abbott Laboratories.

Could the cure for Alzheimer's come from Arizona? Sun City's Banner Sun Health Research Institute opens two new labs focused on developing blood-based biomarkers for Alzheimer's as Arizona pushes to develop a cure for the disease. Banner Alzheimer's Institutes is awarded a \$21.6 million NIH grant to explore how hypertension may contribute to brain disease, and Northern Arizona University is studying brain metabolism to learn about the disease's progression.

C-Path, HonorHealth Research Institute celebrate 20 years: Tucson-based Critical Path Institute, founded in 2005, celebrates 20 years of accelerating drug development through national and global partnerships in neuroscience, rare diseases, translational science, pediatrics, and more. Also celebrating a 20th anniversary: HonorHealth Research Institute in Scottsdale, which conducts more than 300 clinical trials a year.

TGen identifies potential biomarker for long COVID: TGen and Harbor-UCLA Medical Center researchers add to the growing evidence that suggests that SARS-CoV-2 may persist in certain body tissues long after the initial infection.

U of A College of Medicine in Phoenix hosts first Research Week: The five events over five days included the 10th annual Arizona Biomedical Research Centre-Flinn Foundation Research Conference, the 29th annual Dr. Michael D. Grossman Academic Excellence Day, and the 15th annual Scholarly Project Research Symposium. The second Research Week this spring will build on the success of the inaugural event.

What is bioscience and why does it matter?

Bioscience focuses on the research, development and commercialization of therapies and products to prevent, diagnose and treat disease, improve health outcomes, enhance crops, and generate solutions for environmental and industrial challenges. It employs scientific methods to answer questions about what life is, how it works, and how it changes.

Arizona's bioscience ecosystem is made up of six subsectors:



**Agriculture Feedstock
and Industrial Biosciences**



**Bioscience-Related
Distribution**



Hospitals



**Medical Devices
and Equipment**



Pharmaceuticals



**Research, Testing and
Medical Laboratories**



ROADMAP GOAL

Elevate Arizona's Startup Ecosystem

Major capital deals lift Arizona companies: Breakthru Medicine earns \$60 million in capital to advance its solid tumor cancer therapies. Other major deals were secured by Naari.ai, GT Medical Technologies, Solera Health, EvolvedMD, CND Life Sciences, Drive Health, Jocasta Neuroscience, Inc., and MyLand.

Caris Life Sciences completes initial public offering: Caris Life Sciences, which established its Arizona ties with a purchase of a TGen spinout, has a \$494 million IPO. The company is using precision medicine to provide physicians and patients detailed information about their disease and targets for therapeutics.

AbbVie to acquire West Pharmaceutical Services facility: AbbVie plans to hire about 200 employees and invest in the device manufacturing facility in Tempe. West Pharma traces its Arizona presence back to a Scottsdale startup.

XLR8 PBC, WearTech research center support startups: AI.VALI, Hexoskin, Paxauris, ReSuture, and NeuroCatch make up the second XLR8 PBC cohort, which provides access to top industry leaders, mentorship and strategic resources. Meanwhile, the WearTech Applied Research Center has awarded HemaSense, Senphonix, and Hydrawav3 a combined \$700,000 to develop wearable health care-related technologies.

Gifthealth expands to Arizona; local Strive Pharmacy grows: Ohio-based healthtech startup Gifthealth's new Mesa operation will support 200 jobs and use robotic processing for up to 28,000 medications a day. Strive Pharmacy, founded in Gilbert, expands into 223K-square-foot space in Mesa, employs about 1,000.

2026 Bio Capital Conference attracts local and out-of-state investors: Nearly 300 entrepreneurs, investors, and bio ecosystem builders gather at Creighton University Health Sciences Campus in Midtown Phoenix for a day of networking and learning about how investors evaluate companies, how to close on a deal, and what the direction of health care means for entrepreneurs and funders.



ROADMAP GOAL

Strengthen Talent & Career Pathways

ASU medical school accepts first class: The John Shufeldt School of Medicine and Medical Engineering will welcome its first students in fall 2026, and move into the new \$200 million ASU Health building in downtown Phoenix in fall 2028.

U of A to open medical school branch in Yuma: The U of A College of Medicine-Phoenix and Onvida Health partner to launch Arizona's first rural regional medical school branch. The three-year Primary Care Accelerated Pathway will lead to a medical degree, with clinical training based entirely in Yuma. Up to 15 students per year will be admitted and receive full tuition scholarships funded by Onvida Health.

Creighton School of Medicine graduates first four-year Phoenix class: The 97 Creighton medical students are the first to have gone through all four years of learning at the Creighton University Health Sciences Campus at Park Central in Phoenix.

U of A's intern program celebrates 20 years: The KEYS Research Internship at the U of A's BIO5 Institute accepts applications for its seven-week summer program for high school students. The 20th class of KEYS interns will work with mentors on research projects and build professional and academic connections.

University of Jamestown opens Phoenix campus: University of Jamestown of North Dakota starts a two-year pathologists' assistant master's degree program in Phoenix for careers in surgical and autopsy pathology.



ROADMAP GOAL

Tell Arizona's Bioscience Story

New Roadmap unveiled at statewide events: The Flinn Foundation, SRI International, bioscience, and community leaders introduce the new Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap to live audiences in Flagstaff, Tucson, and Phoenix. The new Roadmap, available on the Flinn website, will guide discovery, innovation, and economic growth.

City of Phoenix has strong presence at BIO International: The city of Phoenix brings a delegation to the 2025 BIO International Convention attended by more than 20,000 industry leaders in Boston. Phoenix-based startups take the stage and tell their stories at the event's Start-Up Stadium.

Rare disease community gets bigger voice in government: Arizona becomes the 31st state with a Rare Disease Advisory Council. It creates a mechanism for researchers, health care providers, patients and caregivers to make policy recommendations. The mission of the council is to improve patient access to specialists, diagnostics, treatments, and affordable coverage.

Campaign for Valleywise expansion successful: Maricopa County voters approve Proposition 409, a \$900 million bond to fund a new 200-bed behavioral health hospital, outpatient specialty center, and growth in emergency services, and primary and pediatric care. Valleywise also celebrates 60 years since the creation of its Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center.

2000-04

- Prop. 301 passage secures estimated \$1.25B over 20 years for university research.
- Flinn Foundation commissions the inaugural Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap, a 10-year plan to establish the state as a bioscience leader in the Southwest.
- BIO5 Institute debuts at U of A; ASU's Biodesign Institute established.
- TGen opens, downtown Phoenix; International Genomics Consortium (IGC) locates in Arizona.
- Legislature approves \$440M to build university research facilities.
- Phoenix Biomedical Campus established, downtown Phoenix.

2005-08

- Critical Path Institute (C-Path) opens, Tucson.
- Legislature passes angel investor tax credit, expanded R&D tax credit.
- Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust commits \$50M to personalized, or precision, medicine.
- Classes begin at U of A College of Medicine-Phoenix.
- Roche buys Ventana Medical Systems for \$3.4B, later announces expansion, Oro Valley.

2009-2012

- ASU, U of A, GateWay Community College, cities of Chandler, Flagstaff, Peoria, and Surprise, devote millions to new incubators, accelerators, research parks.
- W.L. Gore announces \$130M Phoenix expansion.
- State creates Arizona Commerce Authority to promote economic development.
- U of A opens Health Sciences Education Building on Phoenix Biomedical Campus for research, medical students, NAU allied-health programs.

2013-15

- Tech Launch Arizona becomes U of A's commercialization arm.
- FDA approves pancreatic-cancer drug combo tested by TGen, Scottsdale Healthcare (now HonorHealth).
- C-Path receives Gates Foundation grants to advance TB treatments.

- Flinn Foundation updates Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap to guide growth through 2025.
- ASU Biodesign research instrumental in fighting Ebola virus.
- AZBio hosts White Hat Investors, state's first bioscience capital conference.
- Flagstaff Business Accelerator opens doors to startups.
- Dignity Health St. Joseph's, U of A open new cancer center.
- Banner Health acquires U of A Network in merger.

2016-2018

- NAU launches Pathogen and Microbiome Institute.
- TGen acquired by City of Hope.
- Arizona Bioscience Week debuts to promote sector.
- U of A Biomedical Sciences Partnership Building opens on Phoenix Biomedical Campus.
- Mayo Clinic School of Medicine, partnering with ASU, welcomes inaugural class to Scottsdale campus.
- Legislature authorizes \$1B for university research infrastructure; extends Prop. 301 for 20 years, including TRIF; approves \$10M for angel investor tax credit.
- NAU obtains \$21M NIH grant to study Southwest health disparities.

2019-2021

- BD anchors new bio-focused IDEA Tempe campus.
- U of A accepts first class for new College of Veterinary Medicine in Oro Valley; university opens Center for Innovation incubator nearby.
- C-Path receives FDA contract to improve Alzheimer's, Parkinson's trial design.
- Wisconsin-based Exact Sciences buys Arizona-based companies Ashion, Paradigm Diagnostics, and Viomics, all spinouts of TGen or IGC.
- COVID-19 Genomics Union forms with TGen and state universities to conduct genomic sequencing.
- Phoenix Biomedical Campus rebrands as Phoenix Bioscience Core, welcomes 850 PBC research and innovation center.
- NIH awards U of A \$60M to create Precision Aging Network.

- Arizona angel investor tax credit reauthorized for \$25M over 10 years.
- Mayo Clinic acquires 228 acres in north Phoenix for "Discovery Oasis" biotech corridor.
- Creighton University opens medical school on new health sciences campus in Midtown Phoenix.

2022-2025

- Flinn Foundation launches new Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap through 2030.
- U of A launches health technology consortium HealthTech Connect to connect biotech, healthcare, startup, corporate, higher-education, funding and economic-development communities.
- ASU announces and breaks ground on ASU Health, which will house a medical school in downtown Phoenix. U of A plans to double the size of its medical schools.
- Mayo Clinic plans \$2B expansion, gets development approval for Discovery Oasis medical and research campus.
- Connect Labs by Wexford opens in downtown Phoenix, featuring secured labs and offices for emerging bio companies.
- The Arizona Bioindustry Association celebrates 20 years.
- GPEC earns federal grant to advance medical device manufacturing.
- TGen to lead pancreatic cancer research with \$4.5M NIH grant.
- GCU's business accelerator partners with venture capital firm Canyon Ventures.
- Flagstaff-based Moonshot Rural Pitch Tour visits a record number of cities.
- Flinn Foundation Bio Capital Conference established as annual event for founders, funders.
- NAU earns R1 classification as top-tier research institution.
- New Valleywise Health hospital opens. The teaching hospital also features the Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center.
- Onvida Health—formerly Yuma Regional Medical Center—partners with Arizona Western College on Health Careers Center.
- U of A College of Medicine-Phoenix and Onvida Health partner on a new rural regional medical school branch in Yuma.

Additional information on Arizona biosciences is at www.flinn.org/progress. Content in this report current at date of publication, April 2026.

