



# New Jersey Bioscience Center Newsletter

THIRD QUARTER 2022

## Life Sciences Eco-System News in NJ

[McKinsey Partners with NJII to Open Manufacturing Digital Center](#)—In partnership with the New Jersey Innovation Institute (NJII) and operated by BioCentriq, McKinsey's Newark-based facility specializes in innovative manufacturing processes in life sciences.

### [Smaller Biotech's Making Big Advances](#)

"With more than 100 types — including rare ones — cancer can be complex and challenging to treat," said Debbie Hart, founding President and CEO of BioNJ, which advocates for the life sciences industry. "From large pharma to small biotech companies, New Jersey is the No. 2 state for oncology drug development — with an estimated 4,500 current oncology clinical trials and eight of the 15 novel FDA oncology drug approvals in 2021 coming from companies with a footprint in New Jersey."

NJ/NY Metro Region Tops All Other Regions in U.S. for Life Sciences Jobs and Funding, beating out San Francisco and Boston, a new report shows. The region, often referred to as New York City Metro Area, has the Most Life Sciences Employment Opportunities in the Country. A newly [released report](#) shows the scale of the region's life sciences economy with nearly 150,000 jobs and 5,100 businesses, generating over \$23 billion in wages last year. "With so many assets throughout New Jersey and across the region, it's easy to see why the NYC Metro region continues to be a leading life sciences hub," said BioNJ President and CEO Debbie Hart. "From multinational biopharmaceutical organizations early-stage startups bringing innovation and lifechanging cures and therapies to patients around the world, this ecosystem rivals any. In particular, more FDA approvals come from companies with a footprint in New Jersey than any place else in the world. Couple that with more than 30% of the country's cell and gene therapy research and manufacturing and there is much to be proud of."

[NJ Is a Top Business State According to INC Magazine](#)

[A recent study compared all 50 states based on six criteria and found New Jersey to be one of the top choices.](#)

## New Jersey Bioscience Center In the News

### [Genomic Prediction Featured ON PBS](#)

Incubator graduate and current resident of the New Jersey Bioscience Center, Genomic Prediction, was recently featured on PBS.

### [Adlai Nortye Advances Trial of Combination Treatment in Breast Cancer](#)

Oncolytics Biotech® Inc. recently announced that its partner, Adlai Nortye, has advanced to the final dose escalation cohort of the bridging clinical trial evaluating the safety, tolerability, and preliminary efficacy of pelareorep-paclitaxel combination therapy in Chinese patients with advanced or metastatic breast cancer. Adlai Nortye is a resident of the Step-Out Labs.

### [miR Scientific Launched miR Sentinel™ Prostate Cancer Test](#)

New Jersey Bioscience Center resident, MiR Scientific, recently announced the commercial availability for its prostate cancer test. The company has developed the miR Disease Management Platform®, a proprietary, non-invasive platform for the effective management of targeted diseases, initially focused on urological cancers.

### [AIM ImmunoTech Moves Into New Jersey Bioscience Center](#)

AIM is an immune-pharma company focused on the research and development of therapeutics to treat multiple types of cancers, immune disorders, and viral diseases, including COVID-19. AIM Chief Executive Officer Thomas K. Equels commented, "This state-of-the-art facility will help us to continue to advance our research and development of Ampligen to treat multiple types of cancers, immune disorders, and viral diseases."

### [Oyster Point News](#)

Step-Out Labs resident, [Oyster Point Pharma, Inc.](#), is focused on the discovery and development of therapies to treat ophthalmic diseases. The company recently announced that the largest Medicare Pharmacy Benefit Manager in the United States will add TYRVAYA® Nasal Spray on its Medicare Part D formularies, effective September 1, 2022.

### [Calyptus To Graduate from Incubator at North Brunswick](#)

During its tenure at the Incubator, Calyptus developed 7 ANDA products, 5 of which have been approved by the FDA. 2 more are expecting approval soon. All products have been successfully out licensed.

### [New Advisory Board Members For Our Incubator](#)

Naresh Jain, CEO, [NJ BIO](#) has joined the advisory board for the Incubator at North Brunswick. NJ BIO graduated from the Incubator at North Brunswick in 2022.

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### [Availability at the New Jersey Bioscience Center Research Park](#)

The Incubator will have several small labs available soon. [Email](#) or call Lenzie Harcum with any questions.

### [Life Sciences Funding & Incentives in NJ](#)

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with Princeton BioLABS, the NJ Bioscience Center is hosting a panel session on funding and incentives in New Jersey. The event will be held at BioLABS and will be moderated by John Pennett of EisnerAmper. Panelists will include:

Marco Taglietti, CEO, SCYNEXIS

Mehdi Javanmard, CEO, RizLabs

Judith Sheft – Executive Director, CSIT

Kara Moore – Senior Advisor, Life Sciences, NJEDA



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## Upcoming Events for NJ's Life Science Community

### [Innovating together: NSF I-Corps Northeast Region & HAX](#)

Trenton, NJ - For researchers exploring commercialization pathways and funding for their innovation, join the next special event in the Innovating Together Series hosted by the Northeast I-Corps Hub. If you want to learn more about the NSF I-Corps Hub Northeast Regional Program or have already completed an I-Corps regional program, come learn about how NSF I-Corps and HAX could be a great potential next step for your research team and your innovation. Hear how I-Corps can help you bring your technology closer to solving real-world problems and follow-on funding!

### [BioNJ Manufacturing Briefing 2022](#)

Manufacturing Strategy of the Future – Adaptation, Acceleration & Agility with Insights from McKinsey & Company Friday, September 9, 2022, 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. NJIT Campus Center Atrium, First Floor 150 Bleeker Street, Newark, NJ, 07102 Biopharma manufacturing has been evolving rapidly and even more so since COVID-19. Join us for BioNJ's Manufacturing Briefing on September 9 where you'll hear from and engage with industry thought leaders on important topics, including Industry Trends Shaping Manufacturing Strategy...

## New Jersey Bioscience Center Alumni News

### [Aucta Pharma Buys Basking Ridge Complex](#)

Seeking a larger location, Aucta Pharmaceuticals Inc. recently acquired a five-building corporate complex located in Basking Ridge. After Aucta sets up at the site, it may offer available space to other lab companies seeking to expand. Aucta, with locations in Piscataway and China, is a biotechnology-based company focused on the development and commercialization of branded specialty products. Aucta is a graduate of the Incubator at North Brunswick.

### [PDS Biotechnology Granted FDA Fast Track Designation for Lead Candidate](#)

PDS Biotech has been granted Fast Track designation for PDS0101 in combination with KEY-TRUDA® (pembrolizumab) for the treatment of recurrent or metastatic HPV16-positive head and neck cancer. PDS is a graduate of the Incubator at North Brunswick

### [Visikol Expands its Facility](#)

Visikol, a graduate of the Incubator at North Brunswick, has expanded its Hampton, NJ facility of 11,000 SF through the addition of lab space and office space to meet the growing demand from its clients and customers.

[Ascendia Pharma](#) recently received [\\$2.5M](#) in venture funding. The company is located at the Bioscience Center of NJ and is a graduate of the Incubator at North Brunswick. In ten years, Ascendia has grown from a one-person lab to an Inc. 5000 fastest growing private company with a 60,000 SF and 45 staff members.

## Funding, Grants & Incentives for Life Science Companies

### **CSIT Awards Nearly \$4 Million to 45 NJ Startups Through Catalyst and Clean Tech Seed Grant Programs**

[The New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation, and Technology \(CSIT\)](#) recently announced that it has awarded a combined \$3.9 million in grants to 45 startups statewide through its [Catalyst Seed Research and Development \(R&D\) Grant](#) and [Clean Tech Seed Grant](#) programs. The awards will help these young companies accelerate development of their technologies and transform their discoveries from the research stage into commercially viable products and services. "Funding New Jersey startups today through grant programs like the Catalyst Seed R&D Grant and the Clean Tech Seed Grant helps to guarantee a strong economy in the future and furthers Governor Phil Murphy's vision for the state," said **CSIT Executive Director Judith Sheft**. "Cultivating companies within our state during their formative years helps us to promote financial growth, sustainability, and economic mobility for years to come." CSIT's Catalyst Seed R&D Grant Program has awarded 27 early-stage startup companies a total of \$2.6 million in funding through grants of up to \$150,000 for life sciences startups focusing on drug development and therapeutics and up to \$75,000 for R&D.

### [New Jersey Innovation Evergreen Fund](#)

The New Jersey Innovation Evergreen Fund (NJIEF) corporate tax credit auction opened August 1, 2022. The auction is an unprecedented opportunity for established corporate citizens in New Jersey to access a discount of up to 25% on their corporate business tax liability in the State and promote their strategic engagement and innovation objectives. Auction bids will be evaluated according to price and strategic commitment.

### [Merck Announces the Launch of the Merck Digital Sciences Studio to Help Healthcare Startups](#)

Merck (NYSE: MRK) recently announced the launch of the Merck Digital Sciences Studio (MDSS) to enable the next generation of innovative technologies for drug discovery and development. MDSS is a collaboration between Merck and the New Jersey Innovation Institute (NJII), a New Jersey Institute of Technology corporation, with investments from the Merck Global Health Innovation Fund, Northpond Ventures and McKesson Ventures. Technology support will be provided by Microsoft for Startups. The MDSS will have locations in Newark, NJ and Cambridge, MA. <https://mds.studio>