

## New Jersey Ranked #1 State to Live in the U.S.

It's official; New Jersey is the best state in the U.S. to live. According to Wallethub's 2021 Best States to Live In, New Jersey was ranked #1, ahead of Massachusetts and New York. The State ranked top 10 for safety, quality of life, education, and health.

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## Life-science Lab Space Remains Strong in NJ

One of the top life-science clusters in the first quarter of 2021 was in New Jersey, which boasts 20.4 million square feet of lab and R&D space, according to a new report released July 1 from CBRE. According to the report, net lease pricing for lab space in the Garden State increased between 10% and 15% since mid-2020, showing tremendous demand for space. U.S. life-sciences employment has risen by 15.6% since April 2017, outpacing the growth of the larger tech industry. The outlook for 2021 remains positive as the national economy rebounds and capital is plentiful for expansion. [Learn More](#)



NEW JERSEY BIOSCIENCE CENTER  
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## In The News

### Grace Therapeutics Acquired

Acasti Pharma Inc. recently announced its acquisition of Grace Therapeutics, Inc. Acasti will acquire Grace's pipeline of drug candidates. It is anticipated that the cash at closing of about \$64 million will be principally used to pursue the clinical development of the first two assets through Phase III. Grace is a current resident of the Step-Out labs and a graduate of the Bioscience Center Incubator.

[Learn More](#)

### Visikol Acquired

Incubator graduate, [Visikol](#), made national headlines when it was recently [acquired](#) by [CELLINK](#) for \$19.5 million. The news came just weeks after the Rutgers University spinout received an NIH Phase II award of \$1.6 million to improve the diagnosis of metastatic melanoma. Both of these accomplishments mark the latest milestones for the R&D services company that provides tools necessary to discover and develop lifesaving and life-enhancing therapeutics. [Learn More](#)

### Advaxis Merging with Israeli Pharma Development Company; To Remain In NJ

Incubator graduate, Advaxis Inc., will merge with Israeli pharma development firm [Biosight Ltd.](#) The new public company will be majority-owned by Biosight shareholders after the stock transaction, and Advaxis, focused in oncology, will be renamed Biosight Therapeutics. It will trade on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the ticker BSTX. [Learn more](#)

### NJ BIO Moves to Former BMS Facility

In a major expansion, [NJ BIO](#) recently graduated from the Incubator at North Brunswick to a BMS facility in Princeton. The 35,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art laboratory space is located at 350 Carter Road at a site formerly occupied by [Bristol Myers Squibb](#). Over time, the company plans to expand further within the same location. [Learn More](#)

### BioAegis Update

EY Announced Dr. Susan L. Levinson of BioAegis Therapeutics Inc. as an Entrepreneur Of The Year 2021 New Jersey Award Finalist. BioAegis is a current resident of the Step-Out Labs and a graduate of the Bioscience Center Incubator; Dr. Levinson was recently elected to the Board of [BioNJ](#). In June, the company announced that it was awarded a BARDA contract to further develop the company's novel host-directed therapy for the critically ill sepsis patient population. [Learn More](#)

### PDS Biotech Raises \$52M

PDS Biotechnology Corporation, focused on developing novel cancer therapies and infectious disease vaccines, recently announced the closing of a public offering of \$52M. PDS is a graduate of the Incubator at North Brunswick. [Learn More](#)

### 2021 National SBIR Week

This is an opportunity for tech and life science entrepreneurs to connect virtually with Federal SBIR Program Managers who fund over \$4B in small business led R&D. Participate in live streaming sessions and meet virtually with program decision makers.

July 19 - July 23, 2021.  
Registration is free.

[Click here to register](#)

## Other NJ Life Sciences News

### Soligenix Receives \$865,000 from NJEDA NOL Program

“Receipt of this non-dilutive funding is a welcomed addition to our non-dilutive government grant funding,” stated Christopher J. Schaber, PhD, President and Chief Executive Officer of Soligenix. “This is our eleventh year receiving Net Operating Loss (NOL) funding. Over this time period, we have received approximately \$6.5 million in non-dilutive NOL funding that has allowed us to advance our rare disease pipeline to where we are today. We are, again, very grateful for New Jersey Economic Development Authority’s (NJEDA) continued support of its biotechnology industry.” [Learn More](#)

### Modern Meadow Raises \$130M

The funding round was led by Key Partners Capital with participation from Astanor Ventures, Horizons Ventures and Cape Capital, bringing Modern Meadow’s total funding to \$184 million. **Based at the [ON3 biotech campus in Nutley, NJ](#), Modern Meadow is** using plant-derived proteins to create the first leather alternative that’s going to market. [Learn More](#)

### Nevakar Creates Two New Subsidiaries

Based at the Center of Excellence in Bridgewater with 70 employees, Nevakar is focused on developing innovative products in the injectable and ophthalmic spaces. The company recently launched two subsidiaries - **Vyluma, Inc.** will be focused on novel ophthalmic products and **Nevakar Injectables** will be focused on hospital injectable products. Visit Vyluma ([www.vyluma.com](http://www.vyluma.com)) and Nevakar Injectables ([www.nevakarinjectables.com](http://www.nevakarinjectables.com))

### The Cove Jersey City - Developers Hope It Will Become Global Hub for Life Science

Upon completion along the Hudson River, the mixed-use campus will encompass more than 13 acres, comprising 1.4 million square feet of biotech space and 1.6 million square feet of residences. The Cove JC is being billed as a global hub for life sciences, tech and medicine offering an unrivalled ecosystem for discovery that will become the premier flagship destination for academic and commercial life sciences, tech and medical entities in New Jersey and the greater New York City area.

[Learn More](#)

### Availability at the New Jersey Bioscience Center Research Park

There will soon be a 5000 SF lab/office unit available in the research park. The Incubator at North Brunswick has two large labs available now. Please see [Lenzie](#) with any questions.

