

New Jersey Bioscience Center Newsletter

FIRST QUARTER 2023

Life Sciences Ecosystem News in New Jersey

Research With NJ Portal Gives Entrepreneurs and Investors Access to Research at New Jersey's World-Class Universities
CSIT has announced the expansion of ResearchWithNJ.com to provide local, national and international innovation communities with insight into groundbreaking research being conducted at five New Jersey universities – Montclair State University, the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), Princeton University, Rowan University, and Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

The free, online portal, which can be accessed at www.researchwithnj.com, offers more than 250,000 pieces of research output that commercial enterprises, ranging from startups to global corporations, can use to fuel their growth. Topics range across a broad spectrum of disciplines, such as biology, chemistry, mathematics, psychology, sociology, and others. The newly expanded Research with NJ portal now has search capabilities for specific subject matters that align with NJ's strategic industry sectors through the site's "strategic pillar" tabs.

New Jersey Bioscience Center In The News

BioAegis Therapeutics Receives FDA Approval for its Investigational New Drug

In January, [BioAegis Therapeutics Inc.](#), a clinical-stage company developing therapies for infectious, inflammatory, and degenerative diseases, announced that the FDA had approved its [Investigational New Drug \(IND\)](#) application for recombinant plasma gelsolin to proceed for the treatment of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). BioAegis Therapeutics is a current resident of NJ Bioscience Center - Step-Out Labs and a graduate of the Incubator at North Brunswick.

Meridian Bioscience Acquired

Step-Out Labs resident [Meridian Bioscience](#) manufactures and distributes a broad range of innovative diagnostic and life science products. In January, the publicly-traded company announced that SD Biosensor and SJL Partners had [completed the transaction to acquire Meridian](#).

News From TheWell

Incubator resident [TheWell Bioscience](#) recently [launched](#) a newly engineered version of its cell recovery solution for researchers to speed the organoid/cell harvesting from both animal-based extracellular matrix and synthetic hydrogels. TheWell Bioscience is the developer of VitroGel, an animal-free synthetic biofunctional hydrogel.

Ascendia's Continued Growth

[Ascendia Pharma](#) recently announced the [appointment of Dr. Shaukat Ali](#) as Senior Director of Scientific Affairs and Technical Marketing. The company provides formulation, analytical, and manufacturing services to pharmaceutical companies. Ascendia Pharma is a graduate of the Incubator at North Brunswick and a current resident of the New Jersey Bioscience Center. The [contract development and manufacturing organization](#) is also doubling its headcount at NJBC which will be home to more than 100 employees.

Incubator at North Brunswick has a New Resident, Welcome Quintara!!

The New Jersey Bioscience Center – Incubator at North Brunswick is excited to welcome its newest tenant – Quintara LLC. Quintara LLC is a biotechnology and bioinformation service company led by Hanzhong Zhang. The company will provide DNA sequencing, DNA synthesis, cloning, gene editing, and DNA genomic data analysis.

Incubator Labs Available at the New Jersey Bioscience Center Research Park

The [Incubator at North Brunswick](#) has small labs available. [Email](#) or call NJ Bioscience Center Director Lenzie Harcum (732-839-1880) with any questions to request a tour of the Incubator at North Brunswick.

New Jersey Bioscience Center Alumni In The News

Amicus Announces Positive Long-Term Data from Phase 3 Study

Incubator at North Brunswick graduate [Amicus Therapeutics](#) recently [announced positive results](#) from its global Phase 3 open-label extension study ATB200-07. The study is investigating the long-term efficacy and safety of its proprietary AT-GAA in adult patients with late-onset Pompei disease.

Bellerophon Therapeutics News

Incubator at North Brunswick graduate [Bellerophon Therapeutics](#) announced in January that enrollment is now complete in [REBUILD](#), a Phase 3 clinical trial evaluating its INOpulse, an investigational treatment for people with pulmonary fibrosis who are at risk of developing pulmonary hypertension. Top-line results are expected later this year.

In February, Bellerophon announced clearance of its IND application from the Center for Drug Evaluation of China's National Medical Products Administration to conduct a Phase 3 clinical trial to support the registration of INOpulse for the treatment of fibrotic interstitial lung disease in China.



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Merck Announces Sale of Campus in Kenilworth, NJ to Onyx Equities, LLC

On February 16th, a joint venture between Onyx Equities, LLC and Machine Investment Group, LLC announced that it had acquired Merck's former world headquarters. The property features nearly two million square feet of biologics, research, and development buildings on its 108-acre campus in Kenilworth.

NYC's EpiBone Is Coming to New Jersey

In March, the Board of NJEDA approved EpiBone, Inc. to receive up to \$3.5 million over seven years in Emerge tax credits to secure the Brooklyn-based biotechnology company's commitment to move to Jersey City, where it expects to create 90 full-time jobs. EpiBone grows bone and cartilage for skeletal reconstruction using stem cells to create new healthy bone, cartilage, and compound (bone and cartilage) products in a lab. EpiBone is a clinical stage company with one product in clinical trials, and two products in various phases of clinical development, requiring it to take on additional space, including a clean room, and hire more support staff. The company has outgrown its current location at the Downstate Biotechnology Incubator space in Brooklyn, NY, and through the Emerge program, will move to New Jersey to expand.

Funding, Grants and Incentives for Life Science Companies

CSIT Awards \$1.275 Million to 17 New Jersey Startups in January

On January 20, 2023, in an event led by First Lady Tammy Murphy at the Step-Out Labs, the [Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology \(CSIT\) announced the award](#) of a combined \$1.275 million in grants to 17 startups to accelerate the development of technologies, products, and services that support maternal and child wellbeing. Lactiga, a resident of the Incubator at North Brunswick, is an awardee! Congratulations Lactiga!

NJEDA Seeks Investment Managers to Manage Four Distinct Funds

In February, NJEDA issued [Notices of Investment Opportunity \(NIOs\)](#) seeking experienced investment managers to manage and deploy investment capital for unique fund opportunities. One of these funds, the **Life Science/Health Care Fund**, is a \$60 million limited partner investment fund that will invest in one or more venture funds to support early-stage New Jersey life science and health care businesses. Responses to the NIOs are due by March 16.

CSIT Awards \$2.425 Million In SBIR/STTR Matching Grants to 80 Companies

Also in February, CSIT announced that it had awarded a total of \$2.425 million in matching grants to more than 80 startups since 2020 through its [NJ Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\) and Small Business Technology Transfer \(STTR\) Direct Financial Assistance Program](#). The program supports startups that are receiving funding from highly competitive federal research and development (R&D) grant programs as they work toward commercialization. This includes \$525,000 awarded to 17 startups through the program's recent fourth funding round.

Upcoming Events for NJ's Life Science Community

Use Of Academic & Federal Core Research/Lab Facilities in NJ – March 14th

This panel discussion will provide an overview of the CSIT [Catalyst R&D Voucher Pilot Program](#). Eligible applicants can apply for up to \$25,000. The event will be held at the Princeton Innovation Center BioLabs in Princeton.

SAVE THE DATE – Afternoon of March 21st

The Incubator at North Brunswick will host private one-on-one Biotech CEO Office Hours with [Michael Atkins](#). Attendance is restricted to leadership of companies residing at the Incubator at North Brunswick.

BioNJ's Bio Partnering Conference April 18th

Back in person after three years, next month's [BioNJ's Bio Partnering Conference](#) will bring together over 500 life sciences executives, investors, academic collaborators and business development professionals for a day of networking, 1-1 partnering meetings, company presentations, exhibits and plenary sessions.

SAVE THE DATE- CEO Lunch & Learn April 20, 2023

The Incubator at North Brunswick will host a biotech CEO Lunch & Learn with [Marco Taglietti](#). Attendance is restricted to leadership of incubator companies.

SAVE THE DATE – Lunch & Learn Hosted by Hock Tan May 4, 2023

The Incubator at North Brunswick will host a technical Lunch & Learn on May 4. Attendance is restricted to leadership of biotech companies residing at New Jersey Bioscience Center.

SBIR/STTR National Conference June 19th – 21st in National Harbor, MD

The [National SBIR/STTR Conference](#) will be held in National Harbor, MD from June 19th – 21st and offers a terrific opportunity to meet one-on-one with agency program managers to discuss your innovation interests and the potential fit with the agencies.



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