



A North Texas Milestone: TechFW - 25 Years of Collaboration, Innovation and Stewardship

TECHFV



Happy 25th Anniversary TechFW!

If you did not know, TechFW was created in 1998 to catalyze change through building technology-focused startups. Today, past and present leaders, reflect on the organization's successes and look to continue their mission of fostering entrepreneurs in North Texas.

"No lone wolves." says Hayden Blackburn, executive director of TechFW, an organization that helps people launch and grow emerging technology businesses. "Collaboration is one of our core values," Blackburn said. BioNTX recognizes and celebrates the vital, pioneering role TechFW has played in North Texas.

Here's to 25 More Years!

[Learn more about TechFW](#)

ARPA-H Application Portal Now Live Connecting Resources with Programs

ARPANET-H, is a new nationwide health innovation network which will take a human-centered approach to designing products and services for all Americans.

Plug into ARPA-H Today!

What will the Customer Experience Hub focus on?

The Dallas CX Hub puts people at the center of ARPA-H programs, projects, and initiatives, developing technologies that will be accessible, desirable, and affordable for all. It will incorporate human-centered and design-thinking principles in a variety of ways, including reaching patient populations and engaging with providers.

Getting Involved is Easy!

ARPA-H is currently seeking feedback through a Network Activation Call. All organizations with relevant experience and expertise are invited to respond!

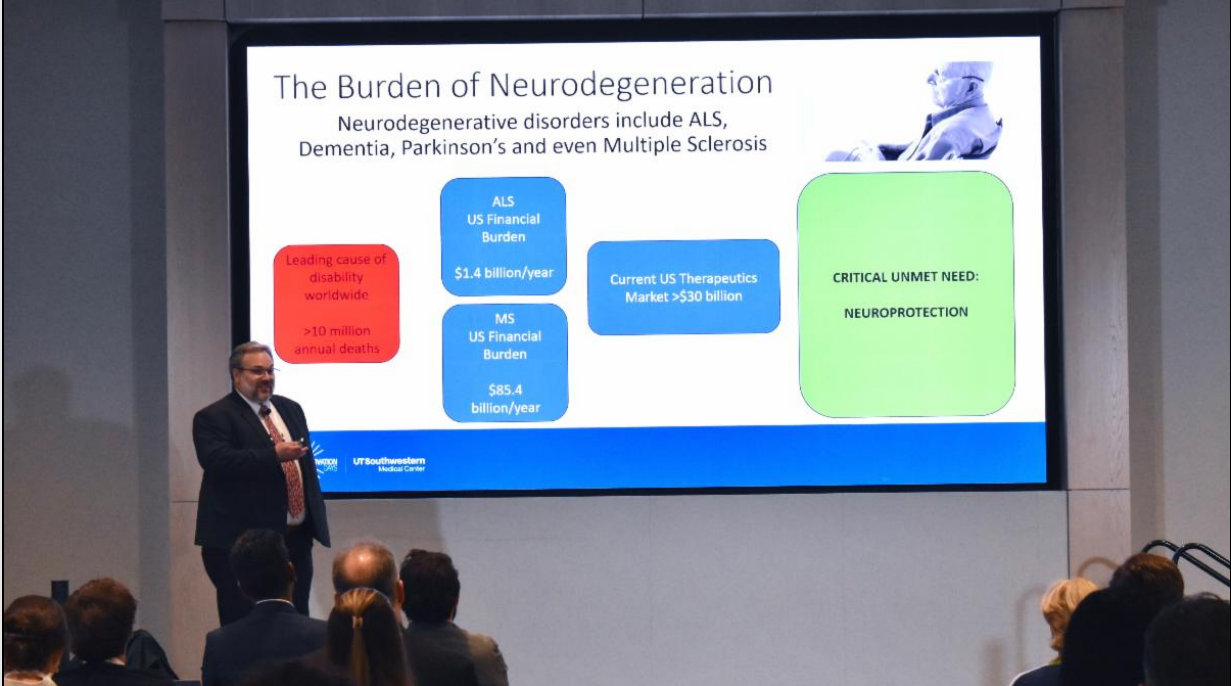


Renee Wegrzyn, PhD, Inaugural Director, ARPA-H

[Learn more](#)

[First CX hub initiative](#)

UTSW Annual Innovation Day
Celebration of Faculty Research and Start-ups



Benjamin Greenberg, MD, Co-Founder, GenrAb

We were thrilled to witness the innovation and collaboration that takes place during this annual event. Our UT Southwestern community comes together to present groundbreaking startups and early-stage technologies to leading investors, entrepreneurs, and healthcare industry professionals. Together, we are shaping the future of healthcare!

Congratulations Dr. Greenberg of **GenrAb** on winning First Place!



UTD - UTSW Joint Facility Opens for Biomedical Engineering Research & Education



(from left to right) James Bennett Milliken, Chancellor of the University of Texas System, Richard Benson PhD, President of UTD and Dan Podolsky MD, President of UTSW, Samuel Achilefu, PhD, Professor and Department Chair, Biomedical Engineering of UTSW, Shalini Prasad, PhD, Professor of Biomechanics of UTD and others at the ceremony

Last week, UT Southwestern Medical Center and the University of Texas at Dallas dedicated a new \$120 million bioengineering building in collaboration with Texas Instruments. The completed five-story building which includes wet and dry laboratories, 3D printing rooms and a metal fabrication shop for prototyping biomedical devices; bolsters the region as a biotech hub and represents hope for patients in North Texas

Chancellor of the University of Texas System, JB Milliken commented, "the vision and collaborative spirit of our two Presidents Benson and Podolsky here in Dallas has made this milestone possible – this joint building will provide enormous returns in the future and it serves as a model for the UT System, all of Texas Higher Education and health sciences research across the country."

With the new building, collaborative research will include developing targeted cancer therapies, improving medical imaging technology and treating brain disease. Podolsky said the research will be primarily investigator-driven, allowing faculty to identify areas of growth in the biomedical field and pursue solutions.

[Learn more about the new bioengineering building](#)



James Bennett Milliken, Chancellor of the University of Texas System



Kareem Azab, PhD, Associate Professor, Biomedical Engineering of UTSW

THBI Session and Awards Dinner Highlights Present & Future of Texas Life Sciences



Wayne Roberts, MPA, CEO, CPRIT

BioNTX was honored to be a part of the Annual Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute's prestigious Fall Policy Summit & Luminary Awards Dinner.

The future is bright, and the possibilities are limitless as we continue to drive collaboration and innovation in Texas. BioNTX remains committed to advancing healthcare innovation and supporting the incredible work happening around the State.

Thank you to the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute for a remarkable evening and for uniting all of us in our shared mission to shape a healthier, more innovative future. We look forward to what lies ahead and the extraordinary breakthroughs yet to come!

BIONTX MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

MEDNA Scientific Makes Irving the Future of

MEDNA



MEDNA Scientific is a health tech company developing informatics, automation, and robotics for healthcare applications, they are no stranger to collaboration. From their monstrous, state-of-the-art 200,000 square foot facility in Irving, Texas; industry veteran husband-and-wife team Hua and Vickie Tu are developing informatics, automation, and robotics technologies to be integrated into complex manufacturing systems with robust control, monitoring, and data processing capabilities.

MEDNA's offerings include automation systems for bioprocessing equipment provide manual and automated controls, data documentation, data streaming, and remote accessibility for connected devices; as well as a hardware system for fluid movement and management that can run protein purifications and other complex life science processes. Robotic arms, fraction collectors, and other technologies can be integrated to create automated lab workstations.

[Learn more about MEDNA Scientific](#)

Caris Life Sciences & Moderna Partner to Advance mRNA Oncology Therapies



Caris Life Sciences, the leading next-generation AI TechBio company and precision medicine pioneer that is actively developing and delivering innovative solutions to revolutionize healthcare and improve the human condition using molecular science and AI, announced a new agreement with Moderna in support of Moderna's oncology and novel therapeutics initiatives.

[Learn more about Caris' partnership](#)

Critically Endangered Reptile Gets Colossal Helping Hand

colossal



Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon

Colossal Biosciences is lending its support to the recovery of the recently rediscovered Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon. An interim insurance and conservation breeding program is being established at Melbourne Zoo for the Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon, a critically endangered reptile many considered likely extinct, and not seen since 1969 until a chance rediscovery earlier this year.

“Our focus includes the de-extinction of select lost species, the preservation of endangered species, and the restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity,” Mr Lamm said. “We are really excited about helping to establish the means to create an insurance and conservation breeding program, for the once-feared lost earless dragon.

[Read full press release](#)

Taysha Gene Touts New Preclinical In-Vitro Data on Rett Syndrome Drug Candidate



Taysha Gene Therapies, Inc., announced new preclinical in vitro data on TSHA-102 in Rett syndrome as part of a poster presentation at the European Society of Gene & Cell Therapy (ESGCT) 30th Annual Congress.

TSHA-102 is a self-complementary intrathecally delivered AAV9 investigational gene transfer therapy that utilizes a novel miRNA-Responsive Auto-Regulatory Element (miRARE) technology designed to mediate levels of MECP2 in the CNS on a cell-by-cell basis without risk of overexpression. These data demonstrate the function of the miRARE-RHD1pA regulatory element and its impact on MECP2 transgene and protein expression in human and mouse cell lines, providing further support for the regulatory control of miRARE.

[Read full press release](#)

UNTHSC Professor Receives Fulbright Award as Glaucoma Expert



Laszlo Prokai, PhD

Laszlo Prokai, PhD, has received a Fulbright Specialist Award to share his expertise on drug discovery and design with researchers and students at Semmelweis University in Budapest, Hungary. The Robert A. Welch Chair in Biochemistry and professor of Pharmacology and Neuroscience at The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth's School of Biomedical Sciences is an expert in discovery and preclinical development of new therapies against neurodegenerative and ophthalmic diseases as well as mass spectrometry and proteomics.

"I feel honored, and I am grateful to the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board for giving me the award and the opportunity to share my knowledge with researchers in Hungary," Prokai said.

[Read full press release](#)

UTA Team Takes First Place at National Healthcare Innovation Competition



(from left to right) Jun Liao, Jeannette Santos, Brady Killham, Michael Ikefuna, Juan Ramirez and Justyn Jaworski

Four senior bioengineering students at The University of Texas at Arlington have won the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) Coulter College for Healthcare Innovation competition for their work on an early detection device for atrial fibrillation.

Brady Killham, Juan Ramirez, Jeannette Santos and Michael Ikefuna, all seniors in UTA's Bioengineering Department, earned the Best Overall award for their plan to develop FibGuard, a wearable, non-invasive atrial fibrillation early detection device.

[Read full press release](#)

UTD Bioengineer Seeks Deeper Understanding of Immune Cell Dynamics



THE UNIVERSITY
OF TEXAS AT DALLAS



Dr. Caroline Jones, assistant professor of bioengineering at The University of Texas at Dallas, received a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) award to continue her research exploring the body's reaction to disease.

In her research, Jones creates cell cultures in microenvironments to observe how neutrophils, a type of anti-inflammatory cell, behave in different tissues. Insights from these studies could lead to the development of mathematical models capable of predicting immune reactions, including potentially harmful inflammation.

[Read full press release](#)

Caroline Jones, PhD, MS

UTSW Pediatric Surgeon Receives Prestigious Piper Professor Award

UTSouthwestern
Medical Center®



When not treating children, Professor of Surgery Joseph T. Murphy, MD, can usually be found teaching, whether in an operating room showing fellows how to remove a cancerous adrenal tumor from a toddler or at a resident conference reviewing the basics of pathologic intestinal anatomy. As a general surgeon at UT Southwestern and also a pediatric surgeon at Children's Health, Dr. Murphy is as dedicated to preparing the next generation of physicians as he is to caring for patients.

The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation recently recognized his commitment with the Piper Professor Award. This elite honor recognizes outstanding college professors in Texas. Dr. Murphy is the 18th current or former UTSW faculty member to receive the award since its establishment in 1958. His selection marks the second year in a row that a UTSW surgeon has been named a Piper Professor, following Brett Arnoldo, MD, Professor of Surgery, in 2022.

[Read full press release](#)

NORTH TEXAS NEWS

Lyda Hill Anchors TV Program to Help Narrow the STEM Gender Gap



Dallas philanthropist Lyda Hill has devoted much of her giving to tackling social problems through science. Lyda Hill Philanthropies supports museums, basic research, and programs like National Geographic Explorers. Over the last few years, the grant maker also has ventured into media production: financing and helping develop a TV series, "Mission Unstoppable," aimed at girls aged 12 to 17 and featuring women succeeding in science, technology, engineering, and math, or STEM, careers.

"We're looking to create a culture shift in how girls see themselves in the world," says Nicole Small, who previously led Dallas' Perot Museum of Nature and Science. "Whether or not viewers pursue a career in STEM, we hope that they see themselves as meaningful contributors to change in the world and understand how important science is to the world around them."

[Learn more about Mission Unstoppable](#)

Baylor Establishes Medical Humanities Chair as New Endowment Program Era Begins



Baylor University announced a \$2 million gift from Scott and Susan Orr of The Woodlands, Texas, establishing the Scott & Susan Orr Family Endowed Chair in Medical Humanities & Christian Faith to support teaching, mentorship and innovative research in the Medical Humanities Program within the College of Arts & Sciences.

The Orr Family Chair will be housed within the Medical Humanities Program, one of the few of its kind in the country for students who aspire to careers in healthcare and other affiliated professions. The program is intended to pair foundational science curriculum with courses in history, literature, Christian philosophy and other disciplines to inspire deep discussion and critical thinking, providing a holistic, interdisciplinary approach for many pre-health students. The Orr Family Chair will support the program's Christian identity by fostering an appreciation with students of the importance of the doctor-patient relationship, the spiritual and emotional dimensions of disease and a heightened awareness of the human experience of illness.

[Read full press release](#)

InterBank Funds New Expansion Construction at Dallas' Pegasus Park



An Oklahoma bank has provided financing to develop a new laboratory complex at Pegasus Park. InterBank funded construction of the new Bridge Labs building at Pegasus Park on Stemmons Freeway northwest of downtown. The 135,000-square-foot project includes redevelopment of existing space and construction of a new building.

“This groundbreaking initiative was an opportunity to leverage our bank’s support for a critical community and national priority,” C.K. Lee, InterBank’s President and COO, said in a statement. “The work done here will have tremendous impact, and we are proud Interbank could play a role.” New York-based Nuveen Green Capital also provided funding for the project.

[Read full press release](#)

Alcon Laboratories Considers \$100M Expansion



Alcon Laboratories might soon be expanding its footprint in Fort Worth to the tune of \$100 million. Plans recently filed with the city explain that the Switzerland-based company — a

world leader in eye care — is in the “early exploratory phase” of an endeavor to erect a new 250,000-square-foot manufacturing plant and 640-car parking lot.

Alcon also has plans to direct \$153 million to boost its manufacturing, packaging, and compounding operations in Fort Worth through June 2028, as it indicated upon its nomination for the Texas Enterprise Zone (EZ) Program in May.

[Read full press release](#)

Renibus Announces First Patient Enrolled in Pivotal Phase 3 Study



Renibus Therapeutics, a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focusing on the prevention and treatment of cardio-renal and metabolic diseases, announced that the first patient has been dosed in the pivotal Phase 3 PROTECT trial of RBT-1, the Company's first-in-a-new-class preconditioning agent under investigation to reduce post-operative complications following cardiothoracic surgery. PROTECT is expected to be conducted at approximately 35 sites in the United States and Canada.

[Read full press release](#)

Support Growth and Innovation in Texas Life Sciences this Election Season

This November, Texans have the opportunity to vote for several Propositions that will allow our industry to flourish and provide a competitive economic environment that attracts growth.

Vote early from October 23 - November 3 or on Election Day, November 7 and vote "Yes" to support Propositions 5 and 10.

[Learn more about the Texas propositions](#)

FUNDING & MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

T2RF Research Foundation Opens 4th Cohort

Applications due November 9, 2023



The T2RF Grant Cycle 4 awards provide essential funding for seed or pilot research projects, fostering the exploration of groundbreaking research concepts. These awards support initial testing phases, allowing researchers to embark on smaller-scale endeavors. The emphasis lies in evaluating feasibility and refining methodologies,

shaping the trajectory of potential larger-scale studies. Through the T2RF Grant Cycle 4, they empower researchers to take innovative ideas from conception to a vital stage of validation, contributing to the advancement of knowledge and discovery.

[Apply now](#)

SXSW Applications Portal is OPEN

Applications due November 12, 2023



Apply to SXSW's Pitch Competition for an opportunity to present your latest ideas across eight categories to a panel of industry experts, early adopters, and representatives from the investment community.

[Apply now](#)

PSC Grants Funds for New Therapy Discovery

Applications ends on January 15, 2024



PSC Partners and affiliate PSC Partners Canada award annual grants that drive research to identify treatments and a cure. Their Research Grants Program seeks to encourage investigators to conduct research in promising new areas, with the goal that data generated will lead to further seed funding from additional sources.

[Apply now](#)

HSC Next SBIR Phase 0 Program



The HSC Next SBIR Phase 0 Program provides innovative Tarrant County companies with one-on-one guidance, beginning with technology assessment. Select companies will enter a comprehensive one-month, cohort-based program that meets weekly and guides them through the grant writing processes. Additionally, participants receive one-on-one mentorship with SBIR experts that help founders fine-tune their proposals to increase the likelihood of receiving federal funding.

[Apply now](#)

INDUSTRY EVENTS

Autumn Happy Hour at Cresa



The BioNTX Facilities Committee invites you for an evening of networking at Cresa Real Estate's office overlooking the Cowboys practice field in The Star.

We'll be joined by special guest, Gloria Salinas, Vice President and Jeremiah Anderson, Director of Innovation at the Frisco Economic Development Corporation.

Thank you for your support!



Register now

Upcoming Events & Opportunities in North Texas



INNOVATION

Equitable Access to Innovation

Join Johnson & Johnson to learn about the unique benefits the Texas ecosystem offers in developing the next generation of medical countermeasures.

November 6, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



Human Potential Startup Showcase

Join MassChallenge to discover groundbreaking techniques, cutting-edge technologies, and inspiring stories that will empower you to reach new heights.

November 7, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



Create FW's Grand Opening Celebration



Fire Pitch Competition 2023

Join Create FW for an unforgettable event filled with an official grand opening ribbon cutting with Mayor Parker, live music, and community!

November 8, 2023

[Learn more here](#)

Join Ignite Healthcare to hear pitches from the top 8 female founders from Ignite's 2023 Accelerate Program.

November 9, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



Global Entrepreneurship Week

Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) is a celebration of entrepreneurship and welcomes communities around the world to get involved. Meet passionate people changing the world as they continue to celebrate local entrepreneurship and global connections.

November 13 - 19, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



LAUNCHBIO

Equity 101

Join LaunchBio to learn the knowledge and tools needed to make informed decisions about their ventures' financial strategies.

November 14, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



Golden Ticket Competition and Celebration Reception

Join the American Cancer Society BrightEdge to hear pitch competition finalists compete to win one year of free lab space at BioLabs Pegasus Park in Dallas.

November 14, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



EmpowHERment Pitch Competition

Join Eosera for their second-annual pitch competition where 3 small businesses will pitch live to compete for the first-place \$15,000 prize and second-place \$10,000 prize!

November 14, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



Southwest Regional Meeting

Join the American Chemical Society to discuss strengthening connections between the private sector and academia. Oklahoma City, OK

November 15 - 18, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



BioNTX works to build a strong bioscience and healthcare innovation community through collaborative peer to peer networking events and educational programming.

[Let us know about your event!](#)

[View the North Texas community calendar of events](#)

[Look at upcoming BioNTX events](#)



Elevate Your Impact:

Renew Your Membership Today!

The power of BioNTX membership is undeniable. Now is the time to ensure it continues to drive your and our industry's success. By renewing your membership, you are investing in:

- **Endless Opportunities** Access unparalleled networking, invaluable resources, and industry insights that give you an edge in biotechnology and healthcare.
- **Advocacy that Counts** Your support empowers us to champion policies that shape our industry's future and secure its growth.
- **Exclusive Savings** Renew today and enjoy member-only discounts on events, training, and more – a savvy investment in your career and bottom line.
- **Vital Resources** We connect our members with the essential tools, research, and information they need to thrive in a rapidly evolving industry.

Thank you for renewing your **BioNTX Membership!** Don't miss out on the benefits, connections, and opportunities that only membership can provide. Renew now to continue your journey at the forefront of biotechnology and healthcare innovation.

Renew today!

Happy Halloween!

At BioNTX, we are all treats and no tricks! We wish you a Halloween so monstrously good, it's almost frightening!



October 31, 2023

Stay Connected!



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